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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC.
June 11, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) for 5 minutes.

IN MEMORIAM OF ARMY SERGEANT JAMES AKIN

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Sergeant James Akin, a true American hero who lost his life while serving his country in Iraq. James was one of four soldiers killed near Baghdad on Sunday, June 3, 2007 when a roadside bomb detonated alongside the Humvee he was driving. He was killed less than a month before his 24th birthday.

James was a successful businessman who sold his retail cell phone company at an age when most Americans are just beginning their professional career. But he was always more interested in serving the public than himself. James felt that a public servant is effective through action and experience rather than rhetoric. To that end, he enlisted in the Army and was deployed to Iraq in the fall of 2004. He was honored to serve his country, and, envisioning a future political life, he wanted to understand issues of military conflict from the perspective of a war veteran.

I regret that I did not know James personally, for those who did describe him with love, and they do so passionately. The many messages posted on his personal web page by those who knew him convey the tremendous admiration they had for him, and illustrate the caring, influential and thoughtful man that he was. They describe a father figure, a brotherly adviser and a considerate, deeply loving and equally loved husband.

A current member of my staff, Sarah Cobb, who worked with James on a congressional campaign in Albuquerque, said of him: ''He truly was what is said of him—gregarious, outgoing and effervescent.''

The love James had for his country and his countrymen was infectious. He openly and honestly told anyone he met of his future desire to run for President of the United States. He encouraged those he knew, and those he did not, to stay informed and to be involved in government and the electoral process. From what I have learned of James, I believe that if his life had not been cut short, he may indeed have addressed the Nation from the floor of this great Chamber.

Today, there is a void in the lives of all who knew him, and New Mexico is a lesser place for having lost him. Yet James will live on in the hearts and minds of those he touched, and New Mexico is lucky to call him a native son.

In 2004, James managed the New Mexico State senate campaign of my friend Victor Raigoza. Though they did not win that tough political battle, James showed the true measure of his character when he sent the following words of wisdom and encouragement to Mr. Raigoza: ''Live life to serve, because you can. Dissent, because you can. Enjoy freedom, because you can. Remember always that the measure of our progress is not whether we can provide more for those who have plenty, but whether we can provide enough for those who have little.''

My heartfelt condolences go out to James' family and James' wife Syreeta, his father and namesake James, and the large number of friends, extended family members and fortunate individuals whose lives he touched.

I spoke to Syreeta last Friday and told her how much the Nation appreciates James' service to his country. To Syreeta and James' family, thank you for your sacrifice.

I believe I speak for all New Mexicans when I say our Nation will always maintain a priceless debt of gratitude and the utmost respect for the service and sacrifice of Army Sergeant James Akin. He will be missed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BALDWIN) at 2 p.m.

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PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

We lift our eyes to You, O God of eternity. So far beyond our understanding or our experience You are all holy, all powerful.

To be fully present in Your sight this day stirs within us a desire to be truly humble, poor in spirit and truly silent, listening to Your Word speaking to our hearts.

Bless this assembly of the 110th Congress, Lord. Give us liberty from all the knotty problems of this world that tighten our imagination and narrow our perception.

Rather, breathe upon us Your cleansing Spirit that Your servants may have a broad and penetrating vision on how to unleash the free exercise of people and untie the mistakes of the past.

May the native born, new citizens, immigrants, guests and visitors, those in high places and the lowly, all give You glory and praise now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ALTMIRE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO ATTEND FUNERAL OF THE LATE HONORABLE CRAIG THOMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 454, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the committee to attend the funeral of the late Honorable Craig Thomas:

Mrs. CUBIN, Wyoming

PROTECTING CHILDREN IN THE WORKFORCE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, tomorrow the House will consider a bill to further protect our children in the workforce. While children under the age of 18 are permitted to work under American labor law, certain rules provide reasonable limitations.

Under this bipartisan measure, companies will receive stiffer monetary penalties should a violation of these laws result in the injury or death of a child in the workplace.

I appreciate the leadership of Chairman GEORGE MILLER and ranking Republican BUCK MCKEON on this issue. As ranking Republican of the Workforce Protection Subcommittee, I am pleased to have worked closely with Chairwoman LYNN WOOLSEY on this issue.

I am grateful the House is coming together to consider this bill and ensure the safety of our Nation's children. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAKE SIDNEY LANIER, GEORGIA

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 354) to recognize the year 2007 as the official 50th anniversary celebration of the beginnings of marinas, power production, recreation, and boating on Lake Sidney Lanier, Georgia.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 354

Whereas the Congress of the United States authorized the creation of Lake Sidney Lanier and Buford Dam by official act in 1946 for flood control, power production, wildlife preservation and downstream navigation;

Whereas construction on the Buford Dam project by the Army Corps of Engineers began in 1951;

Whereas the Army Corps of Engineers constructed the dam and lake on the Chattahoochee and Chestatee Rivers at a cost of approximately $45,000,000;

Whereas, in 1956, Jack Beachem and the Army Corps of Engineers signed a lease to create Holiday on Lake Sidney Lanier Marina as the lake's first concessionaire;

Whereas the first power was produced through Buford Dam at Lake Sidney Lanier on June 16, 1957;

Whereas Holiday on Lake Sidney Lanier opened on July 4, 1957;

Whereas Buford Dam was officially dedicated on October 9, 1957;

Whereas nearly 225,000 people visited Lake Sidney Lanier to boat, fish and recreate in 1957;

Whereas, in present times, more than 8,000,000 visitors enjoy the attributes and assets of Lake Sidney Lanier annually to boat, fish, swim, camp, and otherwise recreate in the great outdoors;

Whereas Lake Sidney Lanier generates more than $5,000,000,000 in economic impact annually, according to a study commissioned by the Marine Trade Association of Metropolitan Atlanta;

Whereas, Lake Sidney Lanier has won the prestigious Chief of Engineers Annual Project of the Year Award, the highest recognition from the Army Corps of Engineers for outstanding management, an unprecedented 3 times in 12 years—1990, 1997 and 2002;

Whereas Lake Sidney Lanier hosted the paddling and rowing events for the 1996 Summer Olympics;

Whereas marinas serve as the gateway to recreation for the public on America's waterways;

Whereas Lake Sidney Lanier is now home to 10 marinas —Aqualand Marina, Bald Ridge Marina, Gainesville Marina, Habersham Marina, Holiday on Lake Sidney Lanier, Lanier Harbor Marina, Lazy Days Marina, Port Royale Marina, Starboard Cove Marina, and Sunrise Cove Marina;

Whereas Lake Sidney Lanier will join the Nation on Saturday, August 11 in celebration and commemoration of National Marina Day; and

Whereas 2007 marks the 50th anniversary of Lake Sidney Lanier: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representative recognizes the 50th anniversary celebration of the beginnings of marinas, power production, recreation, and boating on Lake Sidney Lanier, Georgia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 354 offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) to recognize the year 2007 as the official 50th anniversary celebration of Lake Sidney Lanier.

Congress first authorized the construction of Buford Dam in 1946 as one project in a comprehensive plan to develop our Nation's water resources for the purposes of national defense, power production, flood control, navigation, and water supply. The first groundbreaking for construction occurred on March 1, 1950, and on June 17, 1957, the first hydropower was produced by the generators of the dam.

Today, Lake Lanier provides power production, flood control, water supply, navigation, fish and wildlife management, and recreational activities to members of the surrounding communities and businesses. This week in June is a suitable time to recognize Lake Lanier's contributions to the area and accomplishments. As summer heat begins to spread across the Nation, both water supply and cooling water recreational activities are on many minds.

More than 60 percent of the population of the State of Georgia relies on water stored in Lake Lanier or down the Chattahoochee River. Similarly, properties around the lake and down the river rely on its banks and dam for flood control.

Nearly 8 million visitors come annually to appreciate the scenery and leisure opportunities provided by the lake. In fact, Lake Lanier holds the title of the most-visited Army Corps lake in the entire country. Facilities include 10 marinas and 57 parks for swimming, boating, fishing and picnicking. In 1996, Lake Lanier hosted the paddling and rowing competitions for the Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

And several years ago, the Marine Trade Association of Metro Atlanta found that Lake Lanier has an economic impact of $5.5 billion.

I urge my colleagues to join with me and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) in supporting House Resolution 354 to honor the impacts, accomplishments and continuing success of Lake Lanier on its 50th anniversary.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today we recognize the 50th anniversary of Lake Sidney Lanier, an Army Corps of Engineers facility located in the State of Georgia.

Lake Lanier is one of 464 lakes in 43 States constructed and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Our Nation is blessed with considerable water resources that support our Nation's economy and quality of life. We need water for our homes, farms and factories. Water also supports navigation, generates power and sustains our environment.

Congress authorized the Buford Dam Project in 1946 just after the end of the Second World War. Groundbreaking for the project began in 1950. Constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lake Lanier is a multipurpose, 38,000-acre lake that provides flood protection, power production, water supply, navigation, recreation, and fish and wildlife management.

Nestled in the foothills of the Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains, Lake Sidney Lanier is one of America's favorite lakes. Over 7.5 million people a year choose to visit Lake Lanier. With over 692 miles of shoreline, the lake is well known for its aqua-blue colored water, spectacular scenery and variety of recreational activities.

When completed, the total cost of construction, including land acquisition, was almost $45 million. When the gates of the dam were closed in 1956, it took more than 3 years for the lake to reach its normal elevation of 1,070 feet above sea level.

The lake is named for one of the Nation's most famous poets, Sidney Lanier. Born in Georgia in 1842, Mr. Lanier entered Oglethorpe College at 14 years of age, graduating at the top of his class in 1860.

While serving on the blockade runner ''Lucy'' during the Civil War, Mr. Lanier was captured and contracted tuberculosis while imprisoned in Maryland. Following the Civil War, Mr. Lanier played the flute for the Peabody Symphony and lectured at Johns Hopkins University.

While he is known for works like ''The Harlequin of Dreams,'' ''In Absence,'' ''Acknowledgement,'' and ''Sunrise,'' he is best remembered for ''The Song of the Chattahoochee,'' an enduring legacy for the native Georgian.

I urge all of our Members to support this legislation.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 354, recognizing the year 2007 as the official 50th anniversary celebration of the beginnings of marinas, power production, recreation, and boating on Lake Sidney Lanier, Georgia.

Lake Lanier is named after Sidney Clopton Lanier, a poet and musician who was born in Macon, Georgia, in 1842. After participating in battle during the Civil War, and being captured and imprisoned in Point Lookout, Maryland, Mr. Lanier contracted tuberculosis, which would affect him for the rest of his life.

Mr. Lanier's life was one of practicality and beauty: while he practiced law to support his wife and four children, he was also the first flutist in the Peabody Orchestra in Baltimore, Maryland, and an accomplished poet. The Lake was named after Mr. Lanier because of the way he positively portrayed the Chattahoochee River in his poetry.

In fact, Lake Lanier itself is a symbol of both practicality and beauty. It provides crucial flood control, protecting approximately $2 billion worth of property in the surrounding area. Similarly, on June 16, 1957—50 years ago this week—Buford Dam began producing power for the first time. Hydropower continues to flow from these waters to this day.

Although the lake is one of 464 lakes constructed and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it has won the annual award for ''best operated lake'' for three separate years: 1990, 1997, and 2002.

While the flood control, water supply, and power production role of Lake Lanier may be critical to the continuing livelihood of the communities in the surrounding area, the lake also provides beautiful scenery and recreational opportunities that local citizens and visiting tourists enjoy. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates that more than 7.5 million people visit the 692 miles of lake shoreline each year.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of Lake Lanier.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I urge passage of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 354.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOVING V. VIRGINIA LEGALIZING INTERRACIAL MARRIAGE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 431) recognizing the 40th anniversary of Loving v. Virginia legalizing interracial marriage within the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 431

Whereas the first anti-miscegenation law in the United States was enacted in Maryland in 1661;

Whereas miscegenation was typically a felony under State laws prohibiting interracial marriage punishable by imprisonment or hard labor;

Whereas in 1883, the Supreme Court held in Pace v. Alabama that anti-miscegenation laws were consistent with the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment as long as the punishments given to both white and black violators are the same;

Whereas in 1912, a constitutional amendment was proposed in the House of Representatives prohibiting interracial marriage ''between negroes or persons of color and Caucasians'';

Whereas in 1923, the Supreme Court held in Meyer v. Nebraska that the due process clause of the 14th Amendment guarantees the right of an individual ''to marry, establish a home and bring up children'';

Whereas in 1924, Virginia enacted the Racial Integrity Act of 1924, which required that a racial description of every person be recorded at birth and prevented marriage between ''white persons'' and non-white persons;

Whereas in 1948, the California Supreme Court overturned the State's anti-miscegenation statutes, thereby becoming the first State high court to declare a ban on interracial marriage unconstitutional and making California the first State to do so in the 20th century;

Whereas the California Supreme Court stated in Perez v. Sharp that ''a member of any of these races may find himself barred from marrying the person of his choice and that person to him may be irreplaceable. Human beings are bereft of worth and dignity by a doctrine that would make them as interchangeable as trains'';

Whereas by 1948, 38 States still forbade interracial marriage, and 6 did so by State constitutional provision;

Whereas in June of 1958, 2 residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia—Mildred Jeter, a black/Native American woman, and Richard Perry Loving, a Caucasian man—were married in Washington, DC;

Whereas upon their return to Virginia, Richard Perry Loving and Mildred Jeter Loving were charged with violating Virginia's anti-miscegenation statutes, a felonious crime;

Whereas the Lovings subsequently pleaded guilty and were sentenced to 1 year in prison, with the sentence suspended for 25 years on condition that the couple leave the State of Virginia;

Whereas Leon Bazile, the trial judge of the case, proclaimed that ''Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, Malay and red, and he placed them on separate continents. And but for the interference with his arrangement there would be no cause for such marriages. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix.'';

Whereas the Lovings moved to the District of Columbia, and in 1963 they began a series of lawsuits challenging their convictions;

Whereas the convictions were upheld by the State courts, including the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia;

Whereas the Lovings appealed the decision to the Supreme Court of the United States on the ground that the Virginia anti-miscegenation laws violated the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the 14th Amendment and were therefore unconstitutional;

Whereas in 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari to Loving v. Virginia and readily overturned the Lovings' convictions;

Whereas in the unanimous opinion, Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote: ''Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival. . . . To deny this fundamental freedom on so unsupportable a basis as the racial classifications embodied in these statutes, classifications so directly subversive of the principle of equality at the heart of the Fourteenth Amendment, is surely to deprive all the State's citizens of liberty without due process of law.'';

Whereas the opinion also stated that ''the Fourteenth Amendment requires that the freedom of choice to marry not be restricted by invidious racial discriminations. Under our Constitution, the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual and cannot be infringed by the State.'';

Whereas in 1967, 16 States still had law prohibiting interracial marriage, including Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia;

Whereas Loving v. Virginia struck down the remaining anti-miscegenation laws nationwide;

Whereas in 2000, Alabama became the last State to remove its anti-miscegenation laws from its statutes;

Whereas according to the U.S. Census Bureau, from 1970 to 2000 the percentage of interracial marriages has increased from 1 percent of all marriages to more than 5 percent;

Whereas the number of children living in interracial families has quadrupled between 1970 to 2000, going from 900,000 to more than 3 million; and

Whereas June 12th has been proclaimed ''Loving Day'' by cities and towns across the country in commemoration of Loving v. Virginia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) observes the 40th Anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Loving v. Virginia; and

(2) commemorates the legacy of Loving v. Virginia in ending the ban on interracial marriage in the United States and in recognizing that marriage is one of the ''basic civil rights of man'' at the heart of the 14th Amendment protections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 431, a resolution I introduced along with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), commemorating the 40th anniversary of Loving v. Virginia, the landmark Supreme Court decision legalizing interracial marriages within the United States.

I thank Chairman CONYERS for expedition consideration of this resolution so it could be brought to the floor before the actual date of the anniversary which is tomorrow, June 12.

In June of 1958, two residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Mildred Jeter, a black Native American woman, and Richard Perry Loving, a Caucasian man, were married in Washington, D.C. Upon their return to Virginia, Richard Perry Loving and Mildred Jeter Loving were charged with violating Virginia's anti-miscegenation statutes, which made their marriage a felony.

□ 1415

They challenged their convictions, culminating in the June 12, 1967, U.S. Supreme Court opinion in Loving v. Virginia, striking down the remaining anti-miscegenation laws that were still in effect in 16 States.

In the unanimous opinion, the Supreme Court rejected bigotry against interracial relations, recognizing an individual's right to marry under the 14th amendment. Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote: ''Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival . . . To deny this fundamental freedom on so unsupportable a basis as the racial classifications embodied in these statutes, classifications so directly subversive of the principle of equality at the heart of the 14th amendment, is surely to deprive all the States' citizens of liberty without due process of law.''

The opinion also stated that ''the 14th amendment requires that the freedom of choice to marry not be restricted by invidious racial discriminations. Under our Constitution, the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual and cannot be infringed by the State.''

The Loving decision marked a critical step forward in our Nation's struggle toward equal rights for all, particularly full marriage equality. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, from 1970 to the year 2000 the percentage of interracial marriages has increased from 1 percent of all marriages to more than 5 percent. The number of children living in interracial families has quadrupled between 1970 and 2000, going from 900,000 to more than 3 million. Because of the decision's profound impact in our society, numerous cities and towns across this country have already proclaimed June 12 Loving Day in commemoration of this decision.

Indeed, the Supreme Court's opinion forcefully rejected the argument employed by Leon Bazile, the trial judge of the case, who defended his decision convicting the Lovings as part of God's plan. Unfortunately, after 40 years, similar types of arguments are still being employed by a few to deny full marriage equality to everyone.

In commemorating the legacy of Loving v. Virginia in ending the ban on interracial marriage in the United States, H. Res. 431 reaffirms the Loving court's recognition that marriage is one of the ''basic civil rights of man'' at the heart of the 14th amendment protections.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this timely resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Wisconsin for presenting this resolution to this Congress, and I notice that many of the statements that she has made have laid out I think the history of this Loving case very well to the Congress, and so what I will seek to do is perhaps just add and fill in perhaps some of the blanks that may have been left, although I'm not convinced that there are many.

And that is the emphasis on equal protection and due process clause of the 14th amendment. I think it was clear when a unanimous decision in the Supreme Court in the Loving case, and it isn't often that you see an issue that has been traditionally rooted from the time of our Founders up until 1967, have a unanimous decision of the Supreme Court, even though it met that resistance at every step of the way throughout the entire appeals process until it got to the Supreme Court.

Today, it looks like a clear decision. It looks easy; it's simple. None of us would have any trouble with this Loving decision; but, in fact, then it was a matter of an idea whose time had finally come.

But the Supreme Court laid out very clear language in their decision that legislative classifications based on race

were ''odious to a free people whose institutions are founded upon the doctrine of equality,'' and further condemned Virginia's interracial marriage statute. And then the Court concluded: ''There can be no doubt that restricting the freedom to marry solely because of racial classifications violates the central meaning of the equal protection clause.''

I just appreciate the privilege to emphasize those things, and then I'd like to add then some other thoughts to this record, Mr. Speaker, and that is that we rightfully celebrate the anniversary of the landmark decision here today. The institution of marriage between one man and one woman is older than the Nation itself. It predates government itself, and it also limits the power of government because traditional families are the fundamental units of our society.

Through them, we pour through that crucible our values from a father and a mother into the children and the values of our patriotism, our faith, our work ethic, our culture. The things we eat and the things we do, every component of our culture and civilization is concentrated through those values of those children that we have and that we're so well-blessed with; and without marriage, government would be bound to expand to take its place and would try lamely to do so.

But marriage embraces only one principle, and that is the marriage of a union between a man and a woman, and the further distinction of that and to have government draw a distinction between people based upon their ethnicity should be abhorrent to a free people.

And I stand here, Mr. Speaker, before you this afternoon, and I take this position that I believe we are all created in God's image, and what He has created, I believe it's an insult to Him if we draw distinctions between His creation. He has also seen to bless us with some specific characteristics that help us identify one another. And because He has seen to bless us with those characteristics, and in this case it was skin color, it doesn't mean it still isn't a reflection of God's image.

And I recall stepping into a church in Port Gibson, Mississippi, the Catholic church there that was built in 1848 by the hands of some of the family of Jim Bowie, and the priest in that church was Father Tony Pudenz, and he showed me in the church that this church that was built in 1848, the floor of the church was built for whites, the balcony was built for blacks. And just a week before that, they had buried the editor of the newspaper who had in 1967 taken his white family from the floor of the church and walked his five children and his wife up there where they sat in the balcony with the African Americans, thereby sending a statement where half of the congregation walked across the street to the Episcopal church where they go to church to this very day. But the balance of that congregation is an integrated congregation.

And so I would say we can't be for equality if we're not in support of intermarriage. God has created us all equally, and based upon that, I support this resolution. I think it's appropriate that we bring it today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, the Loving v. Virginia decision was a milestone in our continuing efforts to fulfill the original promises of our Constitution, fulfilling the blessings of liberty for all Americans. It is highly fitting that we remember and honor the decision on its 40th anniversary. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 431.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENCOURAGING DISPLAY OF THE FLAG ON FATHER'S DAY

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2356) to amend title 4, United States Code, to encourage the display of the flag of the United States on Father's Day.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2356

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL OCCASSION FOR DISPLAY OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES.

Section 6(d) of title 4, United States Code, is amended by inserting after ''Flag Day, June 14;'' the following: ''Father's Day, third Sunday in June;''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2356 and include extraneous materials in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As part of our Nation's bicentennial celebration in 1976, Congress passed a joint resolution re-emphasizing existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag, especially recommending its display on a number of different holidays, including Mother's Day, the second Sunday in May.

Omitted from the list was Father's Day. H.R. 2356 would amend the Federal flag code to include Father's Day, the third Sunday in June, among important holidays on which to fly the American flag.

The law now provides that, in addition to the important occasions listed in the flag code, ''the flag should be displayed on all days.'' I know that this is the custom in every community in the United States.

Still, I think that it is important for the flag code to recognize both mothers and fathers, who raise the next generation, inculcate them with the values they need to be good citizens and good neighbors.

I want to thank our colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) for his efforts to enact this worthwhile legislation.

And I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to honor fathers in the flag code, just as we now honor mothers.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this legislation which would add Father's Day, the third Sunday in June, to the list of holidays listed in the U.S. flag code on which it's particularly appropriate to fly the American flag.

It's altogether appropriate that Father's Day be added to the list of holidays on which the flag should be flown. Both fathers and mothers are essential elements to the basic family unit that has made America so strong. And so the flag should be flown proudly on both Father's Day, as provided by this bill, and on Mother's Day, as already provided in existing law, as a sign of respect for both mothers and fathers and the essential role the traditional family plays in raising new citizens in our democracy.

I would add, I want to also thank Congressman TODD TIAHRT for bringing this initiative to Congress. It's interesting to note that there was a class in his district that when they were studying the history and studying the days that the Federal Government encourages display of the flag, they noticed that Father's Day was missing. They had written a letter to Congressman TIAHRT asking that he take action on this, and he has introduced a bill and it complements this bill before us.

So I thank him for that and I wanted to emphasize how important it is for citizens to weigh in and to reach out and communicate with Members of Congress because here's a perfect example of how young people saw a gap, had their voice heard, and we have an opportunity here now to fill that gap.

The first Father's Day celebration occurred in Fairmont, West Virginia, in 1908, and the first Mother's Day celebration occurred just 15 miles away in Grafton, West Virginia. So that neighborhood is the home now of Father's Day and Mother's Day. But it's a historical anomaly that Mother's Day and Father's Day were instituted so close in time, but it has taken until today for the House to pass a bill to add Father's Day to the day on which it's especially appropriate to fly the flag.

President Calvin Coolidge recommended Father's Day as a national holiday in 1924; and in 1966, President Johnson made Father's Day a holiday to be celebrated on the third Sunday of June. The holiday was officially recognized in 1972, during the Presidency of Richard Nixon. I look forward to President Bush signing this legislation into law and encouraging all Americans to fly the flag of their own fatherhood celebrations, which will happen at my house.

And as a father, I'm particularly pleased to be here on the eve of the next Father's Day, helping support this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT), the sponsor of this legislation.

□ 1430

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, thank you to Ms. BALDWIN, the distinguished lady from Wisconsin for her generosity, and thanks to Mr. KING and those on the other side of the aisle who are joining in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, without question, this is an extraordinary day, it is an extraordinary bill, is an extraordinary occasion. This is America, the greatest country in the world, and our flag represents greatness. To have now, finally, fruition, the manifestation of those precious words that were captured in the book of Exodus in the holy scriptures, where God said, the greatest and the first commandment in relationship of man to man were these words, ''Honor thy father,'' and then He said, ''and thy mother that thy days will be long in the land.''

Finally, today, on this day, June 11, in the year 2007, nearly 4,000 years since those words were written down and inscribed, we are finally recognizing fathers as well as mothers by making sure the flag flies not just on Mother's Day but on Father's Day as well.

In the Hebrew language, the word for ''father'' is ''abba, ''and in the Greek language it is ''pater,'' and together those words mean the begatter, the progenitor, the source. But it also means provider and protector. It is no wonder why God in His wisdom said: ''Honor thy father'' and He put father first, and our mother, and now we are rectifying that situation.

I am very delighted to be here. This is an important bill, at an important time, because never before have we needed to stress the role of father, to be a good father.

It is a gaping hole in the fabric of America that fathers are not being fathers. Throughout so many aspects of our society, the American flag is one of the greatest symbols of our country. It is the representation of our freedoms, our values, our heritage as a Nation.

As Americans, our flag code instructs us to fly the flag every day, but especially on a number of very special significant Federal, religious, and cultural holidays. For many years, this list of occasions has included Veterans Day, President's day, Columbus Day and Mother's Day.

In the past several years, the list was amended to include the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s observation of his birthday as a national holiday, in honor of his outstanding contributions that he made in his lifetime to the advancement of the civil rights of all Americans.

But our flag code currently does not reflect the important roles of both men and women in the raising of children, and never before have we needed to emphasize that. It is time that this body officially recognizes the importance of American fathers by passing this important legislation today.

I am pleased that the House is considering H.R. 2356, for fathers play an extraordinary role in the development of children. Psychologists have emphasized that the presence of a father significantly influences a child's development in many ways. Infants not only distinguish between their father and strangers' voices within the first 4 weeks of life, but infants also recognize that a father is likely to engage in play time with them.

That first impression, to hear that strong comforting voice of a father, to balance that with the mother, is so critical in the development of our children. In later years, the relationship between a father and his children strongly influences success in the classroom, improves relationships with peers, and decreases the likelihood of negative behavior.

