

speed Internet service throughout the United States. The Broadband Expensing Act of 2007 will allow immediate depreciation of the costs of new infrastructure investments providing broadband connectivity. In previous Congresses this measure has received extensive bipartisan support with as many as 225 House cosponsors and 65 Senate cosponsors. As the Congress and administration consider various methods of encouraging innovation in America, a broadband incentive of this nature must be of high priority.

This bill was a priority for my late husband, who worked with Mr. ENGLISH, Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senator BAUCUS, and the late Senator Moynihan to craft it in 2000. They all worked hard on it for several years and built tremendous bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress. My husband spent a lot of time discussing this measure with his colleagues in the House, explaining how it would work, seeking cosponsorships. It has been a popular measure. On three separate occasions it has almost passed the Congress, but each time fell short in the House. Three times this bill has passed the Senate, and three times it has been rejected in conference with the House, to the disappointment of my husband, my colleague Mr. ENGLISH, and many other members of this body who supported it and felt it could make a significant contribution to improving America's telecommunications and information technology infrastructure.

Now we are prepared to make another push for this bill in the 110th Congress. The Broadband Expensing Act will provide a temporary two-tiered tax incentive to stimulate new investment in this crucial infrastructure: 50 percent expensing for investment in "current-generation" broadband infrastructure in rural and underserved areas, and full expensing for "next generation" broadband investments in those same areas, as well as residential areas generally. Moreover, it is designed to be technology neutral, making delivery of service, not the delivery medium, the factor for eligibility. Any broadband provider meeting the required speeds, measured in megabits of data delivered to and from the consumer per second, is eligible, whether such service is provided over telephone wire, cable modem, optical fiber, wireless, satellite, or other forms of technology.

It is important to act quickly. Recent reports by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the International Telecommunications Union find the United States lagging in broadband penetration compared to other nations. We should not sit idly by and allow the United States to fall behind in this crucial area. Just as the federal government stepped in to provide national availability of electrification and transportation in the mid-1900s, we must now ensure a national system of electronic information.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important measure. I look forward to working with my cosponsors and the leadership of both parties to see the Broadband Expensing Act become law in 2007.

TURKEY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I encourage Turkey to honor their commitments and implement important economic, regional, and political advancements in order to gain membership in the European Union (EU).

Today, December 6, 2006, marks an important deadline in the pursuit of international partnership and cooperation. Turkey must begin to demonstrate to the EU and the international community that it is willing to implement changes in its policy prior to the Ascension Summit, where it will be decided whether Turkey may continue toward EU membership. The significance of this deadline is undeniable; Turkey must decide: do they continue to pursue a policy which alienates and impedes other nations? Or, do they adopt policy changes to join an important international cooperative body.

It is a well-known fact the regional policies of Turkey cause strain in the South Caucasus region and unfairly harms the welfare of their neighbor country, Armenia. The European Union has repeatedly called for the cessation of the Turkish Blockade of Armenia as well as normalization of relations between the countries. However, these two pre-conditions to entering the EU have been blatantly ignored by Turkey. The blockade, now in its thirteenth year, is the only blockade of a fellow Council of Europe state. This is simply unacceptable, and I implore the EU to stand firm in their recommendations to Turkey in order to ensure these iniquitous economic practices are eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, Armenia is a friend of the United States; and too many countries throughout the world. Yet, Turkey refuses to see the benefits Armenia brings to the South Caucasus region. This refusal has led to fierce tension within the region, as well as unfair economic outcomes that only harm Armenia. Before Turkey can become a member of the European Union, they must first acknowledge their mistakes, foster cooperation in the South Caucasus region, and respect their neighbor, Armenia.

I encourage the European Parliament to consider the ramifications of Turkey's actions before granting them membership to the EU. The purpose of the EU is to create economic, political and most importantly regional cooperation between nations with similar interests. Turkey, with a history of bullying their neighbor, does not deserve membership until they change their ways.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORATION SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation introduced today by Congressman RADANOVICH to implement a practical agreement to revive our State's second-longest river.

This is a remarkable accomplishment, and I congratulate the parties who have worked tirelessly to get to this point.

