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INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT ON JOINT RESOLUTION

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, last week I stood at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the largest container port complex in the nation, with my good friend Senator SUSAN COLLINS, the chair of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

We both have championed the fight to strengthen security at our ports. As of last week, neither of us had been briefed on the review conducted by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, CFIUS, into the sale of stevedoring and terminal operations of many major eastern seaboard and Gulf Coast ports to a state-owned firm from Dubai. This sale would not only affect the six major US port terminal facility leases that have been reported, but additional operations in 15 other locations, including ports shipping military materiel.

Last week, we stated our concerns about the announced sale and our plan to issue a Joint Resolution of Disapproval.

Today, I am introducing in the House the Joint Resolution which Senator COLLINS introduced yesterday, S.J. Res. 32. This resolution would do three things. First, it officially disapproves of CFIUS's initial review of the Dubai Ports World deal. Second, it requires CFIUS to rescind its previous decision and conduct a formal 45-day investigation. Third, it requires that CFIUS brief the Congress before allowing the deal to proceed, if in fact that is the decision after a full, complete and proper evaluation of the national security risks posed by this arrangement.

Since Senator COLLINS and I announced our intentions last week, there has been some progress. Dubai Ports World has agreed to a secondary review, the Administration has agreed to a 45-day assessment of the sale, and, beginning this week, some committees of Congress will now be briefed.

But the bad news is that this process got as far as it did, and that it took deep bipartisan concern to have Congress brought into the loop. When our country considers these important deals, Congress should be on the front lines, not the back bench.

And as we heard yesterday from a Senate briefing, the U.S. Coast Guard cited their concerns over the deal at the time. The U.S. Coast Guard plays a critical role in ensuring the security of our ports, and their reservations make me question why this deal was approved as quickly as it was.

This issue has also served to highlight the fact that our Nation's ports remain inadequately protected.

As a member of both the House Intelligence and Homeland Security Committees, I have consistently worked to improve our national security, and believe much remains to be done. When we focus 9 out of 10 transportation security dollars on aviation security, we fall into the trap of fighting the last war instead

of the next one. Fighting terror requires that we look forward, and what keeps me up at night is the possibility of a radiological bomb or human terrorist entering our ports in an uninspected container.

When it comes to port security, we should have solid answers, not lingering questions. In this Era of Terror, there remains a constant threat to our homeland. We don't have the luxury of waiting to harden the obvious vulnerable targets.

I have visited the Los Angeles/Long Beach port complex many times. I have authored and co-authored bipartisan port security legislation. Representative DAN LUNGREN and I will introduce a comprehensive bill soon to ensure a coordinated approach to maritime and cargo security through the authorization of key security programs and initiatives, as well as a dedicated funding grant program to shore up security gaps that exist at our Nation's ports. Senators COLLINS, LIEBERMAN, and COLEMAN have introduced similar legislation in the Senate, and both bills will be the subject of hearings in this Congress.

This resolution on CFIUS is prudent; so are our efforts to legislate enhanced port security. I urge its support.

TRIBUTE TO MINNESOTA STATE REPRESENTATIVES NEVA WALKER AND KEITH ELLISON

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to celebrate Black History Month by recognizing distinguished Minnesota legislators who are civil and human rights leaders: Minnesota State Representatives Neva Walker and Keith Ellison.

Representative Neva Walker was born and raised in Minneapolis, and attended the University of Minnesota. A "community baby," as referred to by elders, Walker comes from a family deeply involved in the community, especially the Sabathani Community Center which is a pillar of the community and a source of assistance to many. Walker grew up with this sort of activism, and she now embodies it herself.

Representative Walker was encouraged to run for office when lobbying Minneapolis City Hall on housing issues. When she learned that no African American woman had served in the Minnesota Legislature, this firmed her resolve to run for office. In 2000, Neva Walker was elected to the Minnesota House where she continues to address disparities of all kinds: health, poverty, racial profiling and out-of-home placement.

Representative Walker has a son, and is the youngest of seven children herself. In addition to her service in the State House, Rep. Walker contributes with many community involvements such as the Blaisdell YMCA board, the "GirlsBEST" initiative through the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, and the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board. She takes every opportunity reach out to people, speaking to groups that range from children in daycare to college students.

"I consider myself a seed planter," Walker said about her efforts. "I'm always trying to

educate and bring useful information to people, especially youth, people of color and women."

Representative Walker believes it critical to get civil rights issues back into the public's eye. Disparities in poverty and the justice system are too great to stand idly by, she said.

Representative Keith Ellison was born in Detroit, attended Wayne State University and then came to Minneapolis to attend the University of Minnesota Law School. As a student, he first got involved in the anti-Apartheid movement. He and his wife have four children.

"I was raised in a household where I was encouraged to question things," he said. His grandfather had worked for voting rights, and Ellison grew up listening to stories of those experiences. Ellison's activism continued, and evolved into his profession as a trial lawyer, working on death penalty cases in Louisiana, as well as indigent defense work. Today at the Ellison Law Office, his legal work consists of criminal cases, civil rights cases and family law.

Ellison was first elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2002. He said that instead of cajoling and persuading government leaders to pursue worthy programs, he was determined to work for change from inside the system.

"When you're a community activist, you propose change," he said. "But when you're in office as a public official, you make the change." As one of two black Representatives in Minnesota, Ellison believes he helps to improve the level of engagement for people of color in the state. "I think all people need to have equal access to their government."

He continues to work on issues of environmental justice, equal justice in the courts, voting rights, and public safety. He is also a co-founder of the Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, which deals with environmental hazards posed by pollution.

Ellison believes that the civil rights movement forever changed America, but that Americans must still work for economic, health, educational and social equality for all people.

Mr. Speaker, Neva Walker and Keith Ellison are dedicated public servants who are making unique contributions to their communities, working for all people, but especially African Americans and other people of color, women, and the poor. They are committed to bringing the promise of America to all its people, and work day in and day out to achieve that ideal. I commend them for their activism and their service in the Minnesota Legislature, and their dedication to making their communities, our State, and our world a better place.

IN MEMORIAM THEODORE R.

"TED" SWEM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on February 7th, America lost one of its conservation leaders with the passing of Theodore R. Swem—known to everyone as "Ted"—whose long career was marked by the highest standards of dedication to the public interest.

Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on December 6, 1917, he attended Coe College, in Iowa