Is there any wonder that today in so many reaches and depths in our neighborhoods that there is negative behavior, and that is so much associated because there is not a father being a father in the home and in the life of that child.

The presence of a father is also a very important determinant in the child's socioeconomic potential later in life. Unfortunately, over the last four decades, research shows that there has been an unprecedented rise in this Nation in the number of fatherless homes, especially when they are first born, no father.

The National Fatherhood Initiative emphasizes that children from families with fathers are five times less likely to be poor. What is the answer to poverty? Getting the fathers who produce these children to be fathers, to take care of these children and be responsible for these children.

It is important for Congress to emphasize the significance of fathers and their socioeconomic value of the two-parent family as well, for studies also show that children are more likely to engage in recreational activities when their fathers are present. When fathers are involved in organized sports such as soccer, baseball and basketball, they are not only encouraging physical activity in their children, but also character development and sportsmanship.

Fathers also benefit for participating in their children's teams, as physical activity contributes to increased wellness and disease prevention in men. Fathers who are active in child rearing may also find themselves more nurturing toward their colleagues in the workplace, improving other aspects of their lives, by taking younger coworkers under their wing or volunteering more time to charitable organizations as well.

Schools across this country are developing innovative programs to reach out to parents and to especially get fathers involved in various and positive activities. In Kansas City, Missouri, the Reconnecting Education and DADS organization developed a specific reading program for fathers to use with their children.

The Kindering Center of Belleview, Washington, created a weekly support group for fathers of children with special needs. All over the country, schools are facilitating courses in responsible fatherhood, including education on child development, managing stress and good nutrition for their children and themselves.

I want to take just a minute here to acknowledge the important work of a similar organization in my own congressional district in Georgia. These men, these fathers are making a difference in the lives of our children by volunteering their time to improve the learning environment, not only for the children, but the many others who are within the school as well. They call it the DADS organization, DADS, whose acronym stands for Diverse and Dedicated Support, and it is a collective effort by fathers in my congressional district to serve as role models, not the athlete, not the rap guy, not the singer, not the superstars. The great role models for our young people need to be their fathers. By doing this today, this Congress is making this bold and much-needed statement.

This program places fathers of students in Clayton County, Georgia, middle schools to serve as hallway and classroom monitors to help with the discipline problems in our schools. Who better to do that, helping faculty to maintain order as students transition between classes throughout the day. This is where the violence sometimes starts. But with a parent there, particularly a father, a strong male presence, these men also serve as tutors when students need the help the most,

including Clayton County students to pursue their education and their dreams.

One self-employed volunteer at Lovejoy Middle School works while students are in class, and takes breaks throughout the day to monitor hallways and classrooms. That's a father.

Another volunteer, a wounded veteran from the war in Iraq, not only sacrificing his life in Iraq, where he was wounded, but he comes back home in Clayton County, Georgia, and walks the halls of Adamson Middle School with a cane. What a sight. These are heroes. No greater role model could we find than this wounded veteran who was wounded in Iraq, but comes back to help shape the lives of our young people in school.

He came so that he may assist the faculty in ensuring good discipline among the students. I am so honored, I am so full, I am overflowing up here today to know these fathers are making the ultimate difference in our communities and in my district. These men are not just fathers to individual students. They are dads to the children who lack the involvement of a father in their lives. The expansion of this program to elementary and high school underscores the success to reach out and encourage the involvement of fathers both inside the school and out.

In closing, I want to also note that many children from single-parent families are doing well. They are succeeding. But just think what it would be if they had both parents there, if they had been raised to be upstanding and successful members of our community. By passing this legislation today, we will show our support for the important roles that fathers, as well as mothers, play in preparing future generations in this country.

Honor thy father and thy mother so that thy days will be long in the land. We are doing that in Congress today, with extraordinary important, meaningful, and significant legislation.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, listening to Mr. SCOTT talk about the importance of fathers and mothers in the family and the home and the children, I can't any longer resist reflecting through the generation and what this means to me as we discuss this bill that will encourage the special attention to flying the flag on Father's Day.

All of us, each of us has a father. We don't always get to know that father, but I certainly got to know mine. There is hardly a day that goes by that I don't think of him.

I know that there is never a day that goes by that his influence on me doesn't show up in me in something that I do. I look at the grandfathers that I have known. I had the privilege of knowing one of my grandfathers. I watched the message that came from them, the work ethic and the history, and to sit on his knee and to listen to him tell me about his father and his grandfather and the relation of the families and about how far it goes back and rooted into the settlers that came across the country, the pioneers.

My grandfather on my mother's side was sent at a young age, about 13 years old, to go from Indiana to Iowa, to go work on a farm that had only daughters and no sons. What little bit of pay that he got, even at that young age, he had to send back to Indiana. Then when he needed a pair of shoes, he had to write a letter and ask, can I have some money, I need a pair of shoes.

Well, he was a smart young man, and he married the farmer's daughter, and another generation began. That farmer's daughter and that fellow, of course, that young man, were the parents to my mother.

But on my father's side, my father taught me some things that I think have been invaluable in my life. He was the one that always challenged me. Every evening we sat down, all our life was about like the book ''Fun with Dick and Jane.'' Every evening we sat down at the supper table, and Dad carried the conversation. It was either about his day at work, or it was about current events, and then sometimes and oftentimes it was the same thing, given his job. He was the one that taught me to be intellectually honest.

First, you listened before you spoke, and you looked for an opportunity, and the amount of seniority you had in the family and credibility gave you a little bit more opportunity to speak. But if you spoke, and you could not support the statement that you made, he would be there to challenge you on what do you support that statement with. Why can you make a statement like that when these are the countervailing facts?

So, from a young age, one of the most important things my father taught me was to be intellectually honest and expect to be challenged if you are not intellectually honest.

On one of those occasions we began a discussion of whether you can convert watts to horsepower. We had a debate going on, an argument going on, that lasted for 3 days. Every night at supper, I would start that debate up again.

Then I went to the school library and went through a book and finally found the equation that showed how to do the math between watts and horsepower. I snuck that book down to the supper table, marked it, set it on my knees throughout supper. Then when we finished eating and the conversation began, we went into that discussion again.

When I got him just to the right point in the conversation that I could win the debate, I pulled out the book, opened it up to the formula and said here, so many watts equals horsepower. I thought I had the argument won. But I had not been apparently intellectually honest enough, because he said, that's not what I am talking about. Horsepower is mechanical power, watts is electrical power, and you can't equate the two. I learned a real important lesson there as well, but time after time, day after day, the important values of hard work and ethics and integrity and telling the truth and knowing that when I looked him in the eye he knew what was in my mind and he knew what was in my soul.

Even when I watch my hands work today, they are the hands of my father doing that work. When I come here to work here in this Congress, I know that I just don't represent the 600,000 people in my district, which is a profound thing and a tremendous honor to be able to do that, but all of us are the legacy of our fathers and mothers, the work ethic that they taught us, the values that they taught us. We are what has come through that crucible. We are the representatives of the generations.

□ 1445

And to be those representatives, we can thank two people in our lives more than any others, and that's our fathers and our mothers. And I think that came through Mr. SCOTT's discussion here very well, and I appreciate that that's in the record and we had the opportunity to hear that. I wanted to add some of those words from my side of this as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to join the gentleman from Iowa in giving special recognition to our colleague, Mr. TIAHRT of Kansas, who has also worked on this issue and is sponsoring similar legislation. This really is a remarkable bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, this is simple, yet sensible legislation to accord equal honor to fathers as to mothers in the statutory guidance on flying our Nation's flag on special days of the year. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2356, which amends title 4 of the United States Code to encourage the display of the flag of the United States on Father's Day. Unfortunately, our flag code does not include Father's Day in the list of important occasions. H.R. 2356 rectifies this oversight by including Father's Day, among the important holidays on which Americans are encouraged to fly the American flag.

Father's Day in USA is celebrated with great enthusiasm and lot of fanfare on third Sunday of June. In observing this day, people reflect on the invaluable role played by fathers in building the character of children and in the development of the Nation. On Father's Day we honor our fathers and express gratitude for their love and affection.

It is a wonderful idea to raise the American flag on Father's Day, and allow it to symbolize the hard work and dedication of our fathers. The benefits of a father's influence are well documented. School achievements in children may be negatively effected in the absence of a good father-child relationship. Father influence can affect the choice of occupations, preferred school subjects, and role development of their children. Clearly, the father can greatly impact the lives of his children.

For all of these reasons, we should honor American fathers by amending the flag code to include Father's Day on the list of important observances.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2356.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE IDEALS AND VALUES OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 395) supporting the ideals and values of the Olympic movement.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 395

Whereas, for over 100 years, the Olympic movement has built a more peaceful and better world by educating young people through athletics, by bringing together athletes from many countries in friendly competition, and by forging new relationships bound by friendship, solidarity, sportsmanship, and fair play;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee is dedicated to coordinating and developing athletic activity in the United States to foster productive working relationships among sports-related organizations;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee promotes and supports athletic activities involving the United States and foreign nations;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee promotes and encourages physical fitness and public participation in athletic activities;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee assists organizations and persons concerned with sports in the development of athletic programs for able-bodied and disabled athletes regardless of age, race, or gender;

Whereas the United States Olympic Committee protects the opportunity of each athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, and official to participate in athletic competition;

Whereas the United States Olympic Training Centers in Colorado, California, New York, Michigan, and Alabama are dedicated to the development of Olympic athletes;

Whereas athletes representing the United States at the Olympic games have achieved great success personally and for the Nation;

Whereas thousands of men and women of the United States are focusing their energy and skill on becoming part of the United States Olympic team and aspire to compete in the 2008 Olympic games;

Whereas the Nation takes great pride in the qualities of commitment to excellence, grace under pressure, and good will toward other competitors exhibited by the athletes of the United States Olympic team; and

Whereas June 23, 2007 is the anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic movement, representing the date on which the Congress of Paris approved the proposal of Pierre de Coubertin to found the modern Olympic games: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the ideals and values of the Olympic movement;

(2) calls upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic movement; and

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe such anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have five legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would first like to commend our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), for introducing this important resolution.

The Olympics are, first and foremost, about sports, athletes from around the world uniting in their love of their games and their commitment to free and fair competition.

But the Olympics are also an important global forum where athletes, trainers and leaders and spectators from around the world come together to participate in and observe the greatest competition on Earth. The games epitomize the spirit of global harmony and cooperation among nations.

For over 100 years, the modern Olympics movement, in sponsoring the games, has built understanding by bringing athletes together around the world in open competition and by forging new bonds of friendship, solidarity and sportsmanship.

Given the current state of global affairs, we all have learned a lot from the Olympic participants and from the symbolism of the peaceful assemblage of people from all different walks of life.

It is with this harmonious sentiment that Mr. LAMBORN's resolution recognizes the significance of the Olympic movement in global understanding.

This resolution is particularly timely as we approach the 2008 games in Beijing, China, and encourages China to act responsibly in accordance with the spirit of this Olympics.

This bill also recognizes the proud history of our own U.S. Olympic Committee, which has coordinated the development of young athletes in the United States and sent so many of them to represent our country with amazing poise.

I'm delighted that the House will today take this opportunity to recognize the anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic movement on June 23.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 395. I am pleased to sponsor this resolution that supports and commemorates the ideals and values of the Olympics.

In a few weeks, on June 23, 2007, the United States Olympic Committee will be celebrating the anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic movement.

Specifically, June 23 represents the date in 1896 on which the Congress of Paris approved the proposal of Baron Pierre de Coubertin to found the modern Olympic games.

The Olympics emphasize the values and ideals of, among other things, an active, healthy lifestyle for both able-bodied and disabled athletes, personal excellence, good sportsmanship and fair play, without regard for gender, race or age.

The Olympic movement and its message of peace and solidarity offer hope during times of tumultuous world events.

For over 100 years the Olympic movement has built a more peaceful and better world by educating young people through athletics, by bringing together athletes from many countries in friendly competition, and by forging new relationships bound by friendship, solidarity, sportsmanship and fair play.

Presently, thousands of men and women throughout the United States are working hard to prepare for competition to proudly represent our great Nation. Embodying values of health and fitness, Olympic athletes are role models for young people as obesity becomes far too widespread in the United States.

These athletes will be participating in one of the upcoming Olympic games: the XV Pan American Games, which will take place in Rio de Janiero, Brazil, later this year; the XXVIV Summer Olympics in Beijing, China, in 2008; and the XXI Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada, in 2010.

As China prepares to open its doors to the world, the 2008 Olympic games in Beijing could well be a defining event for our generation.

The Olympic movement's ideals and values are as relevant today, if not more so, than when the modern Olympic games began more than 100 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the gentleman for his statement, and to honor the spirit of the Olympic movement, and especially that the great State of Colorado hosts the resources and the facilities that allow our athletes from all over the country to come and to train and to prepare adequately for this important global event.

And I cannot help but to reflect on some of the history and how important are some of the events that were classical as far as the Olympics were concerned. And I want to share with my colleagues one of the great personalities that have come out of this, a gentleman by the name of Jim Thorpe, who was a descendent, who was a Sauk and Fox Indian, American Indian, a descendant of a great warrior chief and athlete himself, Black Hawk, Jim Thorpe. It is very interesting in the annals of the Olympic games. In 1912, when he won the Olympics, several gold medals in the Olympics there, and he was approached by the King Gustav of Belgium, and he said, Sir, this is what the king said to Mr. Thorpe. Sir, you are the greatest athlete in the world. And Thorpe, never a man to stand on ceremony, answered and simply said, Thanks, King.

Jim Thorpe was one of the greatest athletes in the world. He played baseball, he played football, in fact, in 1950 he was named the greatest American football player. And then another accolade that was given to this great athlete, Olympic athlete, the greatest overall male, at least by the Associated Press in 1950.

Jim Thorpe, unfortunately, was suspended in terms of the medals that he won during the Olympics supposedly because he had played professional baseball. Supposedly, this is what he was accused of.

Well, later on his medals were restored.

But given the fact that this is one of the great personalities that have evolved from the spirit of the Olympic movement, another gentleman that I want to share with my colleagues historically was a gentleman by the name of Jesse Owens, a son of Alabama, but raised in the State of Ohio, in Cleveland, Ohio, specifically.

It was in the 1936 Olympics, 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, and there was this problem that some of our friends from Germany, particularly Adolph Hitler, had this very interesting concept about the supremacy of the white Aryan race. And this African American athlete went there and won four gold medals, to the extent that it was very ironic.

Here, Jesse Owens could not even train together with his white counterparts, the members of the Olympic Committee, representing the United States of America. And yet, when he got to Germany, in the midst of 110,000 spectators in that stadium there in Berlin, ironically Owens was allowed to travel and stay in the same hotels as whites in Germany, and yet was denied the same privilege here in our own country.

The fact is even noted that after a New York ticker tape parade that was given in his honor in New York City, that Owens had to ride the freight elevator to attend a reception for him at the Waldorf Astoria.

I think it's worth noting that this gentleman, humble as he was, one of the greatest athletes, one of the greatest athletes coming from our country, again the spirit of the Olympics, where race, color, creed or religion should have no barrier, and yet this great American set a tremendous example of what he did in 1936.

Unfortunately, as well, in 1968, at the height of the civil rights movement, the Olympics that took place in Mexico, where gentlemen by the name of Tommy Smith and John Carlos demonstrated in their own way, of course they were highly ridiculed by the media; and it was their way of showing that something was wrong here in America. African Americans were not given the same civil rights and liberties as all other Federal Americans, as is guaranteed supposedly by the U.S. Constitution.

They made a display of their concern that in America, that something was wrong in our country. And I think they were later honored by the San Jose State University for the fact that they stood up for principle, not because they hated the Olympics or being athletes, but because of that.

Then the Olympics of 1980, we had a very serious problem when the Soviet Union attacked Afghanistan. And President Carter then issued a very interesting statement. You pull out of Afghanistan or we're going to boycott the Olympics. That's exactly what happened in 1980. And unfortunately, all our athletes who trained so hard for that 4-year period just wasted that whole energy and time unfortunately. But because of political reasons.

And here's one of the ironies, Mr. Speaker, that the United States was joined in this boycott with Japan, West Germany, China and Canada. And guess who didn't join us? Great Britain, France, Greece. Very, very interesting host of supposedly our allies and friends as a matter of principle in terms of what the Soviet Union did in 1979.

And then what happened in 1984? The Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact members turned around and boycotted the Olympics in Los Angeles.

□ 1500

In the 1988 Olympics in Korea, Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege to lead the first delegation of my territory, as members of the Olympic Committee, believe it or not, in the Olympic organization, in Seoul, Korea. And what an awesome and powerful force it was to show the world community in terms of showing these athletes who prepare for so long and so hard that they could share not only their talent but, more than that, their fellowship with each other.

Now, in the advent of what is happening seriously in terms of what we are trying to do in Darfur, the moment now among some of the leaders and others in the world is to boycott the Olympics in China because some feel that China is not doing enough to put pressure on the Sudanese Government to stop the genocide, to stop the genocide in Darfur, where over 400,000 lives have already been lost because of that terrible crisis of genocide, and over 2 million refugees have already been sighted because of this terrible incident's happening, and the fact that China receives 70 percent of its oil supply from Sudan and the fact that China also supplies arms to the Sudanese Government.

It is a very serious issue. And, unfortunately, like I said, I wish we lived in a perfect world where we can separate the politics from athletics, but this is not the reality that we are faced with.

And I am also making an urgent plea to our good friends from China, the leaders of China, to put pressure on the Sudanese Government, put pressure on the Sudanese Government to stop the genocide in Darfur.

Again, I want to commend my colleague and good friend for his support and for the sponsorship of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my colleague from American Samoa for the words he has just shared and especially for the inspiring example that he recounted to us of Jim Thorpe and Jesse Owens.

An Olympic athlete has the potential to galvanize the attention of the entire country, sometimes the entire world, through overcoming adversity through athletic excellence, and I expect that we will be seeing a lot more of that in the future. And that is the kind of inspiration that we as Americans and our young people can benefit from.

I am proud that in Colorado Springs we have the headquarters of the United States Olympic Committee and we have a very involved training center in Colorado Springs, in my district. We also have training centers in other parts of the country. I am aware of training centers in California, New York, and Michigan as well. So the Olympics movement is something that we as a Nation can be proud of and can support, and I would hope that this resolution makes a big step in that direction.

I want to thank my colleague across the aisle for helping me on this resolution, for the words that he shared.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 395.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING THAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MAY SERVE ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 676) to provide that the Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank or the Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank may serve on the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 676

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO APPOINT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION.

The third sentence of section 401(g) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1969 (22 U.S.C. 290f(g)) is amended to read as follows: ''Three members of the Board shall be appointed from among the following: officers or employees of agencies of the United States concerned with inter-American affairs, the United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, or the Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this proposed legislation.

The Inter-American Foundation is an important agency of the United States Government that strengthens relations between the United States and Latin America and makes significant contributions to economic development and civil society throughout the region. The foundation, which also receives contributions from the Inter-American Development Bank, primarily funds partnerships among grass-roots and nonprofit organizations and businesses and local governments. These partnerships are directed at improving the quality of life of poor people and strengthening civic participation, accountability, and democratic practices.

The foundation is therefore a vital agency that bolsters Latin America and ought to have the full support of relevant agencies and bodies, especially the Inter-American Development Bank.

The bill before the House today comes to us from the Senate. It simply makes explicit that the executive director of the Inter-American Development Bank should be eligible for appointment to the board of the Inter-American Foundation. While it was previously assumed that the head of the bank could be appointed to the foundation board, such eligibility was never codified in the law.

This bill is a technical fix that our good friends, the distinguished chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. BIDEN; and the senior ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. LUGAR, believe that this law should be installed.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation adds a technical clarification to the Inter-American Foundation Act. By background, this bill would amend the Inter-American Foundation Act to clarify that the President may appoint the U.S. executive director of the Inter-American Development Bank, or IADB, or his alternate to serve as a member of the Board of the Inter-American Foundation.

The Inter-American Foundation Act requires that three members of the nine-member board ''shall be appointed from among officers or employees of agencies of the United States concerned with inter-American affairs.''

The authors of this legislation appear to believe the clarification is necessary because some have recently questioned whether or not a U.S. executive director to an international financial institution, or IFI, like the IADB, is actually an officer or employee of agencies of the United States.

I would note simply that this question is largely a nonissue. To my knowledge, never before has Congress questioned whether a U.S. executive director could concurrently serve on the Inter-American Foundation's board.

Indeed, any experience with the day-to-day operations of the international financial institutions would suggest that the U.S. executive directors to IFIs effectively function as officers or employees of the United States. In this regard the World Bank Web site states that ''the U.S. executive director is an employee of the U.S. Department of Treasury and is supported by an alternate executive director for the United States, as well as a team of advisers representing different executive branch agencies.''

The U.S. representatives to the IFIs receive detailed instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury regarding the position of the United States Government on all votes pending before the board, as well as on all outstanding policy matters. The U.S. representatives to these institutions are also eligible to receive employee benefits, and the Treasury Department serves as the employing office for collecting, accounting for all retirement and health insurance benefits payments made by these individuals.

Having said that, passage of this act will certainly do no harm and may serve to help expedite the consideration of Hector Morales to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation. Mr. Morales is currently serving as the United States executive director of the Inter-American Development Bank, a position to which he was appointed after receiving the advice and consent of the Senate in November 2004. The position on the Board of Inter-American Foundation would be a part-time appointment.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Colorado, for his most eloquent statement.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 676.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING AND WELCOMING THE DELEGATION OF PRESIDENTS, PRIME MINISTERS, AND FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM THE CARIBBEAN TO WASHINGTON, DC

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree

to the resolution (H. Res. 418) recognizing and welcoming the delegation of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers from the Caribbean to Washington, DC, and commending the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for holding the Conference on the Caribbean.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 418

Whereas Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers from Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad, and Tobago will travel to Washington, DC, to attend the Conference on the Caribbean and meet with Members of Congress;

Whereas for the first time in its history, through the cooperation of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Department of State, and Congress, the Conference on the Caribbean is convening June 19, 2007, through June 21, 2007, in Washington, DC;

Whereas CARICOM was created through the Treaty of Chaguaramas in 1973 at Chaguaramas, Trinidad and Tobago;

Whereas CARICOM was established in order to improve labor standards, production, and sustained economic development, expand foreign trade and economic relations, increase economic leverage and effectiveness of Member States in dealing with third-party states, enhance the coordination of Member States' foreign policies and trade relations, and promote the tradition of democracy in the region;

Whereas CARICOM is developing stronger trade, economic relations, and overall cooperation with the United States Government;

Whereas the Conference on the Caribbean is a unique dialogue between leaders of the United States and Caribbean countries to develop regional strategies for economic development and better relations with Caribbean countries;

Whereas the United States has maintained deep and enduring relations with the peoples of Caribbean countries and is linked to the Caribbean not only through geography but also through common interests and values;

Whereas the United States and Caribbean countries can enhance their cooperation in many areas, including mutually beneficial trade and economic relationships, countering the transnational scourges of crime, drugs, and terrorism, combating the spread of infectious disease, protecting the environment and encouraging tourism, maintaining fisheries and other maritime resources, addressing climate change, energy security and renewable energy sources, and promoting democracy and good governance; and

Whereas there are increasing numbers of Americans of Caribbean heritage making myriad contributions to America's rich cultural fabric and diversity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the deep and historic ties between the peoples of the United States and the Caribbean;

(2) expresses the hope that relations between the United States and the Caribbean will continue to grow closer in the future;

(3) commends the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for holding the Conference of the Caribbean; and

(4) recognizes and welcomes the delegation of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers from Caribbean countries to Washington, DC.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Let me first commend my distinguished friend and colleague, also a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentleman from New York, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, for introducing this important resolution, which welcomes an impressive delegation of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers from the Caribbean to Washington, DC for the Conference on the Caribbean.

Mr. Speaker, the Caribbean nations are as varied and stunningly exquisite as anywhere in the world. We are pleased to have a strong relationship with the Caribbean Community, also known as CARICOM, the free trade association that unifies these states.

For the first time in its history, through the coordination of the Caribbean Community, the State Department and Congress, the Conference of the Caribbean is convening in Washington. The Foreign Affairs Committee is pleased to be meeting with the members of this delegation when they convene here on June 19 through June 21. They will also be meeting with President Bush as well as members of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Congressional Black Caucus.

This is to be a historic meeting that ushers in a new era of cooperation between the United States and the nations of the Caribbean, an area of the world often neglected.

The United States and the countries of the Caribbean can enhance collaboration in several important areas, including mutually beneficial trade and economic relationships; battling crime, drugs, and terrorism; and combating the spread of diseases including HIV/AIDS. This will also be a golden opportunity for the Caribbean nations and the United States to cooperate on new and clean energy production technologies.

Our relations with the Caribbean also hit very close to home as there are increasing numbers of Americans of Caribbean heritage making significant contributions to our culture here in America. I need only to cite a few that come to mind, and one of the gentlemen I had the privilege of meeting years ago was none other that Mr. Harry Belafonte, whose roots are also from the Caribbean. What about the late and former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman to run for President of the United States, and she certainly distinguished herself in representing her constituents from New York.

□ 1515

Also, at the meeting, I had the privilege of meeting with a gentleman by the name of Sidney Poitier from the Caribbean, of Caribbean heritage. And of course none other than former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and also former Secretary of State, Mr. Colin Powell, whose heritage is also from the Caribbean.

We need to continue to work on ways to strengthen the open markets and economic ties that have brought prosperity to many Caribbean nations that promise to lift up those in need. We all look forward to seeing some real tangible results coming out of this upcoming conference.

I urge my colleagues to give this resolution its fullest support.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 418 that welcomes the delegations of presidents, prime ministers and foreign ministers from the Caribbean to Washington to meet with the U.S. Congress. This delegation brings the President of Suriname, the prime ministers of Barbados, Belize, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, foreign ministers from the CARICOM countries, and the Assistant Secretary General of the Caribbean Community.

These unprecedented meetings are part of the CARICOM Conference on the Caribbean that will take place from June 19–21.

The Caribbean Community, or CARICOM, was established in 1973 to unify member countries on foreign policies and trade relations with outside states, and to improve the economic conditions of the region.