When we debated and passed the Central Valley Project Improvement Act in the early 1990s, we anticipated a program to reestablish the San Joaquin River's salmon run that was eliminated by the construction of Friant Dam.

But bringing about something as momentous as this agreement is easier said than done. This settlement has been literally decades in the making, and I think we should all be very glad we're at this point, rather than watching another several years of litigation and argument.

It took a collaborative effort to bring this settlement about, and I'd like to take a moment to recognize the leaders of this effort.

Congressman RADANOVICH and Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN took the lead in directing the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Friant water users to settle the 18-year legal dispute, and in negotiating the legislation to implement their settlement.

Attorney Hal Candee has shepherded NRDC's effort to reverse 60 years of destruction on the San Joaquin, and Friant's counsel, Dan Dooley, ensured that the river could flow without devastating his farmers.

My hat is off to each of the parties who have made this happen.

There is still a lot of work to be done before the salmon can return to the San Joaquin River again, and I look forward to working in the 110th Congress and beyond to help move the restoration efforts forward.

I will also make sure that this worthy effort does not detract from other ongoing restoration efforts, like the important work taking place on the Trinity River in northern California.

There is still much to be done in order to implement and fund the 2000 Record of Decision for Trinity River restoration, and I intend to work with my colleagues to restore that river and its fishery, including the resources that the United States holds in trust for the Hoopa Valley Tribe.

Again, I want to thank those who have led in this collaborative effort, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to settle a very long legal dispute and finally to bring salmon back to the once-great San Joaquin River.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. CRUZ BUSTAMANTE JR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and join my colleagues Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. RADANOVICH and Mr. NUNES in honoring and remembering the life of Mr. Cruz Bustamante Jr., who passed away on Friday, December 1, 2006. Mr. Bustamante was a respected member of his community and his memory will forever be cherished.

Mr. Bustamante, was born on November 2, 1933 in Loving, New Mexico. In his youth, he and his family left New Mexico and made California's San Joaquin Valley their new home. Cruz graduated from Dinuba High School and

Mohler Barber College. He successfully pursued careers as a barber and later as the Administrator for the Greater California Employment Program and United Health Centers.

Like his son, Cruz, who served two-terms as the California's Lieutenant Governor and as a Member of the State Assembly representing the San Joaquin Valley, Mr. Bustamante also had an appetite for public service and never shied away from the opportunity to influence change in his community. Following that passion, he served the City of San Joaquin both as a member and Mayor Pro Tem. In addition, many civic, educational and community boards and committees were the beneficiaries of Mr. Bustamante's interest in his community's welfare.

Mr. Cruz Bustamante Jr. is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Dominga and their children: Cruz M., Belinda, Dorothy, Ron, Andrew and Naomi. Also surviving him are nine siblings, ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Although his passing leaves a community in mourning, his devotion to his family, loyalty to friends, and commitment to helping others will never be forgotten. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends, and reassure them that his memory will live on through the lives he so graciously touched.

FOND FAREWELL TO DEPARTING FLORIDA DELEGATION MEMBERS

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, Florida is a state like no other. Our distinct regions range from the white-sanded beaches of the panhandle to the pink-sanded, sophisticated boutique avenues of Miami, passing through the space coast, home to Kennedy Space Center, and, most exquisitely, through the beautiful, rolling horse country of Marion and Alachua counties.

Our congressional delegation is no less diverse. We have our rock-solid fiscal conservatives, our steady moderates, and our progressive liberals. I am proud to be associated with them all.

Tonight, I join my Sunshine State colleagues to bid a fond farewell to CLAY SHAW, MIKE BILIRAKIS, JIM DAVIS, and KATHERINE HARRIS. Each of them are unique seashells, sparkling on the beach that we call Florida.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. DAVIS and I have spent many years together on the Committee on Energy & Commerce. For countless hours, we have debated the Outer Continental Shelf, Medicaid, and telecommunications issues. There were never dull moments, but even as we disagreed, I think that the three of us asked a common question as we legislated: what is best for Floridians?

In Mr. BILIRAKIS, further, one could ask for no more dedicated advocate for our Nation's veterans. He has introduced the fix for the unfair offset of concurrent receipt of veteran disability pay and military retirement pay for 20 years now. Happily, he must leave here with the satisfaction that Congress has made substantial progress in ending this century-old problem.