Fourteen member states will be represented at the meeting, which will focus on trade relations with the United States, energy cooperation, and security concerns, including small arms trafficking and counternarcotics efforts, immigration and the reintegration of the Portuguese in the region, and the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

There is always room to improve U.S. relations with our southern neighbors. Other such areas to be addressed during the discussions include encouraging tourism, protecting the environment, addressing energy security and renewable resources, combating the spread of infectious disease, and promoting democracy and good governance. This bill

recognizes the deep and historic ties between the people of the United States and the Caribbean, and it commends the Caribbean Community for the establishment of the first-ever conference of this kind.

I applaud this important step, and look forward to working with CARICOM to improve the overall relations between the U.S. Congress and our Caribbean allies.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague from Arkansas for his support of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I forgot to mention as part of my commenting on this, the tremendous number of world-renowned athletes also coming from the Caribbean. I can only think of Bob Clemente from Puerto Rico. I know of one other, but I am going to get back to you on them, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, at this time it is my privilege to yield such time as he may need to the chief sponsor and author of this proposed legislation, my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my good friend from American Samoa, my classmate, we came to Congress together in 1989, for yielding me this time. I would like to thank Chairman LANTOS for marking up this resolution, and for the support of many members of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

I would also like to thank my colleagues. This is the first speech I am making on the House floor since the passing of my dear mother, and I want to thank my colleagues for their support and for their strength and caring for me and my family.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution welcomes a delegation of presidents, prime ministers and foreign ministers from 14 Caribbean nations to Washington, D.C., for the Conference on the Caribbean, which will be held next week.

I am the chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and I can tell you that the relationship that the United States has with the Caribbean nations is of paramount importance. In fact, in many of the trips that we have gone on, people have said to us they want the United States to be involved. They have a sense, many times, that we have looked elsewhere, and they don't understand why.

So I think it is important for our subcommittee to be involved, our committee to be involved and for the U.S. Congress to be involved in helping to foster good ties with the Caribbean nations; and of course this resolution lays the groundwork, and the interaction with the delegations from the Caribbean that will be here this week is very, very important.

As Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA said, the Caribbean nations are as culturally varied and physically beautiful as anywhere in the world. It is important to expand our strong relationship with the Caribbean Community, also known as CARICOM. This is an historic conference. For the first time in its history, through the coordination of the Caribbean Community, the State Department, the Congress, the Conference on the Caribbean is convening in Washington. I cannot state how important that is and how significant that is and what kind of important role the United States Congress can play.

I am honored to be the chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, and I will do everything in my power to help facilitate relations between the United States, United States Congress and the nations of the Caribbean.

The Foreign Affairs Committee is pleased to be meeting with the members of this delegation on June 20 at 2:30 p.m., and I encourage all our colleagues, both on our committee and on our subcommittee, and even people that are not on our committee, to attend this meeting.

The delegation will also be meeting with President Bush, as well as members of the Ways and Means Committee and the Congressional Black Caucus, and as well as, of course, our Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I visited four Caribbean countries in the last 6 months and have learned much from our friends in the south. In Haiti, leaders are very appreciative for the support of the United States and for the recent passage of the HOPE legislation, but want to make sure we coordinate closely with the government on our assistance plan.

Further to the south, leaders of the many small island nations feel neglected by the United States and are looking for closer cooperation on energy, security, crime, education, health and other issues. Countries like China are stepping in and filling the vacuum left by the United States in these small, but strategically important countries. This is our hemisphere, the Western Hemisphere, and we simply must be more engaged. We cannot stand back and think that other countries are not going to move into the vacuum. You know, we used to go to school when we were kids and learn about the policy of ''hands off the Americas,'' but that's not true anymore. Other countries, like China and like Iran and other places, will step in if we neglect these countries.

Our friends in the Caribbean have offered their support for U.S. efforts to combat global terrorism. With the recent revelation that the suspects from Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana were involved in the plot to blow up JFK Airport in New York City, we need more than ever to work closely with our allies in the Caribbean to defeat terrorism.

I was just in Trinidad with a delegation. We met with the leader of Trinidad, and he told us in emphatic terms how closely he wanted to work with the United States to combat terrorism. They're willing, they're able, they want to work with us. We just need to show that we want to work with them.

Terrorism is not just a single region issue, it impacts all areas of the world. When we have friends reaching out to us in our hemisphere as allies on the war on terror, we must closely engage with them.

I am looking forward to this historic meeting that ushers in a new era of cooperation between the United States and the Caribbean, an area of the world to which, again, I don't believe we have been paying adequate attention.

The United States and the countries of the Caribbean can enhance collaboration in several important areas, including mutually beneficial trade and economic relationships, battling crime, drugs and terrorism, and combating the spread of diseases, including HIV/AIDS. There is also a golden opportunity for the Caribbean nations and the U.S. to cooperate on new and clean energy production technologies. And, again, when we were in Trinidad, we visited some of those technologies, Trinidad being a major supplier of natural gas to the United States of America.

Our relations with the Caribbean also are very important as there are large numbers of Americans of Caribbean heritage, as the gentleman from American Samoa pointed out, making significant contributions to our culture in America. I represent the New York City area district. In New York City and in the suburbs, and in my district alone in New York, there are very, very large numbers of Caribbean residents, including Jamaicans, Haitians, Dominicans, and many, many others. The Dominican Republic is a country that wants to work closely with us, a very important country. Haiti needs our attention. Grenada, where the United States invaded when Ronald Reagan was President, now we seem to be neglecting them. We visited there as well. So these are countries that we need to watch, to work with.

The gentleman on the other side of the aisle mentioned St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It's just coincidental that the foreign minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who will be here, went to college with me some 40 years ago in New York City. And we have maintained our friendship through all those years, never knowing that I would eventually go to Congress and he would become the foreign minister of St. Vincent in the Grenadines. And so I hope to work with him on these issues. His name is Louis Straker. These are important relationships, and we need to continue to foster them.

And finally, we must continue to work on ways of strengthening the relationships that have brought prosperity to many Caribbean nations and that promise to lift up those in need. It

is my hope that our friends in the Caribbean can see some real concrete results coming out of this important Caribbean Conference in Washington.

Let me just conclude by saying the time for rhetoric is over. It is now time for action and a real enhancement of our relations with the Caribbean.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for their support of this legislation. I thank the chairman. I thank the gentleman from the American Samoa, the gentleman from Arkansas. We all need to work together. This should be bipartisan. This is good for America. We need to strengthen our ties with the Caribbean.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the subcommittee chairman for his hard work. Also, I want to thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. LANTOS, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN for bringing this forward along with our staff.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleague and chairman of our Subcommittee of the Western Hemisphere. Not only am I an original cosponsor of this important resolution, but also, as a member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, it has been my privilege over the years to also visit some of our countries here in the Caribbean area. And as my friend from New York has said, sometimes we neglect these so-called small states.

A couple of weeks ago, I had the privilege of hosting several presidents and prime ministers from the South Pacific, from the Pacific region. Currently, in the United Nations they have what is known as a small states association, which is comprised primarily of states or countries from the Caribbean, and also from the Pacific region. And they number about a little over 42 members in the United Nations.

The point I wanted to make, Mr. Speaker, is these are sovereign, independent nations, and we are not to look at them as just because they're small, that they are not important as far as our national needs are concerned. We ought to be very sensitive to the needs of small states, no matter where they are.

I also want to note with a sense of irony that right in the middle of the Caribbean we have 4 million U.S. citizens living in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. I failed to mention that with my love and passion for the sport of golf, it was my privilege to meet a couple of years ago the great golfer from Puerto Rico, Chi Chi Rodriguez. I stated earlier Sammy Sosa. We have so many names here, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to share with my colleagues and my good friend from Arkansas, tremendous contributions of talent coming from the Caribbean region. I don't need to say them in terms of the wealth of talent coming from the Caribbean as far as the sport of baseball is concerned. I just want to share that note with my colleagues.

And again, I want to commend my good friend, the chairman of our Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere. We look forward to meeting with these presidents and prime ministers coming from the Caribbean region.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as a daughter of the Caribbean and the only member of the House from the English-speaking Caribbean, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 418, which recognizes and welcomes the delegation of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers from the Caribbean to Washington, DC, and commends the Caribbean Community, CARICOM, for holding their Conference on the Caribbean.

It is with great pride that I join my colleagues in applauding the heads of Government of the CARICOM Caribbean Community of nations for convening their conference on the Caribbean—A 20/20 Vision—here in Washington. The theme of the conference is: CARICOM DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21st Century: Economic Growth with Social Equity.

I want to thank and commend my colleague and friend the chairman of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Representative ENGEL for introducing H. Res. 418 and for shepherding it on to the floor of the House today.

Mr. Speaker, the nations of the Caribbean, some of the longest and most stable democracies in the region, have long been among our closest friends and staunchest allies. In recent years, the region was described as America's ''third border'' because events there have a direct impact on the security of the United States. However, while we have made statements about bolstering political and economic stability in the region, the reality is that our friends to the south have been suffering from our benign neglect.

Whether it has been our position on Caribbean bananas at the WTO, or our insistence that our Caribbean neighbors make costly upgrades to their air and seaports to comply with our post-September 11th security concerns, to the recently instituted Western Hemisphere Initiative, our Caribbean neighbors have been taking it on the chin economically as a result of policy decisions we have made to address our domestic and foreign policy agendas.

I also hope that the recently uncovered plot to blow up a fuel supply line at the JFK Airport in NY, allegedly involving four men from Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago will not lead to the belief that the Caribbean is becoming a ''hotbed of terrorism''.

In holding their conference in Washington, our Caribbean neighbors hope to strengthen the relationship between the United States and CARICOM by addressing priority areas for future Caribbean growth and development, including issues related to trade, competitiveness and investment, in mutually beneficial and reinforcing ways.

They also hope to deepen and broaden the dialogue between the Governments and people of CARICOM and the Government and people of the United States of America that should result in the renewed appreciation of the Caribbean.

We—the Congress and the Bush Administration—owe it to these small and vulnerable friends to seriously consider the issues they will raise with us during the conference. These include, trade and competitiveness, immigration, cooperation on security issues including the return of criminal deportees, disaster preparedness and mitigation and health-care including HIV/AIDS.

The Caribbean and its peoples have deep and historic ties with the United States and its peoples. It is my fervent hope that through this conference and the meetings that will take place with President Bush and the Members of Congress, including the Congressional Black Caucus, that relations between the United States and the Caribbean will continue to grow closer in the future.

I urge my colleagues to support adoption of this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 418, recognizing and welcoming the delegation of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers from the Caribbean to Washington, DC, and commending the Caribbean Community, CARICOM, for holding the Conference on the Caribbean.

I will first begin by thanking my colleague on the Foreign Affairs committee and chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Representative ELIOT ENGEL, for introducing such an important key resolution, which welcomes to Washington, DC, Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers from all nations of the Caribbean. Through cooperation between CARICOM, the Department of State and the United States Congress, delegates will meet for the first time in history for a three day—June 19–June 21, 2007—Conference on the Caribbean.

As a member of the United States House of Representatives, I recognize the deep and historic ties between our American people and those of the Caribbean. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Caribbean community, CARICOM, for holding this conference, as well as to recognize and welcome all delegates to the United States. I look forward to working with the Caribbean community in maintaining and strengthening the relations between both countries.

CARICOM was created through the Treaty of Chaguaramas in 1973 to aid in developing stronger trade and economic relations, improving labor relations, and sustaining economic development and overall cooperation when dealing with third-party states. It will be the hope of all delegates convened to usher in a new era of cooperation between the U.S. and the Caribbean; an area of the world that is often neglected.

As a strong supporter of the notion of a global marketplace of ideas, I strongly believe that this meeting can serve as a landmark toward creating mutually beneficial relationships, as well as enhancing collaboration in several areas such as trade and economic relationships, crimes, drugs and terrorism, while also combating the spread of diseases, including HIV/AIDS. The Conference on the Caribbean also allows the two countries to cooperate on new and clean energy-production technologies.

As a leader in one of the most diverse metropolitan districts in the nation, as well as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee here on Capitol Hill, I strongly cherish the bond that our two nations share. I can attest to the significant contributions that Americans of Caribbean heritage are making in America. Houston

is a multicultural city with a large and even advancing international community; for that reason, I strongly support and value a cultural outreach effort.

I thank you once again, Mr. ENGEL, for your efforts in introducing this piece of legislation. I am looking forward to witnessing the results of this upcoming conference.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 418.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE STRONG ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 295) recognizing the strong alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States and expressing appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its efforts in the global war against terrorism, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 295

Recognizing the strong alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States and expressing appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its efforts in the global war against terrorism.

Whereas for more than 50 years since the outbreak of the Korean War, a close relationship has existed between the United States and the Republic of Korea, which has been of enormous economic, cultural, and strategic advantage to both nations;

Whereas President George W. Bush and President Roh Moo Hyun have demonstrated their mutual willingness to forge a deeper alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea to enhance stability in East Asia;

Whereas the 29,000 United States armed services personnel who are stationed in the Republic of Korea serve as a testament to the enduring strength of the 1953 U.S.–R.O.K. Mutual Defense Treaty;

Whereas the foundation of the relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea rests on a shared interest in and commitment to peace, democracy, and freedom on the Korean Peninsula, in Asia, and throughout the world;

Whereas the Republic of Korea and the United States are both deeply committed to the Six Party Talks and have a mutual interest in keeping the Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons;

Whereas the Republic of Korea has more than 1,200 armed services personnel deployed in Iraq, constituting the third largest coalition contingent in Iraq behind the United States and the United Kingdom;

Whereas the Republic of Korea has more than 200 armed services personnel deployed in Afghanistan; and

Whereas the Republic of Korea has pledged $460,000,000 toward reconstruction and stabilization in postwar Iraq: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the strong alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States and expresses appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its contributions to international efforts to combat terrorism.

□ 1530

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, let me first commend our distinguished colleague and former member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), for being the author of and introducing this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the strong alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea has been a pivotal relationship in world affairs since our involvement when we fought side by side in the Korean war over half a century ago. Out of that conflict was born one of the most significant dividing lines of the Cold War, a demilitarized zone on the 38th parallel that splits the Korean Peninsula and marked the divide between Communist Asia and democratic Asia. The partnership between our two countries held this line for decades. Today we help maintain a stable peace in Southeast Asia.

In the post-Cold War period, the Republic of Korea has remained a steadfast U.S. ally. It has contributed troops and pledged reconstruction funds for Iraq, and its forces are deployed in Afghanistan. As a key member of the six-party talks to denuclearize North Korea, it shares an important responsibility for broader security in Northeast Asia. Today we are committed absolutely to compelling the dangerous North Korea regime to eliminate its nuclear program.

Overall, South Korea is a key partner and an ally in the challenge of combating world terrorism. The combination of emerging terrorism threats and the North Korean challenge makes this resolution particularly important today.

I certainly want to commend my good friend, Assistant Secretary Christopher Hill of the State Department, for his diligence and efforts in negotiating with the North Koreans in the six-party talks. I would be remiss if I did not also recognize a most significant contribution made by the Republic of China and the help that they have contributed in bringing the North Koreans to the negotiating table and for which the negotiations are now ongoing, hopefully to bring about a resolution to this important problem.

In economic realms, Mr. Speaker, the U.S. relationship with the Republic of Korea is one of our strongest in Asia. The Republic of Korea was one of the original East Asian Tigers and served as a model for other countries in Asia with its booming economic growth in the seventies, eighties and nineties. South Korea now is the United States' seventh largest trading partner in the world.

This resolution honors the close alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea and recognizes South Korea's important contributions to fighting not only terrorism around the world, but also welcomes a strengthening and deepening of the relationship between our two countries and our peoples.

Mr. Speaker, when I was in Vietnam, I remember vividly the presence of some 50,000 soldiers from South Korea who served alongside us, the U.S. forces. I kind of like to say now you know where your real friends are.

I am reminded of a Chinese proverb: there are many acquaintances, but very few friends. South Korea was one of those few friends who was willing to put their action where their talk is; and the fact that 50,000 soldiers were there fighting along U.S. forces and in that terrible conflict that we faced in Vietnam, I cannot help but express my personal commendation and appreciation to the leaders and to the people of South Korea when they were there with us when we needed help.

I visited South Korea several times and I consider them the most industrious people on this planet. There are over 1 million Korean Americans living in our country today, some among the most prominent in the areas of science and doctors. They have become lawyers, engineers and are in all types of businesses. I have a very strong affection for the Korean people and those fellow citizens who happen to be of Korean ancestry.

So I think this resolution is most fitting. Again, I commend my good friend, the gentleman from New York, for offering and proposing this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution, which recognizes the enduring ties of an alliance first forged over half a century ago in the crucible of the Korean War. It was heartening to see the photographs from Seoul of the thousands of South Korean citizens who gathered in a downtown plaza on June 6, Korea's memorial day, to express their support of the alliance. They waved South Korean flags and the Stars and Stripes together to show enthusiasm for the strong bonds that link our two countries.

Later this month, June 25, marks the 57th anniversary of the North Korean invasion across the Demilitarized Zone. This surprise attack in the early hours of a Sunday morning sought to snuff the life out of an embryonic South Korean democracy. President Harry Truman's immediate unflinching decision to come to the aid of an embattled South Korea proved that the United States would not retreat from its rendezvous with destiny.

Together with our South Korean and other allies, we turned the tide of war at Inchon and preserved the South Korean state, which we honor as an ally today.

South Korea's commitment to the alliance is seen in many ways, as in the 1,200 South Korean military personnel deployed to Iraq, which makes South Korea's contribution the third largest in the coalition contingent. There is also the $460 million which the Republic of Korea has pledged toward postwar Iraq reconstruction, and there are the close consultations we hold together in the six-party process to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue. These are the actions of a true and loyal friend, for which we express our gratitude in this resolution.

Let me also take this opportunity to second the words of the United States forces Korea commander, General Bell, that South Korea Sergeant Yoon Jangho, who was South Korea's first uniformed casualty in the war on terror, was a hero. Sergeant Yoon was killed February 27 by a suicide bomber in Bagram, Afghanistan.

This young soldier, although born in Korea, had spent his high school and college years in Indiana, graduating from Indiana University. He returned to South Korea to complete his military service and volunteered for service in Afghanistan. His loss was deeply felt, both in his home nation of Korea and his adopted hometown of Bloomington, Indiana.

The shared mourning of the peoples of two nations for this valiant soldier is one more concrete indication of the ties that bind our two nations. Another, of course, is the talent and dynamism of the 2-million-strong ethnic Korean community in the United States. Los Angeles represents the largest concentrated urban center of Korean culture outside of the Korean Peninsula. For this enriching contribution to America's melting pot, we are extremely grateful.

I therefore urge immediate passage of this resolution which recognizes this strong and enduring alliance.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again I want to commend and thank my good friend for his eloquent statement and add that this is not a partisan piece of legislation. It is fully bipartisan. I certainly commend not only our distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. LANTOS, but also our senior ranking member, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for their support of this proposed legislation.

It is ironic that we are dealing with several pieces of legislation, earlier on being the Olympics, and now we are dealing with South Korea.

I remember years ago when I attended the Olympics in 1988 in Korea, I ran into a gentleman who is a Korean American by the name of Dr. Sammy Lee. I asked him why this Samoan American was so good in the art of diving, perhaps one of the greatest Olympic divers ever in the history of the Olympics, whose name is none other than Greg Louganis. I asked Dr. Sammy Lee, why is it that Greg Louganis was such a great Olympic diver? He said, Eni, look at his legs. They are Samoan legs, and the reason for this is that it gives him the ability to jump higher than any of his Olympic competitors. And because he can jump higher than anybody, that is what gives him the opportunity to accomplish more difficult flips than any of the other divers. By the way, Dr. Sammy Lee was also the trainer for Greg Louganis in the Olympics in 1988.

Another note of interest is that when I talked to Dr. Sammy Lee when he was training for the Olympics, he could not even train together with his fellow white Americans while he was training for the Olympics. Can you believe that? So he had to invent what high diving boards were supposed to look like, whether it be going on cliffs or other high platforms to allow him to practice his diving ability. And guess what? He got the gold medal for the United States for the Olympics, a Korean American, Dr. Sammy Lee.

I just wanted to make that as a note of interest for my colleagues and also in view of the fact that we have talked about the Olympics and we have talked about South Korea.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this resolution is very important to show our sense of appreciation, especially to the good leaders and the people of South Korea, how much we care about them, how important they are, how important they are to our strategic and our economic interests in that important region of the world.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 295, and, in doing so, I would first like to commend Mr. KING for introducing this resolution. The relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea has been a pivotal relationship in world affairs since our forces fought side by side in Korean War over a half century ago. Out of that conflict marked the divide between communist Asia and democratic Asia. The partnership between us and the Republic of Korea held the divide for decades, and together we helped maintain stable peace in East Asia.

In the post-Cold War world, the Republic of Korea has remained a steadfast U.S. ally. Its forces are deployed in Afghanistan and it has contributed troops and pledged reconstruction funds for Iraq. As a key member of the Six Party Talks to denuclearize North Korea, it shares an important responsibility for broader security in Northeast Asia. Together, we are committed absolutely to compelling the dangerous North Korean regime to eliminate its nuclear program.

Overall, South Korea is a key partner an ally in the challenge of combating terrorism worldwide. The combination of emerging terrorism threats and the North Korean challenge make this resolution particularly important today.

In the economic realm, too, the U.S. relationship with the Republic of Korea is one of our strongest in Asia. For example, the Republic of Korea was one of the original ''East Asian Tigers,'' and served as a model for other Asian countries with a booming economic growth in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. Currently, South Korea is now the United States' 7th largest trading partner in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to stand as one of cosponsors of this legislation. This resolution honors the close alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea, and recognizes South Korea's important contributions to fighting against terrorism around the world. It also welcomes the strengthening and deepening of the relationship between our two countries and our peoples. I thank all of my colleagues who have already signed on to this bill, and I urge those who have not to support this legislation.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 295, a resolution recognizing the strong alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States and expressing appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its efforts in the Global War on Terror. As the sponsor of this resolution, I join with over 35 of my colleagues in urging the House to pass this resolution today.

For almost six decades, the United States and the Republic of Korea have maintained a strong alliance that rests on a shared commitment to peace, democracy, and freedom not only on the Korean peninsula but throughout Asia and the rest of the world. The nearly 30,000 American soldiers who remain stationed in the Republic of Korea are a testament to this relationship.

Since September 11, 2001 we have seen this bond further strengthened as Korea has joined with the United States and other coalition nations in supporting the Global War on Terror both militarily and financially. Korean President Roh truly understands this grave threat and the need for it to be confronted. Presently, the Republic of Korea has the third largest coalition contingent of forces in Iraq. Korea also has troops deployed in Afghanistan and has generously pledged $460,000,000 toward reconstruction and stabilization efforts in post-war Iraq.

The U.S. and Korea also both remain deeply committed to the Six Party Talks and have

a mutual interest in keeping the Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons.

Finally, the U.S. and Korea have been working diligently on a free trade agreement between our two countries that will deepen economic ties and boost trade and investment for both countries. I am pleased that these negotiations concluded on April 1, 2007 and it is my hope that the agreement will soon be signed and Congress passes the required enacting legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to pass this resolution today.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 295.

This resolution recognizes the tremendous alliance that the United States shares with the Republic of Korea. Korea has been one of this country's strongest allies, both in the international war on terror, as well as in expanding free trade. Korea stands as a shining example of democracy in action.

In the 11th Congressional District of Virginia, I represent a growing and vigorous Korean American population. Korean Americans thrive in areas such as business, medicine, law, art and athletics. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Korean Americans own and operate over 130,000 businesses and employ over 333,000 individuals. These are prime examples of their importance in the United States and to the growth of our economy. It is clear to me that the strong alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea can be seen everyday in the neighborhoods and workplaces right here in the Washington, D.C. area.

The Republic of Korea's strong belief in upholding individual rights and liberties serves as an example for the entire Korean peninsula, as well as beyond. Korea's 2,300 troops deployed in Iraq and 200 troops deployed in Afghanistan indicate not only Korea's support of our efforts in ending terrorism abroad, but also illustrate Korea's strong commitment to spreading democracy throughout the world. Indeed, Korea has been one of our most ardent and unfailing allies abroad.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today we honor an ally who is standing with us in the Global War on Terrorism. An ally who knows what it is like to fight for peace and freedom, South Korea. Just over 50 years ago, Korea was the most violent spot on the planet as the North Korean government, backed by the Soviets and Chinese, swooped in to destroy the fledgling democracy in the south.

I am a proud cosponsor of this resolution which recognizes the significant contributions that the South Korean military has made in Afghanistan and in Iraq. Our South Korean allies maintain the third largest contingent of personnel in Iraq, where they are helping each day to rebuild that nation and spread the freedom they too earned with blood, sweat, and grit.

While as many as 3,600 personnel have at some time served, currently 2,300 work in the country to provide medical services, build and repair roads, power lines, schools, and other public works.

The Republic of Korea has contributed both men and money to rebuilding Iraq because they know how difficult it is to rise from the ashes of war. Since the end of the Korean War, the people of South Korea have built one of the world's most modern and dynamic economies.

We hope that the Iraqi and Afghani people can look to the South Korean model to develop into a peaceful and prosperous nation. We thank the Republic of Korea and the Korean people for their sacrifice and their stand for freedom.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 295, a resolution that recognizes the strong alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States and further expresses appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its efforts in the global war against terrorism. The dynamic and strong relations that exist between the United States and Republic of Korea serve as a model for partnerships the United States must continue to seek to establish and cultivate with other countries within the Asia-Pacific region and throughout the world.

The contributions made by the government of the Republic of Korea toward helping battle terrorism are vital to providing for safety and security throughout the world. The efforts on the part of the Republic of Korea to help fight terrorists in Afghanistan and Iraq and help develop democratic governance, strengthen civil society, and establish stronger economies in those countries are of particular importance to the United States and our allies. These missions are challenging ones. Their eventual, positive outcomes are less than certain at this point. The commitment to achieving success in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom displayed by the Republic of Korea is commendable and an important component of the Coalition force structure.

Efforts on the part of South Korea to encourage the government of North Korea to act in a responsible manner with respect to its misguided pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile technology are also of paramount importance at this time to the United States and our allies. I am encouraged by the strong partnership that has been formed between the United States and South Korea and other countries with respect to this issue.

I welcome the opportunity to continue to work with our South Korean allies toward ensuring a more peaceful, stable, and prosperous Asia-Pacific region and world. I am confident that the United States and South Korea will develop even stronger political, economic, and security ties in the years ahead. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 295, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: ''A resolution recognizing the strong alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States and expressing appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its contributions to international efforts to combat terrorism.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING JOHN PEHLE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS IN HELPING RESCUE JEWS AND OTHER MINORITIES FROM THE HOLOCAUST

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 226) to recognize John Pehle for his contributions to the Nation in helping rescue Jews and other minorities from the Holocaust during World War II, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 226

Whereas some 6,000,000 Jews were slaughtered pursuant to Adolf Hitler's diabolical plan for the total extermination of the Jews during the Third Reich, and even more would have perished had it not been for the efforts of a number of United States Government officials who spoke out forcefully against American policy and persuaded President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the need for extraordinary measures to save Jewish lives;

''Whereas on November 9, 1943—the 5th anniversary of Kristallnacht, when pogroms against Jews and the burning of synagogues and Jewish businesses and homes were carried out throughout Nazi Germany—identical Congressional resolutions were introduced in both houses of Congress calling for the creation of a United States Government commission ''to formulate and effectuate a plan of immediate action designed to save the surviving Jewish people of Europe from extinction at the hands of Nazi Germany'';

''Whereas the Senate version was introduced by Senator Guy Gillette of Iowa with the support of Elbert Thomas of Utah and Edwin Johnson of Colorado and was unanimously approved in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on December 20, 1943, and scheduled for a full Senate vote in early 1944;

Whereas the House version was introduced by Representative Will Rogers, Jr., of California and extensive hearings on the resolution were held by the House Foreign Affairs Committee;

''Whereas United States Government agencies were receiving extensive credible information about the extent of Nazi atrocities against the Jews and other minorities in Europe, nevertheless, the policy of the United States as developed and implemented in the Department of State opposed American government action to save the lives of Jewish and other minorities who were being systematically exterminated by the Nazi German government;

''Whereas in 1943 and early 1944, an extraordinary group of officials at the United States Department of Treasury sought to change those policies and Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau directed the preparation of a memorandum to the President of the United States urging more direct and forceful American action to aid Jewish victims of the Nazi atrocities, and this document, prepared by Josiah DuBois, Jr., Assistant General Counsel of the Treasury Department, and John Pehle, a 33-year-old attorney in the Foreign Funds Control unit of the Treasury Department, was presented to President Franklin D. Roosevelt by Secretary Morgenthau, Randolph Paul and Pehle on January 16, 1944;

Whereas President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9417 on January 22, 1944, affirming that ''it is the policy of this Government to

take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war'' and creating the War Refugee Board, composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, to carry out this policy;

Whereas John Pehle was appointed the Acting Executive Director and subsequently Executive Director of the Board and Josiah DuBois, Jr. was appointed General Counsel of the Board;

Whereas on January 25, 1944, the Board issued a critically important diplomatic cable to all United States diplomatic missions abroad ordering that ''action be taken to forestall the plot of the Nazis to exterminate the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe'' and developed new programs to increase the flow of Jewish and other refugees from Nazi persecution to neutral countries in Europe, including Turkey, Portugal, Switzerland, Spain, and Sweden, from where they were assisted to go to North America, Palestine and North and South America;

Whereas the Board assisted the International Red Cross to provide food parcels to ''stateless'' civilians in internment camps, to support and protect some 3,000,000 Allied and Axis prisoners of war, and to streamline Federal licensing procedures for the transmission of funds to pay for Red Cross relief supplies and rescue operations, thus saving the lives of thousands of Jews and other internees;

Whereas in April 1944, John Pehle, on behalf of the War Refugee Board, urged all neutral nations to increase their diplomatic representation in Hungary to help prevent the accelerating deportation of Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau and other Nazi extermination camps and to begin providing vital funding and other resources to assist in saving Hungarian Jews from concentration and extermination camps;

Whereas the War Refugee Board sought out Swedish citizen Raoul Wallenberg and, with the support of the Swedish government and its legation in Budapest, supported one of the most extensive and successful rescue efforts during the Holocaust; and

Whereas subsequent academic studies have credited the War Refugee Board with rescuing as many as 200,000 Jews from Nazi occupied countries through the efforts of Wallenberg and others: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the efforts and contributions of those who worked for the establishment of the War Refugee Board and for a more active United States policy to rescue Jews and other victims of Nazi repression who were in imminent danger of death and to provide these persecuted minorities with relief and assistance during World War II; and

(2) commends in particular the actions of Secretary of Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Josiah DuBois, Jr., and John Pehle for their dedication and devotion to helping rescue Jews and other persecuted minorities in the Holocaust.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LANTOS, chairman of the committee and my Bay Area neighbor, for working so closely with me to bring this resolution to the floor today. As the only Holocaust survivor in the Congress, his support of this resolution means very much to all of us, and particularly to me.

H. Res. 226 is a resolution to recognize American government officials who played a critical role in the creation and activity of the War Refugee Board in an effort to help rescue Jews and other persecuted minorities during the years of the Holocaust.

Because of their actions and because of their bravery, an unknown number of people were saved from the horrific reign of Adolf Hitler and his followers. Specifically, we are commending the actions of Secretary of Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Josiah DuBois and John Pehle for their dedication and devotion to helping rescue Jews and other persecuted minorities during the Holocaust.

To many, World War II and the Holocaust may seem long, long, long ago. For others, however, this is a memory which will be imprinted in their soul forever. Six million Jews were killed under the brutal and evil reign of Adolf Hitler while many countries turned a blind eye to their ethnic cleansing and genocide.

During this dark time, some brave men and women stood up and demanded that every person, no matter their ethnic background, be treated justly and humanely. The people serving the War Refugee Board sent a historic cable to the diplomatic missions ordering that ''action be taken to forestall the plot of the Nazis to exterminate the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.''

□ 1545

They developed new programs to increase the flow of Jewish and other refugees from Nazi persecution to neutral countries.

After the horror of the concentration camps and extermination campaigns were revealed, the world said ''never again.''

And yet, Mr. Speaker, we look around the world to see hauntingly similar events occurring, particularly in places like Darfur. Mr. Speaker, if we truly wish to honor the memory of the Holocaust victims, we must come together to stand up in the face of bigotry and hatred all around the world today. The action of the War Refugee Board is an amazing example of courage, human kindness, and compassion.

Today, we rise to recognize their service to this country and to humankind. We rise to remember the Jews and minorities who perished under a reign of terror. But it is with hope that we look to the future, a future of peace and human dignity where ''never again'' means never again.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 226 recognizes American government officials who played a critical role in the creation of the War Refugee Board in an effort to help rescue Jews and other persecuted minorities during the Holocaust.

In the early stage of World War II, there was an extensive flow of information about the extent of Jews and other minorities being systematically murdered by the Nazi regime.

A heroic group of U.S. Government officials from the Treasury Department, including Secretary of the Treasurer, Henry Morganthau, as well as Joseph DuBois and John Pehle, urged President Franklin Roosevelt to take more direct and forceful action to help the victims of the Nazi atrocities.

President Roosevelt later signed an executive order creating the War Refugee Board. Mr. John Pehle became the executive director of the board which helped to rescue Jews and other victims of Nazi persecution and prevented thousands of people from dying in extermination camps.

Furthermore, the board assisted the International Red Cross to provide food and shelter to over 3 million prisoners of war. Efforts by those who worked to establish the War Refugee Board, particularly of Secretary of Treasury Henry Morganthau, Joseph DuBois, and John Pehle, were instrumental in saving thousands of lives during the Nazi extermination policy.

H. Res. 226 recognizes and honors these government officials for their efforts, and I urge support for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) not only as chief sponsor of this proposed legislation, but also for her leadership and her compassion and commitment in the field of human rights for fellow human beings all over the world.

I cannot help but stand here on the floor and share with my colleagues some of the thoughts that came to my mind when my colleague from California was explaining about the provisions of this important legislation.

Usually I am not a person who gets emotional watching movies, but recently I watched the movie ''Freedom Riders.'' I cannot help but recall the experience that these teenagers in Long Beach went through, and how creative this teacher was in trying to get kids who were from basically low-income areas and who had no idea or concept what it means to read. Somehow the teacher was able to get these high school students to read ''The Diary of Anne Frank.'' It got to the point where the students became so interested in what happened when they read this book, ''The Diary of Anne Frank,'' that they invited a Holocaust survivor to speak to them in Los Angeles. She testified personally what it meant to be not only a prisoner but I would say a slave during the Nazi period and the terrible time that the Jewish people went through during that period of their history.

I thank Chairman LANTOS not only for his leadership, but as a Holocaust survivor himself, I cannot think of a better person who can share with our colleagues what it means to be part of that period and the pain and suffering 6 million Jews went through during that process.

I recall a statement made by one of the great poet philosophers, Santayana, who said: ''Those who don't remember the past are condemned to repeat it.'' Some say why should we worry, this happened in the past. Why worry about it. I think we have to remember so these things never happen again.

Yes, I visit the Holocaust Museum and what do I say: Never again. Never again. That racism and bigotry and hatred should never be a part of the legacy of our great Nation.

I commend my friend from California for bringing this resolution before the Members for their consideration, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim 30 seconds of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am remiss in not complimenting the gentlewoman from California for bringing this forward. It is very, very important that we do remember what people have done and when good people have stepped forward.

We are sitting here and you always want to do your best on the pronunciation of names, and it is sad we don't know these names better than we do. I think you bringing forward this resolution, again it just highlights the importance that we do remember what has happened in the past and we keep it from happening in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from American Samoa and the gentleman from Arkansas for their kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 226, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: ''A resolution to recognize American government officials who played a critical role in the creation and activity of the War Refugee Board in an effort to help rescue Jews and other persecuted minorities during the Holocaust.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROHIBITION ON SALE BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF PARTS FOR F–14 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1441) to prohibit the sale by the Department of Defense of parts for F–14 fighter aircraft, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1441

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON SALE BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF PARTS FOR F–14 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Department of Defense is responsible for demilitarizing and auctioning off sensitive surplus United States military equipment.

(2) F–14 ''Tomcat'' fighter aircraft have recently been retired, and their parts are being made available by auction in large quantities.

(3) Iran is the only country, besides the United States, flying F–14 fighter aircraft and is purchasing surplus parts for such aircraft from brokers.

(4) The Government Accountability Office has, as a result of undercover investigative work, declared the acquisition of the surplus United States military equipment, including parts for F–14 fighter aircraft, to be disturbingly effortless.

(5) Upon the seizure of such sensitive surplus military equipment being sold to Iran, United States customs agents have discovered these same items, having been resold by the Department of Defense, being brokered illegally to Iran again.

(6) Iran is pursuing a nuclear weapons capability, and the Department of State has identified Iran as the most active state sponsor of terrorism.

(7) Iran continues to provide funding, safe haven, training, and weapons to known terrorist groups, including Hizballah, HAMAS, the Palestine Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

(8) The sale of spare parts for F–14 fighter aircraft could make it more difficult to confront the nuclear weapons capability of Iran and would strengthen the ground war capability of Iran. To prevent these threats to regional and global security, the sale of spare parts for F–14 fighter aircraft should be prohibited.

(b) PROHIBITION ON SALE BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and except as provided in paragraph (2), the Department of Defense may not sell (whether directly or indirectly) any parts for F–14 fighter aircraft, whether through the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service or through another agency or element of the Department.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to the sale of parts for F–14 fighter aircraft to a museum or similar organization located in the United States that is involved in the preservation of F–14 fighter aircraft for historical purposes.

(c) PROHIBITION ON EXPORT LICENSE.—No license for the export of parts for F–14 fighter aircraft to a non-United States person or entity may be issued by the United States Government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. GIFFORDS) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1441, a bill that will put an end to military surplus sales that may inadvertently be helping to sustain Iran's Air Force.

First, I would like to thank Chairman LANTOS and Chairman SKELTON for their leadership on this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss this critical national security issue.

The background to this problem begins in the 1970s when our country sold F–14 Tomcats to Iran's pro-Western secular government. Iran was a close ally of the United States at the time and needed the capabilities of the F–14 in a dangerous part of the world. Times have changed, unfortunately. And Iran has now called for the destruction of Israel and is refining uranium in what many observers from the non-proliferation community believe is an attempt to develop the fuel necessary for an atomic weapon.

Iran is a state sponsor of terrorism and is likely responsible for arming insurgents in Iraq. Iran has ignored the calls of the international community for greater transparency in its nuclear power research and development, and the United Nations Security Council recently imposed stricter economic sanctions on Iran as a result.

When the United States Navy retired the F–14 fleet last September, that left Iran as the only nation still flying those aircraft. Iran has been trying to get around United States sanctions and export controls to secure the parts necessary to keep the F–14 flying. Recent

undercover investigations and reports have made it clear that Iran may have been successful.

Following an undercover investigation, the GAO reported in 2006 that acquiring surplus military hardware not properly demilitarized is disturbingly easy.

In January of this year, the Associated Press reported that front companies were able to secretly purchase military parts for resale in Iran. Iran is the only nation still using the F–14. There are no other legitimate buyers overseas.

In order to address this issue, I worked with my colleague from New Mexico, Mr. PEARCE. And after a joint trip to Israel, we introduced H.R. 1441, which will prevent the United States Government from selling approximately 10,000 parts that are unique only to the F–14 Tomcat.

This legislation will prohibit the military, as well as any other private company, from selling F–14-specific parts. It is also, Mr. Speaker, a complete ban on all international sales of parts specific to the F–14.

We cannot take the risk that components unique to the F–14 could be resold to Iran. The text of this bill was included in the fiscal year 2008 defense authorization bill, H.R. 1585, as section 1049.

The House Armed Services Committee approved the language in its markup of that bill, and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs has already marked up the specific bill and has reported it favorably.

Mr. Speaker, we must take the responsibility to ensure that our military hardware never falls into the hands of nations hostile to the United States and can never be used against our men and women in uniform and not used against our allies.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1441.

I include for the RECORD an exchange of letters related to this bill between Chairman SKELTON of the Armed Services Committee and Chairman LANTOS of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

JUNE 8, 2007.

Hon. TOM LANTOS,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN, On March 27, 2007, the Committee on Foreign Affairs ordered reported favorably H.R. 1441, ''The Stop Arming Iran Act.'' This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Armed Services, and thus, was sequentially referred to the Committee on Armed Services by the Parliamentarian for the House.

Our Committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 1441 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over this legislation, the Committee on Armed Services will waive further consideration of H.R. 1441. I do so with the understanding that by waiving further consideration of the bill, the Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claims over similar measures. In the event of a conference with the Senate on this bill, the Committee on Armed Services reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees.

I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter and a copy of the response in your Committee's report on H.R. 1441 and in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON
Chairman.

JUNE 8, 2007.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1441, an Act to Strengthen Controls on the Export of Surplus F–14 Fighter Aircraft Parts.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services. I acknowledge that your Committee will not seek a sequential referral of the bill and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not in any way serve as a jurisdictional precedent as to our two committees.

Further, as to any House-Senate conference on the bill, I understand that your Committee reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees for consideration of portions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction, and I agree to support a request by the Committee with respect to serving as conferees on the bill, consistent with the Speaker's practice in this regard.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in any Committee report on the bill and in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the time of consideration by the whole House. I look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Cordially,

TOM LANTOS,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank Representative GIFFORDS for her leadership on this issue, as well as Chairman LANTOS for sponsoring the committee amendment clarifying the intent and impact of this legislation.

Earlier this year as a result of the Federal sting operation, Congress learned that Iran had illegally purchased parts for F–14 fighter planes from a U.S. military surplus store. According to investigators, the incident was just one piece of a larger ring of illegally sold military surplus parts that found their way to China and Iran.

The report prompted the Pentagon's Defense Logistics Agency to suspend sales of the F–14 components.

□ 1600

Military surplus offices are supposed to demilitarize parts, which would render them useless for military purposes.

They are also allowed to auction the parts but only to buyers who promise to obey U.S. arms embargoes, export controls, and other laws. That was not the case, however, with these particular F–14 parts.

As Members are aware, Tehran is in search of several key components for its aging fleet of F–14 Tomcat jets, which the United States sold to Iran prior to its 1979 Islamic revolution. This bill will add another layer of protection to the extensive array of export sanctions already imposed on Iran under the International Economic Emergency Powers Act and related executive orders.

The committee amendment recognizes these facts and adjusts the title of the bill to more accurately reflect the purpose of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, given the clear and present danger Iran poses to the national security interests of the United States and to the broader peace and stability of the Middle East, this is an appropriate and timely measure for our consideration today.

I want to thank again Ms. GIFFORDS and Mr. PEARCE, and I support the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Arkansas for his comments, and I indeed think that this is an important piece of legislation that will further support our interests abroad and make sure that parts like the F–14 Tomcat are not sold to the Iranians.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, we must utilize every resource available while fighting the Global War on Terror. Currently, we are fighting two major combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan which are critical to implementing democracy and peace throughout the Middle East. In both these areas we have a common enemy that continues to increase its forces. Recent reports have shown that Iran is supplying arms to both the terrorists in Iraq and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Every night on the news we see the price we pay in a two front war against a sinister and studious enemy. It is difficult enough to fight an insurgency inspired by hatred, let alone an enemy supported by a sovereign nation such as Iran.

Reports of Iranian weapons and funds surfacing both in Iraq and Afghanistan are indicators that Iran is willing to use other countries to attack American interests without having to sacrifice their own sons and daughters. We are fighting a cowardly enemy which uses others to do its dirty work for them. This is state sponsored terrorism and we must take steps to cut off the resources they use to fund our enemies.

In addition, under the guise of energy development, Iran continues a program that puts them closer and closer to developing weapons grade plutonium. I have severe reservations allowing this program continue until Iranian President Ahmadinejad can unequivocally prove that he does not have intentions of someday creating and using a nuclear warhead against the United States, Israel, Europe or other Allies.

This legislation is crucial in the Global War on Terror because it is a tangible indicator to Iran, and all other nations which harbor or sponsor terrorist tactics in any form, that we will not allow the violence to escalate any further. By preventing the sale of F–14s in whole or part to Iran we will be cutting off the supply of arms that may someday be used to kill American soldiers.

I congratulate my colleague and Congressional neighbor from Arizona for her hard work and dedication to this issue. It is important for our safety as a country, as well as the world's freedom from terrorism, that we cut off the supply of F–14 parts to Iran. I call to my friends on both sides of the aisle for overwhelming bipartisan support of this legislation.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. GIFFORDS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1441, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to strengthen controls on the export of surplus parts for F–14 fighter aircraft.''

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF OF HON. JO ANN DAVIS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Chris Connelly, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable JO ANN DAVIS, Member of Congress:

JUNE 7, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond, Virginia, for documents in a civil case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

CHRIS CONNELLY,
Chief of Staff.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

JUNE 6, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, I hereby appoint as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress the following person: Mr. Bernard Forrester, Houston, Texas.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. JONES of Ohio) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2638, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–184) on the resolution (H. Res. 473) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2638) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2356, by the yeas and nays;

S. 676, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 418, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

ENCOURAGING DISPLAY OF THE FLAG ON FATHER'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2356, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2356.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 0, not voting 46, as follows:

[Roll No. 448]

YEAS—386

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner

Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—46

Akin
Allen
Barton (TX)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Boucher
Brown, Corrine
Campbell (CA)
Carson
Costa
Crowley
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Lincoln
Doolittle
Doyle
Edwards
Everett
Feeney
Gordon
Gutierrez
Harman
Hinojosa
Hooley
Hunter
Israel
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
King (NY)
Kucinich
Larson (CT)
Marchant
Pascrell
Radanovich
Rush
Sessions
Shadegg
Smith (WA)
Space
Stark
Udall (CO)
Wamp
Wexler

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1856

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING THAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MAY SERVE ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 676, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 676.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 1, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 449]

YEAS—386

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—1

Kucinich

NOT VOTING—45

Akin
Allen
Barton (TX)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Boucher
Brown, Corrine
Campbell (CA)
Costa
Crowley
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Lincoln
Doolittle
Doyle
Edwards
Everett
Feeney
Gordon
Gutierrez
Harman
Hinojosa
Hooley
Hunter
Israel
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
King (NY)
Larson (CT)
Marchant
Murtha
Pascrell
Radanovich
Rush
Sessions
Shadegg
Smith (WA)
Space
Stark
Udall (CO)
Wamp
Wexler

□ 1905

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING AND WELCOMING THE DELEGATION OF PRESIDENTS, PRIME MINISTERS, AND FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM THE CARIBBEAN TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 418, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 418.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 0, not voting 46, as follows:

[Roll No. 450]

YEAS—386

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann

Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—46

Akin
Allen
Barton (TX)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Brown, Corrine
Campbell (CA)
Costa
Crowley
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Lincoln
Doolittle
Doyle
Edwards
Everett
Feeney
Gordon
Gutierrez
Harman
Hinojosa
Hooley
Hunter
Israel
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
King (NY)
Larson (CT)
Linder
Manzullo
Marchant
Murtha
Pascrell
Radanovich
Rangel
Rush
Sessions
Shadegg
Smith (WA)
Stark
Udall (CO)
Wamp
Wexler

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1912

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was absent from this chamber today, due to a health matter in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 448, 449 and 450.

REPORT ON H.R. 2641, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–185) on the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SUTTON). Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

REPORT ON H.R. 2642, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–186) on the bill (H.R. 2642) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

□ 1915

PASSPORT PROCESSING BACKLOG

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to raise awareness of an issue in our Texas offices and I think around the country: The significant application backlog in the Houston passport office.

Last Friday morning, a number of Members of Congress from Texas and I went to that office. I call on the adminstration and the State Department to take the necessary steps to alleviate the backlog.

I know in the Houston office, Jacqueline Harley-Bell, the regional director of the Houston Passport Agency, and the staff have been working long days and weekends, and I commend them for their efforts to serve the public because they are understaffed and overwhelmed by the number of applications they are getting.

The Houston office has already issued nearly 11 million passports in the first 5½ months of 2007. That is 3 million more than the 7.9 million that were issued in all of 2006.

The administration needs to provide the resources necessary now for additional workers or funding, to clear the backlog due to the new requirement that folks traveling in North America by plane need to have a passport.

On Thursday the administration changed the requirement, or delayed it, that individuals flying into Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda must only present a State Department receipt they have applied for a passport through the end of September. But this is much later than it should be. People are standing in line from 2 in the morning. People wait in line to get rock concert tickets, not a passport. I hope the State Department and administration will immediately address this problem.

HONORING JOHN BACH

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to honor John Bach, a pillar of our law enforcement community, and a recent retiree from the Kenton County Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Bach's career is one that embodies dedication and service to this country. From 1966 to 1970, he served with the 777th Tactical Air Squadron based out of Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina, and was also part of the 556th Reconnaissance Squadron in southeast Asia.

After completing his military service, John pursued a degree in business that he completed at Northern Kentucky University. John was quick to answer the call to service in our community. Throughout his career in law enforcement, he protected our communities in the line of duty at the Elsmere Police Department, the Boone County Police Department, the Independence Police Department and the Kenton County Sheriff's Department.

I would like to thank John for his brave service to our Nation and for helping to make the communities of northern Kentucky safer for all of our residents as part of local law enforcement.

Madam Speaker, I would like to wish John and his wife, Linda, all the best as they enter this new chapter of their lives.

PASSPORT PROCESSING BACKLOG

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, on Friday I joined Congressman GREEN, who just spoke, and Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE, who will speak shortly, at the Houston passport office.

Some people had been in line for hours, and some of them had driven hundreds of miles. Most were frustrated and confused. Many had applied months ago to comply with the new passport laws, but the last Congress failed to provide Federal agencies the resources they need to uphold our laws.

These passport delays have inconvenienced thousands across our country. Some State Department estimates range up to 12 weeks or even longer to process passport applications, forcing some people to either cancel travel plans or lose deposits.

We can't have homeland security without adequate resources. It is not enough to talk tough, we must follow through. The State Department has said that it would temporarily suspend the law to some countries so Americans can take their trips. Forcing agencies to suspend laws because they lack the capacity to enforce them sets a dangerous precedent.

We need more agents to provide border security, customs and immigration enforcement officers and Federal prosecutors and immigration judges to uphold our laws. Let's fix this problem now before it gets much worse.

NOE ALEMAN—BORDER AGENT

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Noe Aleman is a 12-year veteran of the U.S. Border Patrol in the El Paso sector. He and his wife, Isbell, who have no children of their own, plan to adopt his wife's three fatherless nieces from Mexico.

They hired a U.S. immigration lawyer and paid him $40,000 to help with the process. The girls were given temporary visas, but when they expired after 6 months, Agent Aleman went to the immigration service to find out why.

Aleman was arrested for harboring illegals and making false reports on the application. Apparently the lawyer listed the girls as adults instead of minors. In any event, Aleman was prosecuted and convicted. The girls were arrested and deported back to Mexico and live in an orphanage where they have been for 2 years.

Today, Aleman went to a Federal penitentiary. And yes, he was prosecuted by the same U.S. Attorney's Office, the same judge heard the case as the Ramos and Compean cases.

Unfortunately, every time a border agent is prosecuted in the Western District of Texas, the U.S. Attorney's Office has a credibility problem; and this case is automatically suspect and suspicious.

And that's just the way it is.

PASSPORT PROCESSING BACKLOG

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, just last week I joined my colleagues Congressman GENE GREEN and Congressman NICK LAMPSON on trying to address the ongoing crisis in our communities, because we have a regional office for passports. Overnight stays, early morning arrivals, families crying and families not being able to be reunited, people traveling for hundreds of miles, and the reason is passport backlog because of no extra staff.

Let me thank the staff who work so hard to ensure that those who came could be served. We asked the State Department today to provide us with temporary permanent workers to carry out the responsibility.

I would also say if there are waivers now being made for places like the Caribbean and Canada, I would only beg that information be given to travelers so they don't go to the airport and not have the necessary documentation.

Madam Speaker, I close by saying I am reading today as well that the U.S. military is getting ready to arm the Sunnis. I would say if the Iraq war has come to this, it is time to bring our soldiers home. This is not the way to run a war.

HONORING SOUTHCO AS ROLE MODEL

(Mr. KUHL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUHL of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the special environmental achievements of a vibrant small business located in my district.

Southco, a manufacturer of access hardware, has reduced the amount of hazardous waste it generates from more than 3,200 pounds in 2002 to zero just 3 years later in 2005. Through systematic changes in their manufacturing process, they have completely ceased producing hazardous waste.

Moreover, Southco has committed to reducing its consumption of electricity by 15 percent over the next 3 years. Clearly Southco is a role model for our Nation's businesses when it comes to preserving our precious resources. There is a lot of talk about environmental conservation and energy independence, but through innovative thinking, Southco has delivered tangible results in the private sector and provided an excellent example.

This month, the Environmental Protection Agency has made Southco a member of its National Environmental Performance Track Program, designed to honor leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to reducing their negative impact on the environment.

I would like to personally thank Southco for being an excellent corporate citizen.