Mr. SHAW's leadership in Medicare is peerless. Physicians around Florida and around the nation have him to thank for his tireless efforts on their reimbursement, as well as medical liability reform. I am honored that he asked me to carry the torch for his work on medical screenings for first responders. I shall not let him down.

Mrs. HARRIS has served honorably as a brilliant stateswoman, both for Florida and for the United States. As Secretary of State for Florida, she represented and advanced our interests in trade, with diplomacy and aplomb. And, she is an accomplished horsewoman and solid booster and alumna of the University of Florida, with strong family ties.

As an example of our unity, like other States with no income taxes, our delegation has lobbied hard for federal income tax fairness, via the deduction for state and local sales taxes. When I gathered the support of the Florida delegation for this deduction in the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 in a letter in the summer of 2004, I am proud to say that I collected the signatures of 100 percent of our delegation, all 25 of our House Members, and our two Senators. One of our delegation, the Honorable Porter Goss, in fact had one foot out the door, to head the Central Intelligence Agency, but he still took a moment to sign our letter. I don't think any of the other non-income tax states, including the even larger delegation of Texas, secured 100 percent support. This solidarity just exemplifies who Floridians are. Representatives BILIRAKIS, SHAW, HARRIS, and DAVIS, fare thee well.

HONORING LLOYD C. HILLARD, JR.

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Lloyd C. Hillard, Jr., an exemplary community leader, businessman and citizen from my congressional district. Lloyd received this year's Hardin County Distinguished Citizen Award from the Boy Scouts of America during ceremonies earlier this month.

A native of Kentucky, Lloyd grew up on a farm in Pine Grove and earned college degrees from the University of Kentucky and the University of Wisconsin. Lloyd has distinguished himself as a business leader, serving as President and CEO of First Citizens Bank, and a good neighbor, through his active involvement in many community and charitable organizations.

Though never a scout himself, Lloyd's lifelong example of honesty and devotion to his family and community parallel ideals championed by the Boy Scouts. He first became involved with the Scouts as a young adult, running a school recruitment program.

Lloyd has been an especially active member of our community, having served as past president and director of the Bluegrass Council Boy Scouts of America, past chairman of the North Central Kentucky Education Foundation, and former treasurer and director of the Cavalry Armor Foundation.

Lloyd was also past chairman of the Hardin County Community Foundation, Helping Hand

of the Heartland, and the Hardin County Fund for the Arts. He remains an active member of the local United Way and the Elizabethtown Rotary Club.

It is my great privilege to recognize Lloyd C. Hillard, Jr. today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his example of leadership and service. His unique achievements make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and respect.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE SHERWOOD BOEHLERT FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE SCIENCE COMMITTEE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable SHERWOOD BOEHLERT for his outstanding service as Chairman of the House Science Committee.

Chairman SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, in honor of your long-term commitment to scientific research, I congratulate you on all of your remarkable achievements as Chairman of the House Science Committee. It has been my pleasure to serve alongside you as we worked diligently on many scientific matters which affected every American across the country. While I congratulate you on your service and celebrate your retirement, I recognize without reservation that your valued insights and contributions to the Science Committee will be deeply missed.

As Chairman of the Science Committee, you spearheaded advancement in nanotechnology through the "21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act," that was signed in December 2003, by President George W. Bush. This was an important bill which allowed for a more coordinated and better funded interagency program in nanotechnology—an emerging field of science that the National Science Foundation estimates will be a \$1 trillion industry within the next decade.

You have also been an esteemed advocate for the environment having authored the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990, which for the first time established a federal response to acid rain. Furthermore, your dedication did not stop there. In 1996, you authored the Conservation Title in the Farm bill, which provided over \$9 billion for conservation programs critical to hunters and fishermen. Such crucial programs included the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Conservation Reserve Program and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

I can confidently say that through your distinguished 24 years of service, you have made a lasting and valuable impact on American society. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and successful efforts in drawing the necessary attention to the competitive challenges facing U.S. companies, and to the importance of math and science education in overcoming those challenges. I also thank you for your excellent efforts of ensuring that our nation remains number one in the global economy.