Madam Speaker, Southco is a leader in these efforts, and deserves our praise for its forward-thinking, socially conscious practices.

CONGRATULATING THE CEDAR VALLEY, IOWA

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening as a proud resident of Waterloo, Iowa. Recently, Forbes named the Waterloo-Cedar Falls metro area as the ''13th best place for business and careers'' among small metro areas in the United States.

There is nothing unlucky about this number 13. I have lived in Waterloo for almost 25 years, and I can tell you from experience that the people of the Cedar Valley have made all of the difference there. The last decade has brought a renewed commitment to civic improvement, and these investments have paid off.

Investments in things like good schools, an expanding workforce and an

improved infrastructure have clearly played a big part of this recognition. Businesses are attracted to the skilled, smart and hardworking workforce of the Cedar Valley, ranked number 49 because of educational attainment.

It is clear to me that more and more people are catching on to what the Cedar Valley has to offer. I congratulate my neighbors in Waterloo and Cedar Falls.

HONORING HORACE LIVINGSTON AND WILLIAM DEMPSEY

(Mr. HARE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two great community leaders from Decatur, Illinois.

Horace ''Buck'' Livingston is a local civil rights activist who sought higher-paying jobs and better education for African Americans. For over 40 years, he has published the African American Voice, the only African American newspaper within 150 miles of Decatur, Illinois. His tireless efforts continue to strengthen our community and give all of us hope for a better future.

William ''Skip'' Dempsey, my brother in the labor movement, sadly passed away on April 13. After teaching at Purdue University, Skip served for over 12 years as training coordinator for Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 65. He continued his leadership as a business agent, advancing education, economic growth, and the building trades in the Decatur area. Skip's valuable service will be sorely missed.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary and unselfish contributions of Buck Livingstong and Skip Dempsey.

ARMING SUNNI GROUPS IS LUNACY

(Mr. ABERCROMBIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in the wake of news that comes to us that the United States will now have as a policy in Iraq the arming of Sunni groups who have admittedly killed and maimed Americans. We have now reached the point of public-political lunacy.

Representative PAUL, myself, Representative JONES and others have entered a bill for consideration of the House that will cause us to have to reauthorize this war. Any conceivable reason for having allowed the President to enter into this war with the enabling resolution that we passed has now been accomplished; any ''whereas,'' any ''be it resolved'' of that resolution is now moot.

In order for any of us to justify spending one more penny or committing one more soldier of the United States into this war, we have to have an up-or-down vote on whether it should be authorized.

Arming Sunni groups that have murdered U.S. service men and women as a policy, a strategy, is without merit and devoid of any political sensibility.

□ 1930

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SUTTON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2007 AND 2008 AND THE 5-YEAR PERIOD FY 2008 THROUGH FY 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I am transmitting a status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 and for the 5-year period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012. This report is necessary to facilitate the application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act and sections 204, 206 and 207 of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008.

The term ''current level'' refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature. The first table in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues with the aggregate levels set by S. Con. Res. 21. This comparison is needed to enforce section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels.

The second table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 with the ''section 302(b)'' suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act because the point of order under that section applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation.

The third table compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for each authorizing committee with the ''section 302(a)'' allocations made under S. Con. Res. 21 for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 and fiscal years 2008 through 2012. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure.

The fourth table gives the current level for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 for accounts identified for advance appropriations under section 206 of S. Con. Res. 21. This list is needed to enforce section 206 of the budget resolution, which creates a point of order against appropriation bills that contain advance appropriations that: (i) Are not identified in the statement of managers; or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 21

[Reflecting Action Completed as of June 8, 2007—On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal year— 2007	Fiscal year— 2008 [1]	Fiscal years— 2008–2012
Appropriate Level:			
Budget authority	2,255,558	2,350,261	[2]
Outlays	2,268,646	2,353,893	[2]
Revenues	1,900,340	2,015,841	11,137,671
Current Level:			
Budget authority	2,255,558	1,422,153	[2]
Outlays	2,268,646	1,767,190	[2]
Revenues	1,904,540	2,050,461	11,313,270
Current Level over (+) / under (−) Appropriate Level:			
Budget authority	0	−928,108	[2]
Outlays	0	−586,703	[2]
Revenues	4,200	34,620	175,599

[1] Pending action by the House Appropriations Committee on spending covered by section 207(d)(1)(E) (overseas deployments and related activities), resolution assumptions are not included in the appropriate level.

[2] = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2009 through 2012 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Enactment of measures providing any new budget authority for FY 2007 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2007 budget authority to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

Enactment of measures providing new budget authority for FY 2008 in excess of $928,108,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2008 budget authority to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

OUTLAYS

Enactment of measures providing any new outlays for FY 2007 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2007 outlays to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

Enactment of measures providing new outlays for FY 2008 in excess of $586,703,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2008 outlays to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

REVENUES

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for FY 2007 in excess of $4,200,000,000 (if not already included in the current estimate) would cause FY 2007 revenue to fall below the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for FY 2008 in excess of $34,620,000,000 (if not already included in the current estimate) would cause FY 2008 revenue to fall below the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 in excess of $175,599,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause revenues to fall below the appropriate levels set by S. Con. Res. 21.

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUBALLOCATIONS

[In millions of dollars]

Appropriations Subcommittee	302(b) suballocations as of June 8, 2007 (H. Rpt. 110–182)		Current level reflecting action completed as of June 8, 2007		Current level minus suballocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	18,569	19,356	18,569	19,356	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science	51,950	52,236	51,950	52,236	0	0
Defense	489,519	499,510	489,519	499,510	0	0
Energy and Water Development	30,296	29,882	30,296	29,882	0	0
Financial Services and General Government	19,488	20,360	19,488	20,360	0	0
Homeland Security	33,962	41,195	33,962	41,195	0	0
Interior, Environment	26,411	27,569	26,411	27,569	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	144,766	145,567	144,766	145,567	0	0
Legislative Branch	3,774	3,950	3,774	3,950	0	0
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs	49,752	46,889	49,752	46,889	0	0
State, Foreign Operations	31,358	35,186	31,358	35,186	0	0
Transportation, HUD	50,471	107,765	50,471	107,765	0	0
Unassigned (full committee allowance)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (Section 302(a) Allocation)	950,316	1,029,465	950,316	1,029,465	0	0

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(A) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(B) SUBALLOCATIONS

[In millions of dollars]

Appropriations Subcommittee	302(b) suballocations as of June 8, 2007 (H. Rpt. 110–183)		Current level reflecting action completed as of June 8, 2007		Current level minus suballocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	18,825	20,027	7	5,437	−18,818	−14,590
Commerce, Justice, Science	53,551	55,318	0	20,389	−53,551	−34,929
Defense	459,332	475,980	45	163,824	−459,287	−312,156
Energy and Water Development	31,603	32,774	0	13,178	−31,603	−19,596
Financial Services and General Government	21,028	21,650	80	4,323	−20,948	−17,327
Homeland Security	36,254	38,247	0	17,112	−36,254	−21,135
Interior, Environment	27,598	28,513	0	11,198	−27,598	−17,315
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	151,112	148,433	19,151	100,179	−131,961	−48,254
Legislative Branch	4,024	4,036	0	606	−4,024	−3,430
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs	64,745	54,831	−2,414	14,260	−67,159	−40,571
State, Foreign Operations	34,243	33,351	0	16,407	−34,243	−16,944
Transportation, HUD	50,738	114,869	4,193	71,015	−46,545	−43,854
Unassigned (full committee allowance)	0	369	0	0	0	−369
Total (Section 302(a) Allocation)	953,053	1,028,398	21,062	437,928	−931,991	−590,470

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES, REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF JUNE 8, 2007

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2007		2008		2008–2012 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armed Services:						
Allocation	0	0	−50	−50	−410	−410
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	50	50	410	410
Education and Labor:						
Allocation	0	0	−150	−150	−750	−750
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	150	150	750	750
Energy and Commerce:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Services:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign Affairs:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
House Administration:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Judiciary:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Resources:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oversight and Government Reform:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Science and Technology:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Business:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES, REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF JUNE 8, 2007—Continued

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2007		2008		2008–2012 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Infrastructure:						
Allocation	0	0	125	0	1,525	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	−125	0	−1,525	0
Veterans' Affairs:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ways and Means:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0

FY2009 AND 2010 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS UNDER SECTION 206 OF S. CON. RES. 21

[Budget Authority in Millions of Dollars]

	2009	2010
Appropriate Level:	25,558	25,558
Accounts Identified for Advances:		
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	400	0
Employment and Training Administration	0	0
Education for the Disadvantaged	0	0
School Improvement	0	0
Children and Family Services (Head Start)	0	0
Special Education	0	0
Vocational and Adult Education	0	0
Payment to Postal Service	0	0
Section 8 Renewals	0	0

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 2007.

Hon. JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2007 budget and is current through June 8, 2007. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Pursuant to section 204(b) of S. Con. Res. 21, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 1 of the report).

Since my last letter, dated January 4, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues for fiscal year 2007:

The Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 110–5); and

The U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110–28).

The effects of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 are identified separately in the enclosed report. The effect of the Continuing Resolution is included in the ''previously enacted'' section of the report, consistent with the budget resolution assumptions.

Sincerely,

PETER R. ORSZAG,
Director.

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF JUNE 8, 2007

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in previous session:			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,904,706
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,350,273	1,299,295	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	1,477,616	1,540,849	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	−571,507	−571,507	n.a.
Total enacted in previous session	2,256,382	2,268,637	1,904,704
Enacted this session:			
Appropriation Acts: U.S. Troop Readiness. Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110–28) [1]	−794	9	−166
Total, enacted this session	−794	9	−166
Entitlements and mandatories: Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	−30	0	0
Total Current Level [1 2]	2,255,558	2,268,646	1,904,540
Total Budget Resolution	2,380,535	2,300,572	1,900,340
Adjustment to budget resolution for emergency requirements [3]	−124,789	−31,926	0
Adjustment to the budget resolution pursuant to section 207(f) [4]	−188	0	0
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,255,558	2,268,646	1,900,340
Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	4,200
Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

[1] Pursuant to section 204(b) of S. Con. Res. 21 the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. The amounts so designated for fiscal year 2007, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110–28)	120,803	31,116	n.a.

[2] Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

[3] S. Con. Res. 21 assumed $124,789 million in budget authority and $31,926 million in outlays from emergency supplemental appropriations. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110–28 (see footnote 1 above), at the direction of the House Committee on the Budget, budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

[4] Pursuant to section 207(f) of S. Con Res. 21, the House Committee on the Budget adjusts the budget authority to reflect the difference between the amount assumed in the budget resolution for nonemergency supplemental appropriations in fiscal year 2007 and the amount actually appropriated for nonemergency purposes.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 2007.

Hon. JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2008 budget and is current through June 8, 2007. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Pursuant to section 204(b) of S. Con. Res. 21, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 1 of the report). This is my first report for fiscal year 2008.

Sincerely,

PETER R. ORSZAG.

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2008 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF JUNE 8, 2007

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in previous session:			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,050,796
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,450,532	1,390,018	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	419,862	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	−575,635	−575,635	n.a.
Total, enacted in previous session	874,897	1,234,245	2,050,796
Enacted this session:			
Appropriation Acts: U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110–28)[1]	1	42	−335
Total, enacted this session	1	42	−335
Entitlements and mandatories: Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	547,255	532,903	0
Total Current Level [1 2]	1,422,153	1,767,190	2,050,461
Total Budget Resolution	2,496,028	2,469,636	2,015,858
Adjustment to budget resolution for emergency requirements[3]	−606	−49,990	n.a.
Adjustment to the budget resolution pursuant to section 207(f)[4]	1	1	−17
Adjustment to the budget resolution pursuant to section 207(d)(l)(E)[5]	−145,162	−65,754	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,350,261	2,353,893	2,015,841
Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	34,620
Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution	928,108	586,703	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2008–2012:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	11,313,270
House Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	11,137,725
Adjustment to the budget resolution pursuant to section 207(f)[4]	n.a.	n.a.	−54
Adjusted Budget Resolution		n.a.	11,137,671
Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	175,599
Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

[1] Pursuant to section 204(b) of S. Con. Res. 21 the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. The amounts so designated for fiscal year 2008, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (p.L. 110–28)	605	48,639	n.a.

[2] Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

[3] S. Con. Res. 21 assumed $606 million in budget authority and $49,990 million in outlays from emergency supplemental appropriations. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110–28 (see footnote 1 above), at. the direction of the House Committee on the Budget, budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

[4] Pursuant to section 207(f) of S. Con. Res. 21, the House Committee on the Budget adjusts budget authority and outlays to reflect the difference between the amount assumed in the budget resolution for nonemergency supplemental appropriations in fiscal year 2007 and the amount actually appropriated for nonemergency purposes.

[5] Section 207(d)(1)(E) of S. Con. Res. 21 assumed $145,162 million in budget authority and $65,754 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. Pending action by the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on the Budget has directed that these amounts be excluded from the budget resolution aggregates in the current level report.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the great giveaway of American land has not occurred. The Amnesty International plan to grant legal permanent residents to 12 to 20 million illegal people from all over the world did not succeed in the Senate, and rightfully so.

The bill that the Senate tried to push off on the American public was too massive, too complicated, too long. It was almost longer than the Bible and had less to say.

Madam Speaker, the American people get it. They understand that the first problem that has to be solved is the border. Border security is the number one issue. The Federal Government, our government, the most powerful superpower that has ever existed, cannot protect the borders. Or is it that they don't protect the borders or refuse to protect the borders?

The American public want our borders secure before we start talking about immigration, whether it's legal or illegal. And that's what our Federal Government should do, simply follow the law that's already existing.

We have enough laws now to protect the border, but for some reason, the law does not get enforced by the executive department. We hear all kinds of reasons why it doesn't occur, but the bottom line is our borders are porous, on the northern border and on the southern border, and the first duty of government is to protect the people, and that means protect our borders and protect it first. When we solve that problem, then we can move on to the other issues.

And the second issue is not what to do with the people that are here illegally. We first close the gap, close the border, keep people from coming here illegally, but the next thing we have to deal with is the immigration service. It's in chaos, it's in turmoil, and this last week's example is a perfect example.

The passport service. Now, the law requires that all Americans traveling anywhere, including Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean islands, have passports. Congress passed that law 3 years ago. The Federal Government, the executive branch, had 3 years to get ready to make sure that Americans had those passports, and sure enough, 2007 came, Americans were following the law. They started applying for passports, and all of the sudden, there are lines all over the United States for people waiting for their passports. First it was 4 weeks; then it was 6 weeks. Now, it's 3 months to 5 months. The Federal Government cannot even process a simple passport for an American citizen, and it is a relatively simple process to deal with a passport.

And now, what has happened? The Federal Government says, well, since we can't follow the law, we'll suspend the law until we're able to get it together. Now, it's not the fault of those workers in the passport office. They're working as long as they can, as hard as they can, but those people that run the passport office, the Federal bureaucrats, never were organized enough to make sure that Americans, in a streamlined process, could get passports.

So now the law's not going to be followed until the passport service gets it together, and that's very unfortunate because the problem is we're going to use this same department, the immigration service, to so-called legally legalize the 12 to 20 million people in the amnesty bill, the so-called Z visas which are very complicated to understand, something that will take a lot longer to process than a passport. So the Z visas for 12 to 20 million illegals will take forever to process if we ever go to that service.

What I'm saying, Madam Speaker, is we deal with the border first. Second, we fix and streamline the immigration service so it doesn't discriminate against people who are coming to the United States legally, that we make it efficient for Americans to travel abroad. And once we fix that problem, then down the road we deal with the third issue, the issue of what to do with people that are here illegally.

Until we take it in that order, until Congress addresses those three respective acts with three bills, we will never solve the problem. And a massive, so-called immigration reform bill, the American public is suspect and skeptical of that plan because, frankly, I

don't think the American public trusts the Federal Government to do the job of securing the border and reforming the immigration service.

But we know that the Federal Government does have the capability to grant amnesty to people that are here illegally. So, hopefully, Congress will do its job, get organized, pass three separate bills so that we have border security; that we have an efficient, workable immigration services; and then down the road, we deal with what to do with the people that are here illegally in the U.S.

The American public expect it. They have expected it for a long time, and it's time for us to get about the people's business and resolve these three problems as efficiently and quickly as we can.

And that's just the way it is.

PRESIDENT SHOULD OVERRULE PROPOSED NEW STRATEGY OF GIVING WEAPONS TO SUNNI ARAB GROUPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, tonight I rise to demand that President Bush take immediate action as Commander in Chief to overrule a proposed new strategy in Iraq, a proposal that may put our troops in even greater danger in the days ahead.

The New York Times reported this morning that our commanders in Iraq are now planning to give weapons to Sunni Arab groups, weapons that may turn around and be used against our very own troops.

In the past, these Sunni groups have been allied with al Qaeda and have actually been suspected of being involved in attacks upon our troops. So why are we doing this? According to the Times, our commanders have reason to believe that the Sunnis have split with al Qaeda and are now ready to fight on our side. Well, it could be true, but this strategy is fraught with terrible peril for our brave men and women in combat.

The Times reports, ''Critics of the strategy, including some American officers, say it could amount to the Americans arming both sides in a future civil war. The United States has spent more than $15 billion in building up Iraq's Army and police force, whose manpower of 350,000 is heavily Shiite. With little sign of a political accommodation between Shiites and Sunni politicians in Baghdad, there is a risk that any weapons given to Sunni groups will eventually be used against Shiites.'' And I must mention, our troops will be stuck in the middle, dying for what? Because there is the possibility, says the Times, the weapons could be used against the Americans themselves.

Let me repeat that last sentence, ''There is also the possibility the weapons could be used against the Americans themselves.'' That's what the Times had to say.

But first, Madam Speaker, we sent our troops into battle without the proper body armor or vehicle armor. Then we put them in the middle of a bloody civil war they were never trained to fight. Then, when many of them got wounded, we gave them terrible medical treatment at home. Now this is the latest outrage.

Madam Speaker, I do not condemn our commanders in the field for making this decision. They are taking this risk because they are desperate to implement President Bush's hopeless, foolish surge policy, but the surge has not worked, is not working and will not work.

As the Times reports, ''An initial decline in sectarian killings in Baghdad in the first two months of the troop buildup has reversed, with growing numbers of bodies showing up each day in the capital. Suicide bombings have dipped in Baghdad, but increased elsewhere, as al Qaeda groups, confronted with great American troop numbers, have shifted their operations elsewhere.''

There's only one way, Madam Speaker, out of this. We must bring our troops home, and then we must work with the Iraqi people and we must work with them in a peaceful way to reconstruct their devastated Nation.

Last month, a bill that called for starting the withdrawal of our troops within 90 days received 171 votes in this House. Some pundits were surprised that it received that much support. I wasn't. Opposition to this President's failed foreign policy is growing all over America, and those voices are eventually being heard in this body more and more every day.

Madam Speaker, if American troops are harmed by this new war strategy, then the American people will hold the President accountable. But if we in this House condone it as well, or remain silent, then we will be responsible, too.

Our job is to force this administration to fully fund the plan to bring our troops and our contractors home, home where they are not positioned in the middle of a civil war.

SUPPORTING THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE FOR ACCUSED CAMP PENDLETON TROOPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, only those who have been to war can truly understand the hell of war. I have not been to war, but I have spoken to those who have served our country in both Iraq and Afghanistan. I know enough to understand that those who serve in harm's way face grave dangers, and they are under extreme pressure.

Most of us cannot imagine the stress that those in uniform undergo when they have to make a split-second decision whether to fire or be fired upon, to kill or be killed.

In June 2006, seven Marines and one Navy corpsman from Camp Pendleton were charged with murder in an April 2006 incident involving the death of an Iraqi man. The troops were staking out an intersection while looking for insurgents placing explosives along the road.

The squad of eight is accused of kidnapping the Iraqi man from a nearby home, killing him, and then staging the scene to frame him as an insurgent planting a bomb.

Four of the troops struck plea deals and received sentences of 21 months or less in exchange for their testimony against their squad mates. One of the troops also pled guilty to lesser charges but received an 8-year sentence. The three remaining Marines all face courts martial this summer and life in prison if convicted of premeditated murder.

One of these three Marines is a constituent of Congressman BILL DELAHUNT, who brought the details of this case to my attention.

Madam Speaker, 3 years ago, I came to this floor night after night to speak about what I felt was an unfair prosecution of Lieutenant Ilario Pantano, a Marine who was charged with shooting an insurgent in Iraq. Not because of my concern, but because the charges against Lieutenant Pantano were not justified, the Marine Corps dropped the charges.

Because of my great respect for the men and women who serve in the United States Marine Corps, it is my hope that these Marines will receive the due process and justice they deserve as American citizens and as heroes.

President Teddy Roosevelt once said, ''A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards. More than that no man is entitled, and less than that no man shall have.''

The same men and women who risk their lives to preserve the rights of all American citizens deserve the protection of those same rights. Those who fight for justice deserve justice in return.

Madam Speaker, our military servicemembers, the military family, and certainly these Marines, deserve no less.

And Madam Speaker, with that, I close by saying, God, please continue to bless our men and women in uniform and their families, and please, God, continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH PERU AND PANAMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, soon President Bush's administration will force upon this Congress consideration of free trade agreements with Peru and Panama under the fast-track process. That means no amendments allowed here in the Congress.

The bills they will bring before us are modeled on the flawed NAFTA model that have yielded growing trade deficits every year the Bush administration has been in office. We have seen how NAFTA sucked good jobs away from Americans, how it ravaged the Mexican countryside and triggered a flow of illegal immigrants, drugs and violence across our southern border.

Our staggering trade deficit with Mexico continues to grow. This year, we already have a $21.6 billion deficit with Mexico, and it will continue to swell as communities across the continent face job washout.

If we do not construct a new trade model that takes people into consideration and advocates free trade among free people, then it does not matter how many environmental provisions we may add to trade agreements or how unique the administration claims its labor provisions are.

We are simply extending NAFTA to the rain forest and to more sweat shops because there will be no reliable enforcement.

We have seen the NAFTA model fail in Mexico. We have seen it fail in CAFTA countries. Why should we assume it will be any less disastrous in Peru or Panama?

We cannot fall for empty promises again. When we were told that NAFTA would result in a trade surplus, when we were told that NADBANC would help communities that were faced with job loss with reinvestment, when we were told NAFTA would be beneficial for Mexicans, Canadians, and the legislation passed this Congress, what did we see? Billions and billions of trade deficit dollars racked up.

We have never had a positive trade balance with the NAFTA countries or the CAFTA countries. We saw a washout of jobs in our middle-class communities, and we saw huge and growing protests across Mexico. It's a mistake to pass NAFTA, and it will be a mistake to extend it to other countries without comprehensive and effective reform.

This time Congress must be smarter. We must realize the administration is feeding us empty promises without enforceability and clear benefits. We should have no reason to be fooled again.

Even if we succeed with some changes to the core text of these agreements, do we trust President Bush to enforce them? We are still waiting for him to enforce the flagrant violations in the Jordanian agreement, where such language was included in the core of the trade agreement.

It is bad enough that his administration has the power to avoid any meaningful congressional amendment or any amendment at all. We cannot trust President Bush with fairly negotiating trade agreements, and we certainly cannot trust him to fairly enforce them.

If Congress passes these agreements with Peru and Panama, we only stand to perpetuate the race to the bottom cycle of lowered wages, reduced benefits worldwide, by taking these steps under the slippery slope of the Bush trade agreement that rewards Wall Street and its investors, but penalizes main streets across our Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LET'S BRING OUR SOLDIERS HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, earlier today I made mention of an interesting new theory that is being promoted through the Nation's newspapers, and, certainly, let me acknowledge the respect that we have in this Congress for the United States military and their never-ending challenge and acceptance of responsibility in their work in Iraq and certainly, of course, Afghanistan.

We know that both of those regions are becoming more difficult. In Afghanistan, the Taliban is rising, and, frankly, just recently, there was an attempted assassination attack on President Karzai in Afghanistan with a message from the Taliban saying that ''We were involved'' and, in essence, ''We are on the rise.''

In fact, that is where the root of terror is. After 9/11, that is where this Congress almost unanimously instructed the President on behalf of the American people to fight the war on terror, to fight al Qaeda, and to find Osama bin Laden. Unfortunately, this administration has failed, failed its duty to this Nation, and not represented itself to the American people and to this Congress as to what its next steps are with respect to fighting terror.

Now we find ourselves muddling around in Iraq, we are almost to the middle of June, and almost 30 Americans have died in Iraq. This is an unending mission without a mission, an unending story without an end.

Now we read in the Nation's newspaper America's strategy in Iraq to arm the Sunnis. But at the same time as we arm the Sunnis, we are in negotiations with them to promise us that they will not shoot American soldiers.

I believe that this may be a reasonable response to arm Sunnis to fight al Qaeda, to arm Sunnis to engage with the Iraqi National Army. But it is not a reasonable response with American soldiers sitting in the line of fire.

Again, I say, having visited with my constituents over the weekend, having visited with constituents in churches and grocery stores, in meetings, in civic meetings, everywhere I go, in religious institutions or houses of faith, everywhere I go in my congressional district, people are asking the singular question. That is, when are our soldiers going to come home from Iraq?

When I get the loudest applause is when I say that this Congress must bring our soldiers home, and that it is my intention to work with every Member of Congress who is willing to stand up to ensure that our soldiers come home, not because of our job has not been completed, not because our soldiers are not strong, not because our soldiers are wimps, but because, in fact, our soldiers are heroes.

I believe, as in my legislation H.R. 930, that we should bring them home under a military success. They have done their job. They have deposed Saddam Hussein. They have discovered that there were no weapons of mass destruction. They have finished the mission.

We should declare a military victory for those soldiers and those who lost their lives and begin to transfer the leadership of the efforts in Iraq to the Iraqi national Army and the Iraqi national police. I cannot understand this theory, this particular strategy, when our soldiers are still on the ground. All I can see is armed Sunnis, armed al Qaeda, armed Shiites, all pointing guns at our soldiers, who are there, simply, to follow the mission of a President who will not listen.

I am interested in military strategy. I want our military generals to be creative. If they believe that this is an effective tool, then this tool must be utilized without our soldiers, in essence, if I might say, without any disrespect, to be shooting targets or sitting ducks.

This does not seem to be the right kind of approach if our soldiers are still going to be in the midst. Even if they relocate the soldiers out of the particular area, they are still on the ground. Armed Sunnis are armed Sunnis. Armed Sunnis and armed Shiites move around. They don't necessarily have to stay in one area.

I expect that we will have a briefing tomorrow. I hope that they will discuss

with us, the Members of Congress, on behalf of their constituents, what does this mean for the lives of our soldiers? What does this mean for the number of those who have lost their lives already and their brothers and sisters may now be in the greater line of fire with people being armed, and armed with what?

What level of weaponry will they have, and how far will this weaponry be able to go, and what will they be able to do with it? It is obviously a challenge.

It is time to bring our soldiers home. If this is what we are doing, let's transfer the fight to the Iraqi national Army and the Iraqi police.

Let's bring our soldiers home.

REPORT ON H.R. 2643, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–187) on the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

U.S. TRADE POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, it's a great pleasure that we are talking this evening about an issue very important to a lot of us in this Congress, and a lot of folks throughout the United States of America, and that issue is trade.

I would like to yield to a colleague of mine. We came in this Congress together, and she has been very active in the trade deal and has established with me the trade working group in this Congress, Congresswoman LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in addressing the House and the American people regarding U.S. trade policy and its effect on working families.

Let me start by saying, first of all, that I am committed to trade. That's right, I think that trade is good for America and its working families. If we do it the right way, trade can increase the availability of raw materials for production. Trade can also open markets for American goods and can bring exciting new products to American consumers. While I recognize the benefits of trade, not all trade agreements are created equal.

On May 10, the administration and Members of this House announced a ''new policy on trade.'' Well, it's about time. Democrats have been calling for a new direction in trade for years, and I am pleased that the administration has finally taken initial steps to improve its trade policy.

But, alas, it is too little, too late. This new trade policy is little more than a rehash of the same failed NAFTA model that has been hurting U.S. families for more than a decade. According to the administration, the new additions to the Peru and Panama agreements would add long-sought labor and environmental protections to the basic NAFTA framework.

Unfortunately, even the U.S. Chamber of Commerce says that these new worker and environmental protections can't be enforced. That's not very encouraging, is it? Supporting this new deal requires us to believe in two things: number one, the actual benefits of the NAFTA free trade model; and, number 2, the promises of the Bush administration.

We are supposed to trust an administration that has demonstrated its commitment to anything but the truth. Having misled us on issues like domestic wire-tapping programs, the war in Iraq, global warming, and the firing of U.S. attorneys, it now seeks our trust. How are we supposed to trust a record like that?

We have also learned some very hard lessons after more than 10 years of free trade failures. As we hear more familiar promise about the new trade deal, let's look at some of the old ones. NAFTA was supposed to solve illegal integration by developing a robust economy in Mexico that would allow hard-working people to provide for their families and stay at home. Well, that didn't work.

CAFTA was supposed to include bold new safety and wage protections for workers, but these protections are disappointingly weak, allowing countries to downgrade their very own labor laws.

In the Oman Free Trade Agreement, the administration actually negotiated a deal with a opportunity that, as our own State Department reported, was experiencing a forced labor problem—forced labor. How are our workers supposed to compete with people who are forced to toil?

Free trade was supposed to increase economic opportunity for everybody, for big businesses, as well as working families at home and abroad. But it simply hasn't happened.

Too many communities have been left to rot because corporations shut down U.S. plants to chase increasingly cheap labor and weak environmental protections abroad. After decades of living with NAFTA and its clones, real wages for American families are down. Our trade deficit is in the tens of billions of dollars, and our manufacturing base is falling apart.

The American worker is now more productive than ever, but that increased productivity has not led to a corresponding increase in wages. The truth is that the NAFTA free trade model is designed to favor the wealthiest few and corporate bottom lines at the expense of small businesses, workers, families and communities.

In the coming weeks, we will be asked to consider first two of the Bush administration's trade priorities, free trade agreements with Peru and Panama. Despite the long record of failed free trade agreements, the Bush administration and free traders are going to tell us that Peru and Panama agreements are less controversial than the administration's other priorities, free trade agreements with Colombia and Korea, and the renewal of the President's fast-track negotiating authority.

This is a sign of how bad Peru and Panama trade deals are. Their only redeeming value, it seems, is that they are not as bad as the deals with Korea and Colombia. But that argument misses the point. Every bad trade agreement passed, makes it easier for another bad trade agreement to slip by.

When they say ''not that bad,'' we should say ''not good enough.'' Let's keep our eyes on the ball.

The Peru and Panama free-trade agreements are slippery slopes to other bad deals. Passing these deals makes it easier for the Bush administration to push through the Korea free-trade agreement which would gut the American car industry.

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It would make it easier for the White House to push through fast track authority, which gives the President a blank check to create additional agreements that gut our communities and our economy.

Passing the Peru and Panama Free Trade Agreements puts us on a slippery slope toward passing the Bush-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, a deeply flawed trade deal for working families in both countries.

I just returned from Colombia, and this was my second trip in 7 months. On these visits I talked with leaders from civil society, indigenous groups, organized labor and the political opposition.

Colombia is a great country with wonderful people, a vibrant culture and a growing economy. However, Colombia remains the most dangerous country in the world for worker advocates. Despite recent progress, the Colombian Government has still been unable to protect labor organizers from being attacked or killed over any specific

amount of time. The Bush-Colombia Free Trade Agreement will only exacerbate those problems. Without real enforceable worker protections, increasing numbers of Colombian workers will be forced into sweatshop conditions.

The Bush-Colombia FTA will gut Colombia's legitimate agriculture sector. Colombian farmers will be forced to compete with subsidized crops from the United States. Many farmers will be forced to choose between leaving their farms and growing more lucrative drug crops, the very drug crops that we see sending drugs up to the United States.

Free traders are going to say that denying Colombia a free-trade package, after giving similar agreements to its neighbors, will destabilize the Colombian Government and give a victory to Hugo Chavez. They are going to say that it sends a terrible message to an important ally that we still regard Colombia as a pariah state.

They're going to say that if the worker and environmental protections were good enough for Peru and Panama, why not Colombia and Korea?

Here's the bottom line. The Peru and Panama Free Trade Agreements are slippery slopes to more downward pressure on wages and benefits, both here and abroad.

You want to hear the surest sign that the Bush Free Trade Agreement is flawed? He couldn't even pass them when his own party was in control of the Congress. The Peru free trade agreement was signed in April of 2006, and yet the White House couldn't get the Republican majority to move it.

Some might say, we can't afford not to sign free trade agreements. After all, they say, globalization is here to stay. Trade and globalization are here to stay. The question remains, however, can we make them work for working families? And I say, yes, we can.

Trade can benefit our economy and the economist of our trading partners. We can negotiate deals that create new markets, bring new jobs and new prosperity. We can achieve significant new foreign market access and reduce our trade deficit. If we stand united for working Americans, we can deliver a real new deal on trade, not warmed-over promises masquerading as caviar.

Minor adjustments to the NAFTA-style deals are just not good enough. No more agreements based on the failed NAFTA model, no more Fast Track promotion authority. We cannot give this administration, or future ones, a blank check on trade deals that devastate our communities at home.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get off that slippery slope and get on the new path toward trade that promotes development and prosperity for all, not just for the wealthy few.

And I thank my colleague, a real leader on this issue, Mr. MICHAUD, for yielding me time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Thank you very much, Representative SÁNCHEZ. And you're absolutely right. These trade deals are a slippery slope, and we definitely have to make sure that we change that trade model.

As you know, I spent over 28 years at Great Northern Paper Company in East Millinocket, Maine, like my father before me spent 43 years, my grandfather before him for 40 years.

NAFTA has killed our community. We used to have over 4,500 jobs. It's little over 500 jobs. Small businesses have gone under because the economy has been devastated because of a trade deal. We had unemployment that was over 33 percent.

We had individuals who are proud men and women who worked in the mill, made good wages, good health care benefits, they ended up on the food line. They are so many people that went to the food bank that actually the food bank ran out of food. The whole State chipped in and brought food, churches, communities throughout the State to help the devastation.

And it doesn't end there. If you go 30 miles south, another mill had closed its doors. Another 30 miles south of that, another mill closed its doors because of trade.

Yes, they are getting trade assistance, but they want their jobs. And what are they getting trained for, if there's no jobs to get trained?

So this definitely has caused a huge problem, these bad trade deals in the State of Maine, and people are upset, and rightfully so; and that's why it's important for this Congress to get off that slippery slope and head for a new direction, start a new direction; and that new direction is changing that flawed trade policy.

And I agree 100 percent, it's more than just a couple of Band-Aids. We have to look at the broader aspect of trade.

And I really appreciate your ongoing commitment to do what's right for workers, to do what's right for small businesses in this country, and it's the humanitary thing to do as well. So thank you very much, Representative SÁNCHEZ, for your leadership in this issue, and I'll look forward to working with you as we move forward to deal with these trade issues.

I now would like to recognize a gentleman who I've really got to enjoy in this Congress, a gentleman who has really been a strong advocate for our veterans, who definitely has been a leader in that area on the Veterans Affairs Committee, but also a gentleman who is extremely interested in the trade issues, knowing what trade has done to his State in Illinois, Congressman PHIL HARE.

Thank you for coming to the floor this evening. I look forward to hearing your remarks as they relate to trade.

Mr. HARE. Thank you very much. And I thank my friend from Maine for his leadership. And as you know, you're my subcommittee chairman on Veterans Health. And you lead and you do a wonderful job on that committee. And I'm just honored to be able to serve with you.

I want to thank you, and I want to thank my colleague, Congresswoman SÁNCHEZ from California, for her great leadership on this whole issue of trade and protecting American workers and standing up for ordinary people.

I don't have a prepared speech tonight, Madam Speaker. I came here tonight just to kind of have a dialogue for a few minutes and talk about some of these trade deals from the perspective of what I'm hearing back in my district from ordinary people who get up every day, worried whether or not they're going to keep their job.

I think we take a look at Korea. Here we have a trade deal that they are asking us to take a look at and support. 700,000 vehicles entered this country from Korea, yet our automobile manufacturers were allowed, allowed to ship 2,500 cars to Korea. Now, someone tell me if that's remotely close to being a fair trade deal.

I don't have a problem in the world with saying to the Korean government, look, I'm not asking for 700 to 700,000. But when we are only allowed to bring in 2,500 vehicles, compared to importing 700,000, that trade deal is dead on arrival as far as I'm concerned.

Plus, if you look what they're doing to our beef production and in terms of importing beef from this country, that issue is basically dead. Oh, they say they'll talk to us about it. But talk is cheap. And the reality of it is we have yet seen this government be able to move on a trade deal that makes any sense.

You look at Colombia. I was at a trade press conference the other day on Colombia. As you know, as my friend from Maine knows, Madam Speaker, I'm a union member, president, former president of my clothing and textile worker local.

If I had been as vocal for my union in the 13 years that I served in that capacity in Colombia, I probably would have been shot. We've had thousands of people who have been murdered, imprisoned, tortured. This is a government that we're supposed to do business with. We're supposed to trade.

Here we are, the United States, greatest democracy on this planet, and they want us to fashion some type of a trade deal with a country that has paramilitary people go out and assassinate trade unionists and their families. We can do a lot better than that.

I notice the President of Colombia was here just last week, and I echo my colleague, Representative SCHAKOWSKY's remarks, Madam Speaker, when she said to President Uribe in her remarks saying, come back in a year. Come back in a year and prove to this Congress and prove to the American people that you're serious about these violations; that you're going to prosecute more than 39 people, which is all that's been prosecuted under this government.

My colleague from Maine mentions the loss of textile jobs and paper jobs

and steel jobs. I talked to one of my friends, Representative BUTTERFIELD, and he had, at one time, in one county, in one county in his Congressional district, he had 10,000 textile workers in one county. I said, how many do you have today? And he said, I have zero. They're all gone.

We can do a lot better than this. My basic question to those people who want these trade deals is just simply this. I understand the environmental and the labor standards, and I think those are good frameworks. What I want to know is, in every trade deal, what is the ramifications for our manufacturing base, for our workers and for our farmers?

I think it's a fair question to be able to ask anybody. When I do, I'm told by some folks, well, we're going to redo the trade readjustment for those folks who lose their jobs.

That's little comfort to somebody like Dave Bevard from Galesburg, Illinois. 32 years at Maytag. His wife has cancer. Health care runs out.

And one person suggested that I go back and talk to Dave Bevard and explain to him, if you can believe this, Madam Speaker, I'm supposed to explain to Dave Bevard that there's currency manipulation in China that's causing some of these problems.

And I remember saying to that Member, well, when I do, when I go to Galesburg and say that to Dave Bevard, I'd better be putting a catcher's mask on because I think I'm going to get poked. We can't talk to our workers like that, justify this. Currency manipulation.

I'll tell you why Dave Bevard lost his job; I'll tell you why Maytag went to Sonora, Mexico, because this Congress, under NAFTA, that passed NAFTA, helped those jobs to go to Sonora, Mexico, Madam Speaker. They outsourced those jobs, and this from a company that took $9 million in Illinois taxpayers' money; and the workers gave, not one, but two wage concessions.

And guess what? The people in Sonora, Mexico can't afford those refrigerators that they're making. In fact, they're coming across the border illegally because they're not making enough money at that factory.

So to my friends at Maytag I would say, thank you for nothing.

Look, I'm a card-carrying capitalist. I've said this many times, Madam Speaker. I want to see businesses make money. But I also want to see a system of fairness in this whole trade thing.

I think it's the minimum we can do is to expect this Congress, that when we negotiate a trade deal, and when we're looking at a trade deal, is to stand up for those very people whose jobs are on the line.

These are veterans who fought and defended this country. These are people who want to put their kids through school. They want to see their kids get married and be able to afford a home. They want to spend some time and be able to retire with some dignity.

Instead, we outsource their jobs. We give them a Trade Readjustment Act that isn't really worth the paper it's written on in the final analysis. It doesn't nearly make it up.

Now I want to say one thing about that before I just conclude here. Some of the workers at Maytag were told, well, we know you're losing your jobs to Mexico, but here's what you should do. Go into a thing like health care. Growing field. My colleague from Maine and I probably ought to take a look at that maybe some day.

But they were told, you need to get into a growing field like health care. So 300 workers, displaced workers at Maytag did just that. That was the good news. They went to school for a year. The bad news was, there was only room for 30 of those workers, 30 of those workers to continue in practicums so that they could practice medicine.

So what was the response to those 270 people who were left out?

Have you thought of going into cosmetology?

Well, that's a wonderful thing. That's a great way to treat workers.

No, they don't think about cosmetology. What they think about is what should have been and what could have been. What should have been was this Congress, this House, should have said no to NAFTA.

And when it did say yes, and I wish I was here, I could have voted against it, should have had a moral obligation to say to those workers, we're going to do everything we can to help you hold on. But it didn't.

And I am saddened that some Members in my own caucus think that every trade deal that comes down is something that we ought to take a look at.

Let me suggest this, and I will close by saying this. I ran on this issue for the United States Congress. I talked about it every candidate forum I had. I had four opponents in the primary, and I ran on this issue of trade.

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I said I will support trade as long as it does not outsource our manufacturing base and that American agriculture has a seat at the table. I won that primary, and I went on to the general election, and I ran against someone who supported NAFTA, who supported GAT, CAFTA, supported all these Bush trade deals, and I walked out of that election with 57 percent of the vote. Part of that, I believe, is because the people of the 17th District of Illinois know what it is like. I had six clothing and textile plants in my district. I have three with one ready to go, soon to close.

I say, as long as I am in this Chamber, and I don't know how long that will be, I am not going to vote for a trade deal that will outsource one American job, that will take one farmer for granted, that will tell people you really don't matter because you have to look at the whole picture. So I say this to Dave Bevard and to those people who may be watching tonight, from this freshman's perspective, and I can't thank Congressman MICHAUD enough for his leadership on this. I met him when I was running for Congress, and I remember one phone call I made to him when I was a candidate, and one of the first questions he asked was, ''Where are you on trade?'' And I told him and he said, ''What can I do to help?'' And he has been a wonderful leader on this issue.

And this battle will go on. This hour will end, but the battle will go on. And I am not giving up, and the people that believe that our manufacturing base can be saved, we are not giving up. I am going to support the Patriot Corporation, which helps keep American jobs here and stops giving tax credits to companies that outsource overseas. I want fair trade. I will vote for any trade deal that comes down as long as it meets the criteria that it stands up for ordinary Americans.

With that, I am just honored that I was allowed to participate this evening. Thank you, Congressman MICHAUD.

Mr. MICHAUD. Thank you very much, Congressman HARE. I really appreciate your leadership in this whole trade debate. It is very important, very valuable that we hear freshmen class, and the freshmen class has definitely been pretty vocal on the trade deal.

As I mentioned earlier, if you go anywhere in my district, you will see a lot of abandoned mills. What used to be vibrant, a lot of workers working there, they are no longer there today.

The other issue that is very important, and Congresswoman SÁNCHEZ actually touched upon it, is immigration. I know the Senate has been talking about immigration quite a bit. We will be talking about it soon. But before I vote for any immigration bill, I will look to see if they are taking care of the fundamental problem in immigration, and that problem is trade.

If you look at the reasons why a lot of undocumented immigrants are coming from Mexico to the United States, they are coming across the border to get a job. And the reason why they are coming across the border to get a job is because they are living in substandard conditions in Mexico.

Let's go back a few years to when NAFTA was passed. One of the arguments why we should pass NAFTA was because all boats will rise here in the United States and in Mexico. And by raising the boats in Mexico, the workers that come across the border illegally will stay because they will have their jobs, they will earn good wages, and there is no need to come across the border. As a matter of fact, at the time Madeline Albright made comments and encouraged Congress to support NAFTA because it will help solve our illegal immigration problems, and she went on to say if it doesn't solve them or help solve them, then we know it is a failed policy.

Well, it is a failed policy. It hasn't helped. It has gotten worse. And this is something, when we talk about immigration, we have to make sure we take care of that fundamental flaw, and that is with our trade deals. If it means voting against the rule when immigration comes up, I am prepared to do that because this issue is so important that we need to change the direction. We have got to get off this slippery slope if we are going to make this country continue to grow.

It is now a great pleasure to introduce a colleague of mine who is very familiar with labor issues, who is definitely taking on a leadership role, along with Congressman HARE from Ohio. Congresswoman SUTTON has been a true leader.

I really appreciate very much, congresswoman, all that you have been doing. You are a tireless advocate for working people here in this country, small businesses here in this country, and I really appreciate the way that you have taken on this leadership role, and I look forward to continuing working with you on issues as it relates to trade and other issues.

I yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

First of all, I want to thank my colleagues Mr. MICHAUD and Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Mr. HARE. You have been leaders in this fight for a new U.S. trade policy for many years to benefit and to help our working men and women, our businesses, and our communities, and we appreciate your efforts. On behalf of the people of the 13th District of Ohio, I appreciate your efforts working to craft a new trade model that won't leave our businesses and our workers at a disadvantage.

And, frankly, last November in the election, the American people cast votes that reflect their desire to put an end to the flawed trade model that has had a devastating impact on our families and businesses and workers and farmers and communities.

And yet we recently heard about a new trade deal, and it has been mentioned here today, revolving around the Peru and Panama Free Trade Agreement. And that recent deal between some congressional leaders and the Bush administration seemingly provides that labor and environmental standards will be added to those two free trade agreements. However, shortly after that announcement was made, reports indicated that those standards might be put into side agreements or side letters, and those statements were made by those who represent the multinational interests who have been benefiting under our current failed trade policies. And they have boasted also about how those standards would not be enforced. And based on this administration's abominable record on enforcing free trade agreements, I think we can all agree that that is what will happen under this administration.

It has been mentioned here today that there was a free trade agreement with Jordan that was entered into by this country, and there were many who support fair trade, like Mr. MICHAUD and Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Mr. HARE and me. Of those who support fair trade, some of them saw fit actually to support that free trade agreement with Jordan because it had environmental and labor standards in the agreement.

Well, what we saw is that despite those standards, under this administration, despite records indicating documented cases of child sweatshop labor, among other things, there was no enforcement of the standards. So the fact that they are going to be on paper but not enforced really isn't what I believe the American people had in mind when they voted, and I certainly don't think it is all that we need to be doing in Congress to fix our broken trade system.

Now, in an effort to shut down the debate, oftentimes those who are benefiting under the current trade system characterize those of us who are seeking to fix it as protectionists. They insinuate that we are really against trade and don't understand the realities of globalization. Well, that is incorrect. This isn't about being protrade or antitrade. It is about the rules of trade and ensuring that they are fair and enforceable. We need a trade model that truly allows fair competition because we know that if provided that opportunity, we will excel in the global marketplace. And that is the trade model that we are fighting for. We are fighting for a trade model that will not reward companies for moving overseas or outsourcing jobs and will put an enforceable end to illegal foreign subsidies and currency manipulation. We are fighting for a policy that will provide incentives to help our businesses, workers, and communities thrive that will require reciprocity of market access and ensure products produced elsewhere are safe for consumption here.

Now, we agree that we must invest in new technology, innovation, and workforce development, and we have to invest in research and development. But it is not an either/or proposition. Unless we also develop a new trade model, our workers, businesses, and communities will continue to be unfairly undercut, and we see that reflected in our soaring trade deficit.

So why is it that the Bush administration and many Members of Congress find it acceptable that other nations engage in unfair trade practices at the expense of those who toil here, whether it is a lack of meaningful and enforceable labor and environmental standards or currency manipulation, tariff and nontariff barriers, value-added taxes, and we could go on and on about the tactics that are used and keep our businesses and workers at a disadvantage? But for some reason it seems that there are those in Washington here who seem to believe that we can continue our current trade policies and that other countries will change. But why would they? It is working for them. Just look at our trade deficit.

Well, those politicians who think this is a good system that we have going should visit Ohio's 13th District. Come and see the places that I have the honor to represent because a lot of people there are hurting from the failed trade policies that have been thrust upon them. Ohio has lost 200,000 manufacturing jobs since 2000. Communities have been hurt and families struggle. Futures have been destroyed. There are kids out there who will not go to college. There are families out there where health care needs are not being met. And it is directly related to our failed trade policies. And unless we make meaningful changes by enacting a truly new trade model, we can't reverse this downward spiral.

So while it is encouraging that these two free trade agreements seemingly provide for the possibility of stronger labor and environmental standards, any enforceability, as I said, relies on the Bush administration, and it appears that it may be a paper victory to have those standards in the agreement even if they find their way into the core part of the agreement, which we are not certain that we will actually see.

One more thing or, I guess, it is the overarching thing: The Constitution of the United States rests responsibility for trade with the United States Congress. I think that we head down a slippery slope as we continue to cede responsibility to the President for trade. It should be understood, as was reflected in our recent elections, that Congress must reclaim its constitutional authority and responsibility and stop ceding its responsibility to the President. It is our job to ensure a vibrant and fair trade policy, and we have to focus our attention on this task before it is too late.

So the inclusion of labor and environmental standards on paper, okay. But, truly, the American people expect more. Our needs are much greater than that. And we must develop a new trade model that is enforceable and comprehensive, not just on paper but in reality. And we have to do it immediately to keep the faith with the American people.

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With that, I yield back to the gentleman from Maine.

Mr. MICHAUD. Thank you very much, Congresswoman.

I can see from your comments and from hearing your voice that you truly care about the people in your district. And that's what I think has been missing in this debate from some of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Some think, yes, we have a trade deal; if you don't like it, vote against it. Yes, that's the easy way out. What a lot of our colleagues do not understand is just what you have mentioned; these are people's lives. You've seen it firsthand, Congressman HARE has seen it firsthand, I've seen it firsthand, where people who have lost their jobs, who in

a lot of cases are up there in age, 50, 55, 60, that now have to change their lives, they have to try to get retrained, try to find another job. In the meantime, I know in my district, where we have over 33 percent unemployment, we have seen alcoholism and rape increase, divorce increase. The fact that students at high school, their dreams were shattered because they no longer had the means to further their education. We actually had a high school in my district where the senior class did not know whether they were going to be able to graduate or not because the mill that closed its doors paid 80 percent of the tax base, which they had not paid, so the accreditation was in jeopardy.

These issues are extremely important to each and every citizen in the State of Maine, whether you're a Republican, Democratic, green or independent. But there are also issues that are issues we have to deal with collectively, they're not Republican issues or Democratic issues. No one is to blame. I think there is plenty of blame to go around. Actually, it was a Democratic administration that brought us NAFTA. Now it's a Democrat-controlled House and Senate, that hopefully we will change the model. And that's what it is about. And you hit the nail right on the head; it's not about being protectionists, it's about how do we want that trade model to look.

I hope that the presidential candidates, as they go around this country, will start talking about trade. I am very pleased with a couple of the House Members, Congressman KUCINICH, Congressman HUNTER, a Republican, who has been very vocal on China currency manipulation. He has legislation dealing with China manipulation, along with Congressman RYAN. Congressman HUNTER also has bipartisan legislation with myself and Congressman PASCRELL, who is a lead sponsor, on the value-added tax. He is out there, out front.

I want to know where the other candidates are standing because this upcoming election is going to be extremely crucial to where this country is heading. We have a lot of issues we have to deal with, the value-added tax, currency manipulation. When you look at the whole patent issue, what's happening with that. We have a huge trade imbalance. How are we going to bring that trade imbalance back into line? That's why, Congresswoman SUTTON, I am very pleased to work with you because we're not only working as Democrats, we're working with our Republican colleagues across the aisle, we're working with environmental groups, labor groups. The business community, the United States Business and Industry Council, which has an association of small manufacturing businesses here in this country, has been very vocal on these trade issues, which is important because you have that business community and labor working together. That's what it's all about. Definitely there are those large corporations who have operations in India and China. These trade deals are nothing but a bottom line for them, but that bottom line for some of them could ruin this country.

We are heading for a perfect storm. We have the largest budgetary deficit in our history. We have the largest trade deficit in our history. We cannot sustain that type of deficit, either budgetary or trade, if we are to maintain our status, if we are to be a world leader. That is why it is very important for the American people to demand that those who are running for higher office, whether it's Congress or the Office of the United States President, they have to demand to know where they stand on these issues and be held accountable. Because so far, from what I have seen, there hasn't been much leadership in that particular area.

If we are going to fund education, health care, issues with childcare, taking care of our veterans, maintaining our super power status of military, we have to have an economy that allows us to do that. We cannot have that economy if we continue to outsource our jobs overseas.

I yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. SUTTON. The gentlewoman's points are well taken.

I am glad you brought up the issue of how far-reaching the effects of our failed trade policies go. I mean, the reality is that when we lose these jobs due to our broken trade system and the unfair trade policies that others pursue and we don't stop, what happens is our communities sometimes crumble because when those employers pull out and the jobs are gone, the tax base is gone. And then the city can't deliver services, our schools can't fund our education for our children. So it has these multiple ill effects that are set in motion.

You also raise a really important point, and I think it's worth emphasizing. Oftentimes, Congressman MICHAUD, when we have these discussions about trade, they like to say this is about business versus workers. And as you rightly point out, of course, the U.S. Business and Industry Council has been saying much of the same things that we've been saying here on the floor because they know that the window is closing, that there are many who want to literally ''make it in America,'' but because of the policies that we have in place, it is becoming all but impossible for them to do that. Once that window closes, I don't know how we get it back. So, we cannot allow that to happen.

On that point, I think that while we are sort of focused on this new deal about the Peru and Panama Free Trade Agreements, which of course represent a very, very small, minute portion of trade with this country, we are focused on that and the fact that there will be, at least on paper, some environmental and labor standards. Of course we are all very much in support of environmental and labor standards. But when we know that they are not going to be enforced and they are then just going to result in two more trade agreements that will result in more jobs being lost in this country, it doesn't really seem like the right place for us to be focusing when we have such a short window of time.

Again, you point out some very important pieces of legislation that are pending here in the House, including the Currency Manipulation bill that Congressman RYAN and Congressman HUNTER have sponsored and I think we are probably cosponsors on. That is an important place that we could be focusing on that could make an important difference in the very near future if we could enact.

The value-added tax, a similar situation. We could be focusing, as Congress is responsible for trade, on these matters that would really make a difference in the way trade plays out for the people who we represent in this country. I think that that would be a much better focus than to continue to cede responsibility to this administration.

It is a critical time. I know that the people back in Ohio are counting on us. And Ohio is going to be in the center of the storm, if past history is any indication, in these upcoming presidential elections. And this is an issue, I can assure you, that will be front and center in the minds of those people in Ohio as it was last year when they cast their vote.

With that, I will yield back to my good friend from Maine.

Mr. MICHAUD. Thank you very much. This is, as you said, a very important issue. And we are on a slippery slope currently.

When you look at Fast Track, Congress is giving up our responsibility as elected officials, as a co-equal branch of government if we pass Fast Track. Congress has no ability to amend trade deals under Fast Track, and I think it's taking the easy way out. I do not believe that Fast Track should pass. I will oppose Fast Track because it is not a good deal for Congress and it is not a good deal for the American people. We have to look at how we can change that model.

We have talked, I heard earlier, about the issues of training. Well, if you look at what happens when a mill shuts down because of unfair trade deals, yes, they do get training, as I mentioned earlier, but what are they going to train for, particularly when you have mill after mill after mill close because of trade deals, there's not much you can train. But also, when you look at some of the benefits and some of the problems we have seen because of mill closures. In the Katahdin region, where I am from, when the mills shut down, a lot of individuals actually had to tap into their 401(k) plan just to survive. What happens when they file their income tax? They get

penalized because they had to tap into their 401(k) plan. That's unfair. That's unjust. When they applied for unemployment, guess what? They're taxed on their unemployment. Now, if you want to talk about giving tax breaks to anyone, it's those who are unemployed who actually should have the tax breaks.

You look at what has been talked about earlier as well, the labor and environmental standards that they say will be part of the cortex on Peru and Panama, that is yet to be seen. I think we have seen articles in the paper where the administration is starting to slip out of that deal to try to conjure up some other deal and say, well, we will put it in the side room and what have you. So it will be interesting to see what they finally come up with.

But no matter what you do on labor standards, when you look at the Colombian trade deal, some of our colleagues say well, there are some labor violations. Well, I like the way that they talk about ''some labor violations.'' They are talking about assassinations of trade activitists. That's more than just a labor violation. And to say that well, we will put the standards in the trade deal, that is not going to solve the problem.

I met with the President of Colombia and I told him right up front that I want to see results before I support anything. I don't want to see more verbiage in a trade deal to say that they will take care of the problem. If they want to stop these assassinations, they can do a lot more than what they are doing currently today. I met with several elected officials, individuals from Colombia, on a couple of different occasions. And when you look at how some of these people are being assassinated, on two separate occasions, with other Members of Congress, when I was talking to these individuals, what they have done is to set an example of someone who is a union activist. They have actually beheaded them in front of their neighbors, to set an example, and played soccer with their heads. And this is a country we are going to sign a trade deal? That is outrageous, and it is just disgusting to see that sort of thing happen.

Before I do anything on the Colombian trade deal, I want to see the number of trade unionist assassinations drop. I don't want to see writing, I want to actually see results. And that is what is so important, when you look at these trade deals; they are affecting people's lives. These people are more than just numbers on a paper. I wish some of our colleagues could really understand that. I don't think they do. Probably because they haven't been affected like your district, Congressman HARE, my district.

I think it is important for the American people, also, to really focus on what is happening here in Congress. Just because it's a new Congress doesn't mean that we are going to change in a new direction when it comes to trade. They want to see results like we want to see results, and hopefully we will see results in this upcoming debate on trade.

And there are some issues we can do right now without trade deals. We can pass the Currency Manipulation dealing with China, that can be done right now. We can pass the value-added tax issue, that is a disadvantage to businesses here in this country. That deficit alone is I believe $379 billion, a tax that is affecting companies here in the United States.

□ 2045

That is not fair. We have to deal with that.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, the point is, if we're going to trust this administration to enforce labor standards and environmental standards, this is the same administration who hasn't even administered our own National OSHA program and has had one OSHA standard that they had to enforce, and that was because this administration was sued to get it.

I would hope my colleagues wouldn't just listen to us this evening. I would hope they would listen to the American people. Poll after poll say, if the American people are asked across the country, north to south, east to west, they are asked about these trade deals, the American people want to see that American workers have a right to be competitive.

I wrote down a list of some things: Steel, televisions, camcorders, clothing. The list goes on. It isn't that we don't have the workforce that can manufacture and make these things. They were quality products for years and years and years. Unfortunately, we have had a Government that felt that it was okay to take those jobs and to move them out.

I would also remind some of our colleagues that not every person that gets out of school wants to sit behind a computer terminal. There is great strength in working as a welder. It is a great task to be a fitter. It is a great task to be able to do something with your hands. God didn't create all of us to sit behind a terminal. I am convinced of that, because I am computer illiterate. I am living proof. I cut lining for men's suits for 13 years, and I know this: I know that we manufactured a marvelous product. I know my cutting room was outsourced because you can't compete against 17 cents an hour.

The unionized clothing worker back then was making a whopping $6.07 per hour when I worked in this factory. So this nonsense about American workers pricing themselves out of jobs because of collective bargaining agreements, that dog, as they say, just isn't going to hunt.

I would ask this body, this House, to pay attention to what the American people said last November. They sent us here to do something positive for them. I haven't met a worker yet who said, could you do me a favor, PHIL? I hope you do the best you can when you get out there to make sure I can get some TRA funding and lose my job. People want us to stand up for them, and that is what we are here tonight for.

I want to commend the Congresswoman from Ohio, BETTY SUTTON. She has been a tremendous force in this issue of bringing it forward, staying with it and not being afraid to take some lumps, because sometimes we can do that in this business.

But let me tell you, this issue that we are talking about this evening is one of the most important issues this country faces. We are going to be at a crossroads with these trade agreements. We can either decide to stand up and be counted, or we can stand aside and watch these jobs go and bemoan the fact that they are gone down the road and try to solve this by throwing some money at a TRA program that not only needs to be reworked, it needs to be reworked because it isn't working, and it hasn't been working for a long time for American workers who have been displaced.

I just want to close by saying this tonight: I am for trade. I have said it before. I am for any type of a fair trade agreement that works. But I will not vote for a single piece of legislation that comes to this floor that will outsource one more job, not just from the 17th District of Illinois, the 13th District of Ohio, a district in Maine.

But from Maine to California, we have a responsibility. I am here because of the working men and women of my district. I am going to do the very best I can. And I will tell all of them that are watching, I would encourage them to talk to their Representative and to try to tell them just how important this issue is and what is at stake.

Let me again thank my colleague from Maine for his leadership on this issue. He is probably one of the most forceful voices we have in this Chamber to stand up for American working men and women. I am honored to be here tonight, and I'm honored to serve with you, and I thank the gentleman for giving me this time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Well, thank you, very much, Mr. HARE, for your compliments. But we are here as a team. We are here to do what is right for the American people, whether you are an employee, whether you are an employer, because that is very important.

I know that you know as well as Congresswoman SUTTON and a lot in the freshman class who actually ran on this issue, you have seen what it has done to your districts. You have seen what it is doing to our country. It is very important that those who are sitting here get out there and talk to the people who have been affected by this.

It is not that we have to pass trade deals because you want to be good on

business or vote against them because of labor. This isn't a business-labor issue. This is an American issue. It is an issue that is extremely important if we are to sustain our status in the world. We have to make sure that we have trade deals that are fair. It is not about being protectionist. It is about the rules of trade. That is what it is about, the rules of trade. And I think it is extremely important that the majority party and the minority party and the rank and file Members who are dealing with this issue look at it in a comprehensive manner.

We have to do several things, as I mentioned earlier, and there is a lot we can do next week and the week after without any trade deal. The currency manipulation, there is legislation dealing with that. There is legislation in dealing with the value-added tax. If those people who are very interested in trade, the so-called free traders, we can pass these pieces of legislation this month to say, yes, we are serious about trade, and here is a start. Then we can start looking at some of these trade deals that have been negotiated, the Peru and Panama trade deal, what has happened with Korea, and see whether or not we should enact those. But we have to start, and we have to start today.

We are a new Congress, a Congress to which the American people said that we want a new direction in this country. And we have to give them the new direction that they want, because I can guarantee you, in this upcoming election cycle, if we do not make changes in how we deal with the trade issues, we will be on a slippery slope. I don't want that to happen.

I think the American people deserve better. The American people deserve better, and the business community in this country deserves better. Hopefully we will be able to give them that.

Once again I want to close by thanking you very much, Congressman HARE, for your strong leadership, and you, Congresswoman SUTTON, both in the freshman class. You're a breath of fresh air here in this Congress. I look forward to working with you as we move forward in this debate.

THE SUBURBAN AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BERKLEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, as we begin the work of this Congress, we should follow several key principles. Our first principle, which should be the main work of this House, should be focused on key major issues before the country; the second principle is that we should be effective and enact solutions for the American people; and the third is that we should use this debate to build consensus to deploy bipartisan action on behalf of our country.

One commentator looking at the record of the current Congress said that we are packing two days of debate into a four-day workweek. When you look at the record of this Congress so far, you can see that we have taken action on 13 bills to name a Federal building or post office or to build a road, we have enacted five bills to extend preexisting laws that were already on the books or passed last year, and we have passed eight bills cosponsored by a large number of Republicans or passed entirely without opposition. It is not an impressive record of work so far. And when you look at the actions of this Congress, you can see many pieces of legislation on which there has been no action in this Congress, despite a great need by the American people.

One of the key pieces of legislation that passed in the 109th Congress was the Deleting Online Predators Act. This is a bill which would protect children from online predators, especially those who use social networking sites like MySpace.com, the number one website on the planet, where the Center For National Missing and Exploited Children reports that at any one time there are 50,000 sexual predators online trying to get the attention of children.

This legislation, the Deleting Online Predators Act, passed the House of Representatives last year by a vote of 410–15. It stalled in the Senate, and as of yet in this Congress there has been no action whatsoever.

In the last Congress, we also passed the Student and Teacher Safety Act. The Student and Teacher Safety Act was endorsed by the National Education Association and would say that for any registered full-time teacher in America, that they have complete discretion to search a book bag or a locker to make sure that the classroom was gun-free. As a former teacher myself and as someone who has worked with many teachers, I think it is appropriate for the Congress to use a teacher's full-time professional judgment to make sure that their classroom, their workplace, was a safe place to be, not just for teachers, but especially for children.

When we have seen attacks in places like Winnetka, Illinois, or Columbine, or even Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Virginia, we can see that there is a need to fully empower teachers with the right to search to make sure that their facilities are safe. The Student and Teacher Safety Act passed the House unanimously in the last Congress, was delayed in the United States Senate, and no action has been taken this year.

The Congress in the last term also passed the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Act. We have seen throughout America, especially in suburban communities, rapidly disappearing green and open space. It is very important for us to defend the National Park System. In fact, I think the country should set a long-term goal of doubling the size of the National Park System. But we also want to make sure that we preserve green and open space close to where Americans live, in the suburbs.

This act would establish new and local grant programs to help protect suburban open space. Without action by the Congress, in 20 years time, many of the areas where we currently see green and open space could be an unending series of strip malls, removing an ambience, hurting our environment and delaying our ability to take effective action on global climate change. This legislation passed unanimously in the last Congress, but this Congress has failed to take any action on it.

One of the critical issues before this Congress is whether to pay Members of Congress who have been convicted of a felony and who have lost all of their appeals and beyond the shadow of a doubt stand condemned before the American people, and yet still collect a pension for their service in the Congress.

We have seen Members of Congress, like Dan Rostenkowski or Bob Ney or Duke Cunningham or James Traficant, all completely convicted by a jury of their peers beyond the shadow of a doubt, Members of Congress who lost or did not exercise any of their appeals, who are currently or have served in jail, and yet today or in months past have collected their congressional pensions from the jailhouse ATM.

In 1996, the Congress passed comprehensive reforms to kill the pension for any Member of Congress convicted of any one of 21 separate public integrity felonies. It was a bipartisan victory, with the full support of Speaker HASTERT and Speaker PELOSI. This legislation, once again, was delayed and killed in the United States Senate.

Today we have seen Members like Congressman JEFFERSON from Louisiana, indicted on 16 felony counts, and, but for this legislation, would have a right as a nine term Member of Congress, if convicted and if losing all of their appeals, to collect a $50,000 a year pension, even if convicted for betraying the very taxpayers that pay that pension.

□ 2100

The Congress in February passed very limited pension reform legislation which wouldn't kill the pension for a Member of Congress on conviction of 21 felonies, but instead would only kill that pension for conviction of any one of four felonies. And basic felonies like wire fraud and income tax invasion would still allow the payment of a congressional pension.

Despite limited action by the Congress in January both in the House and Senate, legislation to kill the pension of a Member of Congress convicted of a felony has been completely stalled, completely stalled in February, in March, in April, in May, and now in the first weeks of June with no action and potential actions against other Members of Congress convicted of a felony.

In my view, the hundreds of thousands of dollars paid each year to Members of Congress convicted of a felony are a travesty and should be stopped by the elected representatives of the American people to defend the taxpayer.

All of this details the lack of a substantive agenda by this Congress which should be put before the American people working on issues that they care about, on key challenges before their families. As I have outlined, beyond naming some Post Offices, designating some roads, and passing legislation on which there is little to no debate, this Congress has not done much yet and right now is falling beneath its potential as a great deliberative body of one of the world's premier democracies.

What I would like to do tonight is lay out a new agenda, an agenda that would be meaningful to many Americans and taking on key problems before them.

This action was proffered before in the enactment of the suburban agenda last year which took action on a number of key items like the School Safety Acquiring Faculty Excellence Act authored by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER). That bill basically took up the issue of Jessica Lunsford who was killed by someone employed by a school who had never had a background check. Despite his clear and demonstrable criminal record, this man was allowed to be in close contact with children leading to a tragic result.

The School Safety Acquiring Faculty Excellence Act passed the Congress and allowed every school in the country access to national criminal databases in order to ensure that every activity was taken to make sure that people who are put in close contact with children did not represent a clear and present danger to their safety.

The Congress also took on the issue of open space by passing the Charitable Donations For Open Space Act. This improved the treatment of conservation easements and other open space donations critical to preserving green and open space in the suburbs.

We also looked at the issue of helping families with expanding college costs by expanding permanently the charter of so-called 529 college savings account.

In my home State of Illinois, these are called ''bright start accounts.'' And by permanently extending these tax deferred savings plans, we helped Americans with their college savings.

With those pieces of legislation, and the ones I talked about earlier which passed the House in an overwhelming bipartisan fashion but were killed in the Senate, we laid out a work plan for the Congress strongly supported by the American people with overwhelming bipartisan support on the Republican and Democratic side.

But as I detailed, key pieces of legislation remain to be enacted like the Deleting Online Predators Act, like the Two Student and Teacher Safety Act, like the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Act. Persistence is a value strongly rewarded in the United States Congress, and following on that value, we have laid out a new suburban agenda for this year. The suburban agenda outlines a number of key pieces of legislation that directly meets the needs of American people in bipartisan ways to make sure that we are working on the key issues of the day and move the ball effectively, building bipartisan consensus.

Key items on the suburban agenda include the Gang Elimination Act by Representative REICHERT, which looks at a key problem in the United States which is of internationally connected drug gangs representing major franchises in criminal activity, moving to the suburbs, potentially overwhelming suburban law enforcement communities. While large cities like New York or Chicago have large gang intelligence units and years of experience in dealing with international drug gangs, drug gangs that are now moving to the suburbs can quickly overwhelm a small police force like the one in Waukegan, Illinois, that is facing a criminal empire that comprises thousands of potential gang members, and links to a number of countries.

The Gang Elimination Act calls for the Justice Department to identify the top three national drug gangs and lay out a 4-year strategy for taking those drug gangs down. This is something entirely appropriate, to lay out a mandate for whoever is our next President of the United States to make sure that we remove this threat to the American people.

If you added up all of the documented gang members who are in the United States, it would total the size of the seventh largest army on the planet. The average gang shooter in my State of Illinois is in the 7th grade, and this is a threat that the Federal Government in Washington can help law enforcement deal with.

A second piece of the suburban agenda is the 401 Kids Family Savings Account Act by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT). We look at key figures like 70 percent of Americans fear it will be more difficult for their children to remain in the middle class than it was for them. You have to simply ask the question: How likely or how easy will it be for your children to afford the very house that they are being raised in?

Access to college in our view is a critical step to making sure that your children have a chance to be full and successful members of the middle class. When we have seen universities like George Washington University now totaling $50,000 a year for tuition, we can see a substantial roadblock in the way of the future success of one's son or daughter.

The 401 Kids Family Savings Account, and previous legislation modeled after it, would allow every American to build success upon success. One of the best things that the Congress has done is to allow every American working with the opportunity to establish a 401(k) retirement program to build tax deferred savings for their families.

Tens of millions of Americans have now established those 401(k) programs, and we would like every American to have a chance, an opportunity, to establish a 401 kids account for their new son or daughter, from the first day they are born, tax deferred savings for college, for the first-time purchase of a home or for starting a new business.

This would not only help boost the savings of the United States, but it would be a dramatic way to upgrade the financial education of American children because these 401 kids account statements would come into parents and allow each one of them to sit down with their son or daughter and see how a disciplined pattern of savings and investment could build a lifetime of good habits for that child.

One of the other pieces of legislation is the Health Insurance For Life Act by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT). The Health Insurance For Life Act would basically look at a key problem in today's America which is that the average American family, especially in the suburbs, will have seven jobs over their lifetime, and we still have thousands of Americans exercising their COBRA rights to continue their health care coverage. Under Federal law if you have been covered by an employer-provided health care plan, if you lose your job, you can still continue health care and insurance for your family for at least 18 months at your own expense. But many Americans hit the end of that 18-month limit and they will not be allowed to have a safe place to cover their family without extension of these rights.

The Health Insurance Portability Act, otherwise known as the Health Insurance For Life Act of 2007, would allow families at their own cost to continue their health care insurance so there is always in a seven-job career a safe place for their family to be covered. And there would always be an option to maintain that coverage.

As I mentioned before, one of the key parts of our agenda is the Deleting Online Predators Act because throughout America we have not seen a reduction in people who would seek to use the new and powerful tools of the web and the Internet, and especially social networking sites, to reach out and attack children. It is already common knowledge through the culture, and especially through shows like Dateline NBC, that we have seen repeat offenders, even on the same network news show.

The suburban agenda also includes other key items. The one at the bottom is very important for the mid-21st century, and that is the Senior Safety For Dignity Act. The Senior Safety For Dignity Act updates a set of bill of rights for Americans who need nursing home care to ensure that they maintain their dignity. This is legislation

put forward by Mrs. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.

The Senior Safety For Dignity Act is very important because in our country the baby boom is aging. The first baby boomer collects a retirement check in 2009. The number of retirees in America will go from 35 million to almost 90 million, and the need for nursing home care in our country will grow. We need to upgrade the bill of rights for Americans in nursing homes because of the large expansion in capability that we will need in our country and to make sure that the quality of care is maintained.

One of the experts in this Congress is my colleague, a physician and a Member from Georgia, Dr. PRICE, who can comment on a number of these key issues.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. It really is a privilege for me to come to the floor tonight and work with you, Mr. KIRK, for a few moments and to explain to our colleagues here in the House and to the Speaker about the suburban agenda, a very important area. I appreciate your leadership in this area. You have been steadfast in making certain that these issues, and they may not be top-tier issues, they may not be headlines in all of our newspapers, but your district, like my district, I have a suburban district outside of Atlanta, and folks there are concerned about what folks all across this Nation are concerned about.

Mr. KIRK. We have seen consistently that while events in Iran or Iraq, while issues concerning global climate change, and of course the immigration bill in the Senate are all front-burner issues, but for American families, education, health care, protecting the environment and saving for college are important issues.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. That really is true. When I talk with groups at home, and once we get past the hot button, the headline issues of Iraq and immigration and the like, people are concerned about education for their kids and they are concerned about health care for themselves and their parents. They are concerned about security and quality of life issues in their community to make certain that there is going to be green space and there are places where can take their kids.

I was sitting in my office and I had to come down and join you. These are not Republican issues or Democrat issues, these are American issues.

□ 2115

They're issues that I think all of the House can rally around. And you mentioned the health care issue, and as a physician, I understand as well as anybody I suspect about the importance of being able to provide health insurance for families.

We live in a world now where jobs aren't constant. It used to be that your dad and my dad and other folks, they'd get a job and they'd be with that same company 25, 30, 35 years, and they'd get a gold watch and they'd move on and they'd take that health care with them. Now, that's not the case. Our children will have 7, 8, 9, 10 different jobs, 10 different employers and oftentimes having themselves as being self-employed.

Mr. KIRK. One solution would be to have the government take over everyone's health care and to make sure we take action that breaks the link between you and your physician and insert a large bureaucracy that currently runs the post office and now put it in charge of your health care.

Many of us think that that may not be the way to go. The way to go is to make sure that for many Americans, they like the health insurance plan that they're on, and then they would like to carry that through the five to seven jobs that they will have in the 21st century.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Exactly. And that hits the nail right on the head. People want to know that their health care is going to be consistent and they have the ability, along with their physicians, to make health care decisions, which is why the Health Insurance Portability Act that Congressman DENT is reintroducing is so important.

It makes it so, as I understand, that if an individual changes jobs, that they're able to provide that COBRA insurance for as long as needed. So it makes it so they can continue that COBRA insurance for a much longer period of time, to tide them over until they're with another employer or they can be able to provide for individual insurance on their own.

It's not the be-all-and-end-all, but it is a particularly important piece of the puzzle that makes it so that people can maintain their own health insurance, and I know that you agree with that.

Mr. KIRK. The need here is to remove the fear that somehow a loss of a job or discovery of a preexisting condition will deny Americans and their families health care insurance. What we want to make sure is you already have a right under Federal law to extend your health care insurance for 18 months. Now, we're not talking about extending it indefinitely, because when an American reaches age 65, you're going to be covered by Medicare, and if you fall below the poverty line, you're going to be covered by Medicaid.

But for large numbers of people, especially looking at an unsure job market, we want to have them assured by this piece of legislation that there's always a safe place for their family to be covered.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Exactly, and that gets to the number of uninsured that we have in this Nation. There are 45, 46, 47 million individuals who at some point during this calendar year will be without health insurance. Those aren't the folks that are on Medicaid. Those aren't the folks that are on Medicare. Those are the folks that are between jobs oftentimes, who are unable to continue the COBRA insurance that they ought to be able to, and this is what this bill would do. It would really, really solve one of the major problems that we have with working Americans who do indeed want to provide health insurance for families.

So I commend you for your leadership on this issue and so many others.

The Senior Safety Indignity Act is extremely important. I served in the State legislature, as I know many folks in this chamber did, and every single year we would hear horror stories about problems of health care workers in the nursing home or extended care facility arena.

And in Georgia what we tried to do was a similar kind of thing to make certain that background checks were available, and this would provide that kind of security and that kind of important information for individuals in the senior centers so that we know that the folks who were going to be assisting seniors and caring for seniors have the appropriate skills and the appropriate background in order to do that.

Mr. KIRK. The gentleman is one of the most respected physicians here in the Congress. The difficulty before this country is that the baby boom began when the troops came home in 1945. So, for an American born in that key year, you're going to be collecting a retirement check in 2009 when you hit your 65th birthday. There are so many Americans that then enter the retirement cohort and that may need nursing home care. That is the critical reason why this Congress may have to work on fewer bills naming post offices and designating roads and more on making sure that we maintain quality senior care as the baby boom generation retires.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I appreciate that, and the point that you're making is so vital for all of us in this chamber to appreciate, and that is, that we've now been in session 5½ months, and we've passed and sent to the President about 28 to 30 pieces of legislation. Almost the majority of those are naming a building or naming a post office or renaming a building or renaming a post office.

And these issues here, if you look down the list of those seven issues, from the gang elimination to teacher and student safety, to other education issues with 401 Kids Family Savings Act or the Health Insurance Act that we talked about, the Deleting Online Predators Act, open space, Senior Safety Act, these are the issues that are of vital importance to the American people all across this Nation. These are issues that, frankly, ought to get the vast majority of Members of this chamber on both sides of the aisle's support so that we could move forward with real legislation for real people.

Mr. KIRK. I take the gentleman's point. When you look at our legislative work, in 5½ months, in such promise with the new Congress, what we've done, these are all great Americans

who should be honored, but these actions should not be the sum total of what the Congress has done.

We've named the Gale McGee Post Office; the Rush Hudson Limbaugh, Sr., Post Office; Scipio Jones Post Office; the Lane Evans, one of my colleagues from Illinois, Post Office. All good Americans that should be honored, but this should not be the sum total of the work of the Congress.

The country witnessed a tragedy in Blacksburg, Virginia, with the attack on Virginia Tech. A number of experienced educators saw some warning signs, as we saw before at Columbine High School, as we saw before in the Winnetka school system when Laurie Dann attacked it.

The Student and Teacher Safety Act is common-sense legislation that this Congress should take up. It says to any full-time teacher, you know the warning signs, you know your children that are in the classrooms, and we want to make sure that you don't have to fear a trial lawyer and you don't have to get a warrant. If you suspect that a threat to your classroom, to your kids has come into a locker or in through a bookbag, and now the classroom is a dangerous place, you have complete authority to remove that danger.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. And you're right. The incident at Virginia Tech was so astounding and so horrific for all of us to witness, and our hearts and our prayers still go out to those families.

But I understand, as I know you do, that there were individuals who were reticent to bring that out into the open before it happened, bring that individual who apparently committed that awful, awful tragedy out into the open for fear of potential liability.

That's no way for a Nation to live. That's no way for a responsible people to have to operate, to have to think in the back of their mind, well, can I do what's right or do I have to worry about an attorney, do I have to worry about a lawsuit.

This is the kind of legislation that we, as a Congress, if we adopted these seven items, I suspect that the American people would say this is a Congress that has acted appropriately, and we would all be able to stand proud and with that poster and present it to our constituents and say this is a responsible agenda for the American people.

My concern right now over the next three weeks, as you well know, we're entering appropriations time. It is very likely that none of these things, none of them, will be even brought to the floor during this period of time and that we'll get bound up in the process of spending hard-earned taxpayer money, trying to be responsible in that endeavor. But these issues that are supported by 60, 70, 80 percent of the American people, we ought to be able to take those off the table right away.

Mr. KIRK. I'm worried, too. The gentleman can talk about Atlanta. In Chicago, in the Chicagoland area, we are now seeing a great expansion of large national gang franchises like the Latin Kings, like the Gangster Disciples, et cetera, moving into the suburbs. A suburban police department has far fewer resources than a big city like Chicago and Atlanta to fight these, and so that's where the Federal Government can come in.

We're particularly concerned about a gang that some Americans have heard about called Mara Salvatrucha, MS–13, which seems to be particularly violent and one in which there are tantalizing clues that there may have been discussions with terrorist organizations with links overseas because the leaders of MS–13 don't have obviously any patriotic feeling toward the United States, and if they could link up to a terrorist organization for money, they would.

In the city of Chicago, we have now seen these gangs moving into places like Waukegan or Aurora or Joliet. I don't know about Atlanta, but it seems like particularly appropriate when you see that the average gang shooter for these international drug gangs is in the 7th grade.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. We have similar experiences in the city of Atlanta and then in the surrounding area. I don't represent any of the city of Atlanta itself. My district abuts the city of Atlanta, but I have small cities, some as small as 8- to 12,000 residents. I have some as large as 80- to 100,000, and then some unincorporated county areas.

But the resources that they have with which to fight gangs aren't the kind of resources that large metropolitan cities have, large urban areas have, and this bill, introduced by Representative Dave Weichert who himself is a hero in the law enforcement arena, having been the sheriff out in Washington State.

Mr. KIRK. With the Green River killer.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Apprehended the Green River killer, and such a hero he is, and we ought to as a House of Representatives and as a Nation recognize that this Act, this would allow police departments and law enforcement officials all across this Nation to know that there are resources being brought to bear to identify, like MS–13, to identify those gangs that are the greatest threat to our communities, the greatest threat to our constituents all across this Nation, that there is a unified strategy that is going to be brought to bear in order to make it so that we prevail in this war.

Mr. KIRK. I'm particularly worried because in the recent failed Senate immigration bill there was an amendment put forward to deny documented members of international drug gangs the chance to enter the pathway to citizenship that the legislation proposed. That amendment failed.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. This immigration bill that was just in the Senate last week, many of us had great concerns over, but are you telling me that there was a portion of the bill that it would allow gang members who had been convicted of a felony, that if they were found to be illegal, that they couldn't be deported; is that what you are saying?

Mr. KIRK. The proposed amendment would have denied any documented member of an international drug gang from the chance to apply for the pathway to citizenship that it proposed, and that amendment was defeated 51–46.

When we came together and proposed the Gang Elimination Act, we at least looked at the several hundred thousand documented gang members in the United States and said how do we deal with this problem.

Sometimes I have to have the concern that this Congress may take action in which that number would increase, making the problem even worse by action of the Federal Government. That's why I think refocusing our work for actions beyond naming of post offices to looking at how small suburban communities are being overwhelmed by large gangs with international links, some of whom may add to members if the wrong legislation should pass the Congress, that is an issue that should be squarely put before this Congress.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I couldn't agree more, and there was such great promise for this new Congress, this new majority, not of which we're a part of, but this new majority that was swept in and began in January and all sorts of wonderful promises about great legislation and being responsive to the concerns of Americans all across the Nation. And what we've had is a legislative agenda that hasn't done that.

And so you and I stand here tonight inviting our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to embrace this suburban agenda, embrace an agenda that 70, 80 percent of the American people would support with common-sense pieces of legislation that address security, that address health care, that address education, that address caring for our seniors, that address green space. It just astounds me that we can't get that kind of support on both sides.

□ 2130

Mr. KIRK. It's okay to criticize, if we find that in 5½ months we haven't done as much as we had hoped. But Americans, I think, at our core, look for solutions. This Congress has 18 months to go. So it's not enough just to criticize. You then have to put forward a positive agenda of not only saying we haven't done enough, and maybe we should not just consider 13 bills to name Federal property and 5 bills to extend preexisting law, but work at these problems. Then the question is, what is your agenda?

To date, I haven't seen a comprehensive agenda for the other side. I know that a vast majority of Republicans and Democrats will join on this agenda. When we look, we have a critical problem with online predators, at any

one time, 50,000 online predators contacting kids. There are hundreds of contacts in each month, in my own congressional district.

Now, people like Julie Wachtheim, the President of Wheeling High School, who, minutes after putting her class photo on a new MySpace page was contacted by a sexual predator using an advanced search engine that obviously showed us that he was contacting not just her, but hundreds of other young girls, in an attempt to find someone. I am not sure if that is the case in the Atlanta suburbs as well, but I think this is beginning to be a real threat to Americans. This was not part of our growing up.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. No, absolutely.

Mr. KIRK. The Internet was largely invented in 1996 after you and I had both completed college. But this is part of our children's growing up. I think this calls for congressional action.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I appreciate that. It's not that the Internet is bad, it's just that this is a different world, and the Internet is now like Main Street of 20 or 30 years ago, where you would have to be wary of strangers, and our parents told us about strangers on Main Street and how to deal with them. It's much more difficult when those strangers are able to come literally into your own home and entice young people who may not have their guard up as much.

We have story after story, time after time you will hear law enforcement officers talk about the challenges that they have in even getting young people to admit that, in fact, they have been susceptible or been approached by this kind of behavior. But it is rampant out there. It's absolutely rampant. There is not any reason that we ought not to be able to pass some commonsense legislation like the Deleting Online Predators Act like you have introduced in this House of Representatives, which is something that ought to be supported by 70, 80, 90 percent of our colleagues here, something that ought to go, frankly, in front of the appropriations battles we are about to wage over the next 3 to 6 weeks as we work as diligently as we can to responsibly spend hard-earned taxpayer money. But this is something that we ought to be able to coalesce behind.

Mr. KIRK. I don't know of a single community in my district that hasn't been touched by this tragedy yet.

What we are talking about is laying out a new set of rules of the road in the 21st century to protect children, like advising parents through the Federal Communications Commission, Federal Trade Commission, that growing up in America today means having the computer in the living room rather than the child's bedroom, with a casual look and walk-bys by the parent so you can see who is trying to contact your kids.

Like one Pennsylvania mother said, in the 21st century I have a complete right to all of my children's passwords to make sure that I know who is trying to contact my young, minor child, and then to make sure that there are protections at school and in libraries. In my district, we have found some predators who are using library computers, school staff that were using library computers to contact kids, to make sure that our schools do not enable virtual hunting grounds to find kids. All of this is exactly what the Congress should work on, a new technology, which has an unintended effect of creating a new danger, and then Congress stepping in to make sure that danger is removed. We are not working on that right now.

With the eight bills cosponsored by Republicans or passed without opposition, five extending preexisting public law or order, and thirteen to name Federal property or to build a road, that action has not been taken. Action has not also been taken to kill the pension for a Member of Congress convicted of a felony.

We have just seen one of our colleagues indicted for 16 felonies. We have seen some of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, convicted, and yet they are paid their pension by the very taxpayers they have betrayed.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. That's the kind of perpetuation of business as usual here in Washington, that the folks at home just say what on earth are you doing when an individual can be convicted of a felony, and continue to get their pension, they just shake their head. They throw their hands up in the air, and they say, what are you doing? Why can't you do something responsible, which is why this positive agenda, suburban agenda, which is all things again that the vast majority of Members of this House ought to be supporting, which is why we ought to be pushing that forward.

I, for the life of me, I can't answer why we ought not to be able to deal with these things before we launch into the battles over the appropriations bills.

Do you have any sense as to why the majority party won't allow these kinds of bills to come to the floor?

Mr. KIRK. I just worry. Right now, the Congress took very limited action to kill the pensions for Members of Congress back on January 23, but then see stalled action. We have taken no action on ethics reform, killing pensions for Members of Congress convicted of felonies in February, no action in March, no action in April, no action in May, no action now for the first few weeks of June.

You worry because senior Members of Congress have the largest pensions, and they are in charge of this place. Why is it that we are delaying action on this critical reform?

I always thought that the most important thing about such a reform is to prevent crime. You know, if you kill the pension for a Member of Congress convicted of a felony, you almost turn their family members, their spouses, into adjuncts of the Ethics Committee, because they are worried about their future retirement income. That's as it should be, keeping everyone on the straight and narrow.

The State of Illinois is not seen as the cleanest State in the Union. Yet even under our State law, we kill the pension for public officials convicted of a felony, like even Governor Ryan, who just lost his appeal to do that.

I worry, though, that we haven't taken any of these actions. We have stalled actions on all of these items, with an overwhelming number of Republicans, Democrats and independents, wanting action on health care and making sure that we can afford college, and so far this Congress has fallen short of its potential.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Not only fallen short, but I would suggest to my good friend from Illinois that the majority party has seemed to raise hiding and decreasing transparency and accountability in a very important area to a huge degree, and that is the area of earmarks, the area of special projects, pork projects, special projects for Members.

What we have just learned in the past week or so is that the Appropriations chair has said well, we won't be debating any of these earmarks, these special projects on the floor of the House. We won't be debating them. What we will do is parachute them in, air drop them in a conference committee so that there can be no light, no sunshine on these earmarks.

That's the kind of priority that concerns me about this majority party, that they have a priority for decreasing transparency and decreasing accountability for spending, but they also, by the same token, will not address the concerns of the vast majority of Americans all across our Nation.

In the area of security, in the area of education, in the area of health care, in the area of senior security, in the area of green space in our communities, a wonderful, positive agenda that we have put before this Congress and, in fact, it's getting no visibility here on floor of the House.

Mr. KIRK. I am just worried, too, because we have now talked about how George Washington University is talking about $50,000 for 1-year of tuition, the first university in the country to break that mark. So you look at a 4-year bachelor's degree at $200,000, post tax, far beyond the ability of a middle-class family to reach that level.

So what should the Congress do? Should we have the government take over all college education? Should the government control prices? Should we have more controls from the House of Representatives so that those who run every other government bureaucracies now run every education institution in the country? I would say no. I would say that we have had too many shortages and too much waste if a bureaucracy can take control of a college.

On the other hand, could we all join together to increase savings and investment for each American family to build success upon success, the 401(k) program, by authorizing each American family the day that your son or daughter is born to establish a 401 kids tax-deferred savings account.

When we look at how this Congress can sometimes change culture, we have seen that 401(k), an obscure section of the IRS code, has now become part of the lexicon off our country because of how successful it is.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Exactly.

Mr. KIRK. We had a time, probably, when there was a good cigar salesman out there that made it de rigeur that every young father would buy cigars for everyone when they had a new child. That is probably part of the 20th century and not part of the 21st century.

So what is it that we can do that becomes part of the cultural experience of every American when their son or daughter is born? One of the things we can do is pass this bill so that every dad on their way home, or mom, if she is so inclined, can stop by some sort of financial institution or a savings and loan or a credit union, and establish a 401Kids account for their son or daughter.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Wouldn't that be wonderful. What a grand legacy. The bill you are referring to is H.R. 87, primary sponsorship by JUDY BIGGERT. It's something that's near and dear to our hearts in Georgia. As you may recall, Senator Paul Coverdale, the late Paul Coverdale, served in the United States Senate. One of his goals was to make certain that there was an ability by all families to be able to afford a college education for their children. He fought as hard as he could during his tenure in the United States Senate to make certain that happened.

This is an extension of that. This is a wonderful, would provide a wonderful opportunity for families to put aside a little money in a tax-free mechanism to be able to cover college education for their children.

Mr. KIRK. In the State of Illinois, under section 529, which is a charter that allows States to set up college savings program, we call them Bright Start accounts. What does Georgia call its college saving program?

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. We have the HOPE Scholarship savings plan in Georgia, which is remarkably successful. But there is no reason we ought not extend it because what we provide in Georgia is you can't use that money out of state.

Mr. KIRK. Right. So the problem we have now is that we have not fully taken advantage of the successes that we have already put in place, that Congress lets each State establish a college charter savings plan like HOPE Scholarship in Georgia or Bright Start in Illinois. But these, each State program, has restrictions and the inability to transfer freely throughout the country.

One of the great things about the 401(k) program is that it allows, not only, for Americans to transfer their accounts between employers, but no difficulty to transfer between States. Should not we give that opportunity to each young son or daughter in America so that we can save and invest for college?

We know, already, with $70 billion invested in HOPE scholarships or in Bright Start accounts throughout the country, that this has been a great success. How much more of a success will we have if we simply gave the full national charter to 401Kids accounts. I come out of a military background, if you are transferred, or you are part of a large organization, you may live in several States and have the ability to fully transfer these amounts in a national program, bottom line, to make sure that there is much more money available for your son or daughter to be in college.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Absolutely. What a great template to use. What a wonderful model with the 401(k) program, which is familiar to millions, tens of millions, if not over 100 million Americans, who have some type of 401(k) program. They understand how simple it is, how easy it is, how almost painless it is to be able to plan for the future to put that money aside, and to have a vehicle that models itself off of that, after that, as the 401Kids program would do, to allow moms and dads all across this Nation to be able to put a little money aside on a regular basis. When Junior grows up, they will recognize at the age of 15 or 16 that he or she indeed will be able to have the ability to go to the college of his or her choice and realize their his or her potential and their dreams.

Mr. KIRK. We have now seen also with the 401(k) program a change in how Americans look at the economy for the future. There was a time in which most Americans owned no stock and saw the New York Stock Exchange or the other exchanges as something far away, not part of their lives, and maybe for rich people only.

The 401(k) program changed all of that.

□ 2145

And so now we have tens of millions of Americans who are investors, and changing that one cultural attribute that we maybe shouldn't have, which is looking too much for the short term, and helping the whole country change into a new investor mentality, to invest for the long haul, to look at high technology and other investments to see that savings can be built up in a far more substantial way, beyond just a savings account at a bank if they can be put into long term stocks and bonds.

These are habits that have been built for adults, but have not been inculcated in children; that if we start 401 kids accounts with your son or daughter's name on that account, that as your child gets to be 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 years old, it gives an education opportunity to say to your daughter, look at what we've done in just the last year and how much this has gone up, hoping that this will set an example for the rest of her life, making sure that she has successful habits to save and invest for the future.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. What a wonderful vision and what a wonderful dream. We've all heard the stories of the entrepreneur individual with a significant amount of resources who went into a community and said to a high school or a middle school class that normally wouldn't necessarily have the resources to go to college, any of you that complete your high school education in a way that would allow you to enter a college, I'll fund that college education. This would transfer that, and those kids then do extremely well, so much better than their peers in other classes who haven't been given that assurance.

This is the kind of program that would give that assurance to every young child all across this Nation, to allow their parents to be able to put aside a little bit of money, a little resources over the lifetime of their child so that they can then afford the college education and open the dreams for each and every child.

Mr. KIRK. Just to sum up the key principles that I think we should follow, this Congress, this House should work on the major issues before the American people and especially their families, Number 1.

Number 2, we should take effective action that enacts solutions to problems that American families face.

And Number 3, that we should work to build consensus to sustain bipartisan action. We should not operate this House in a way that, as one person said, packs 2 days of debate into a 4-day work week; that this House can do much more than name Post Offices or designate roads; that we are here not just criticizing, we're laying out an agenda that, based on the last Congress, we know an overwhelming number of Democrats and Republicans will join, like the Deleting On-Line Predators Act that passed 410–15; like the Student and Teacher Safety Act endorsed by the National Education Association that passed unanimously; like the Open Space and Farm Land Preservation Act that also passed unanimously.

If we can join together on these items, key pieces of legislation, already bipartisan cosponsors laid out, I think we would help this Congress reach more of the potential than currently in 5 months of work it's failed to do.

But to conclude, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I know that our time is short, but I just want to commend you once again for your you leadership in this area. These are issues that concern all Americans, issues of education, issues of safety,

issues of security, issues of health care, and they are issues that the vast majority of us ought to support.

So I challenge our friends on both sides of the aisle to step forward and support a positive agenda for the American people. It's outlined right here.

I want to commend you for your leadership, and I appreciate the opportunity to join you tonight.

Mr. KIRK. I thank you. And I commend everyone, that if you'd like to learn more about the suburban agenda, you can go on to our website, www.house.gov/Kirk for an outline of the suburban agenda. This is not just an us-only agenda. This is an agenda that we hope will be matched from the other side. But refocusing our work on health care, on education, on environmental protection and on economic growth, so that this Congress can realize it's full potential far better than in the first 5 months of our activity.

HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BERKLEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I want to also thank and commend my friends for their discussion of the suburban agenda. I am coming to the floor tonight to talk about health care, and of course they've already covered a lot of those issues in their discussion that preceded in the past hour.

I want to talk about some concerns we have in the delivery of health care services throughout the country. The future of medical care in this country is going to be front and center over the next 18 months time. The elections of 2008 will be about a lot of things, but they will also be a lot about health care.

Three bills that I want to focus on this evening as well, H.R. 2583, H.R. 2584 and H.R. 2585. The first, H.R. 2583 deals with residency programs. The second, H.R. 2584 deals with loan forgiveness and tax abatements for medical students and newly minted doctors. And the third, H.R. 2585, deals with physicians in the Medicare program who are adversely affected by reimbursement reductions every year under a formula known as the sustainable growth rate formula.

Well, as we go through these next 18 months and deciding which avenue through which our health care system is going to go, we have two choices on the table. We've got a public sector, the government side, which already has about half of the responsibility for health care in this country. And we've got that which is comprised of the private sector, as well as that care which is just simply delivered without expectation of compensation, what used to be known as charitable care.

Under the option to expand the government's role, the government's side, the government's sector involvement in the delivery of health care, typically that's known as universal health care. In the 1990s we called that ''Hillary Care.''

But could we also approach it from a standpoint of encouraging the private sector to stay involved and to improve their products and make them more flexible and user friendly in order to provide more for our health care dollar in this country.

My opinion, having worked in the system for well over 25 years, is the United States does have the best health care system in the world, and it is my obligation, my charge to help it remain the best health care system in the world.

Now, I know there's plenty of people in this body who would contest that statement. And there's plenty of issues around to call it into question.

My predecessor in this office, former Majority Leader Dick Armey used to be fond of saying, you know, the numbers don't lie; but if you torture them long enough, they'll admit to almost anything.

But let's talk about some of the different principles that are guiding the debate about public versus private and the delivery of health care services. And maybe we ought to spend a little time talking about the background. How did we get into this? How'd we get to where we are today?

You almost have to go back over 60 years to go back to the time coming out of World War II when the United States, of course, was the victor; came out of the war with a flourishing economy.

But during the war, President Roosevelt, in an effort to keep down trouble from inflation, put into effect rather stringent wage and price controls across the country. The employers wanted to keep employees, so a lot of employees, of course, had been drafted and were serving overseas, so those employees that were left the employers wanted to keep them working. But they were constrained. They couldn't offer raises. They couldn't offer the money that would be required; they were worried that someone across town might outbid them.

Well, they went and came upon the idea of providing a health care benefit, and, in fact, the Supreme Court ruled that that was okay; that that did not violate the spirit or the intent of the law that Franklin Roosevelt had passed governing the wage and price controls. So during the war, the concept of employer-based insurance was begun.

The war ended. The United States was blessed with the postwar economic boom that started, and what began as a necessity born out of a wartime economy continued. It was extremely popular. Health care insurance provided by the employer turned out to be one of the most popular employee benefits that has ever been seen in this country. And up until the early 1980s it just worked wonderfully.

Contrast that, of course, with Europe. Even the parts the Europe that were victorious in the Second World War, the battles were fought in their back yard. Their economies were devastated. They needed to quickly stand up a health care system that would take care of a population that had been deprived by 5 years of war or longer. And these countries decided to promote the single payer system that you see that's so prevalent in Western Europe and in England today.

But that was born of necessity also, because, again, the country's economies were devastated or, in fact, they had not been victorious in the war, they had lost the war, but they needed to quickly stand up a system that would take care of their citizens.

We go from 1945 to 1965. Presidency of another Texan, Lyndon Baines Johnson. During that time, President Johnson enacted the Medicare statute, a little over 40 years ago. The Medicare and the Medicaid programs were signed into law during his administration. These were large government-run programs that were created to focus primarily on hospital and physician care for elderly and basic health care services for the people who were this poverty.

Decades later, almost 40 years later, it was evident that the government-run Medicare program, extremely slow to change, very difficult to change a large government program; and anything that that caused any change within the program was going to be incredibly expensive.

Already difficult to operate.

But in 2003, in fact, my first year to serve in this Congress, my first State of the Union message that I heard the President deliver in this House, he talked about how the need for, or the time for a Medicare prescription drug benefit had arrived; and this was too important an issue to be left to another President or another Congress. It was work that we were going to take on that year, 2003, and get that benefit delivered to the American people. And indeed we did.

We worked on that bill in various committees throughout the year 2003. Right at the end of the year we passed the bill. There was initially a prescription drug discount card that was available, but over the next 2 years the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services put together the plan that we now know as the Medicare Part-D plan. And in spite of all of the problems that it had getting started, arguably it is one of the better functioning government-run health care programs ever seen to date.

But the government needed to catch up to a private system that was already focused on prevention, timely treatment of disease and disease management. So finally Congress put the Medicare prescription drug plan, that focused on giving seniors access go needed medications forward, and the program has been successful and provided benefits for seniors. It's come

with, obviously, considerable discussion, and a big push for success, a lot of it delivered by the private sector.

So here we sit at the crossroads today. Again, the government pays for half of the health care administered in the country with a current gross domestic product, the GDP of 11 to $12 trillion.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through their Medicare and Medicaid services alone, pay $600 billion. Add to that the VA system, add to that the Federal prison system, the Indian Health Service, and you have about half of the health care expenditures in this country.

The other half of health care is broken down with the primary weight being carried by private insurance. There is some charitable and there is some self-pay accounting for the rest. I think you'd probably include bad debt in that other 50 percent.

Well, as the numbers increase, the overall cost of health care for the entire country, as that number increases the Federal Government continues to funnel the American taxpayers' dollars into these efforts, and we have to ask ourselves, what is the wisest and best use of taxpayer dollars?

Is the government doing an excellent job of managing your money?

It's not their money. It's your money. Do you think the government is better suited for your health care needs?

Whose going to handle or who is better equipped to handle the growing health care problems crisis, if you will, in this country?

The government only or the universal health care system, to me, almost is unsustainable. And it certainly is likely to hamper innovation, and hamper the delivery of some of the most modern health care services that the world has ever known.

Now, two examples of that, one very close to home, that would support the notion that a private-based system is better equipped and more flexible and less expensive than a government system, look to our north. Look at Canada.

Canada boasts a universal health care system. But what it fails to highlight is the tremendous wait for treatment that its patients must endure. In fact, in either 2004 or 2005, the Canadian Supreme Court ruled that access to a waiting list did not equal access to care because the waiting times were so long in that country. Their access to care is limited by the length of time that one must wait for care.

□ 2200

Now, in Canada they actually have a pretty good safety valve, and that safety valve is called the United States of America. One of the longest borders in the world is our northern border with our northern neighbor of Canada. And, in fact, if someone has the means to pay outside the system and feels that the wait is deleterious to their health, they can leave Toronto and go to Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and have that MRI, have that CAT scan, have the stint placed in a coronary artery if they don't feel the wait is in the best long-term interest of their health.

So you can take your money, cross the southern border of the United States, and receive care almost immediately, waiting for bypass surgery where you go to the hospital that puts you on a waiting list or puts you in a hospital and put you in a cath lab and gets the problem fixed. When it comes down to your health and a serious health problem, who wants to gamble?

Also, look at the National Health Service in Britain. They really have developed within their country a two-tiered system. Indeed, the wait times are a significant problem within the National Health Service. You can go outside the National Health Service, stay in the country of Britain, go outside the National Health Service and go to one of the private physicians. Physicians work in their offices at the time they are required by the government and then operate a private practice on the side. Some of the most expensive health care in the world is available right alongside the free system in the National Health Service. And the fact that it is able to run, the fact that it is able to go, certainly speaks to the fact that it is serving a need that people want filled.

The other thing you have to ask yourself, if you have someone who is going to have to wait 6 or 8 months for a CAT scan or an MRI, if you have someone who is going to wait half a year or a year's time for replacement of an artificial hip and that person is nearing the age of 80, a year's wait is a significant period of time of the number of days that that person has left in their life. It is a sad reality but, nevertheless, true.

Again, I come back to the notion that the private sector is more nimble and more financially responsible and it is the better way to build the future of our health system. It is a complex relationship. And how Congress should do its job to ensure that we have the best health care system possible is going to be the central part of the debate that we have over the next 18 months. In my opinion, Congress has to promote policies that keep the private sector leading the way with some interaction that leads to a well-run government system.

You can hardly talk about health care in this country without coming up against the problem of the uninsured. The Census Bureau right now estimates that some 46 million people in this country are uninsured.

Now, uninsured does not always mean lack of access to health care because we all have heard stories about people who use the emergency room for relatively modest problems. It is one of the more expensive ways to get care. There is also a disadvantage too in that if you wait until a modest health care problem becomes an emergency, then you are oftentimes not going to get the best health care bargain or the best bargain for your health care dollar. You are also possibly going to jeopardize the health outcome. So no one would argue that just simply relying upon our Nation's overstretched emergency rooms are a method of dealing with the problem of the uninsured. But I think it is important to point out that doctors and nurses in hospitals on the front lines every day see people and take care of their medical needs, fully recognizing that there may not be a reasonable expectation of payment for those services. And we owe those individuals a debt of gratitude for continuing to do that, sometimes in the face of some rather severe Federal regulations and an extremely hostile medical liability climate.

One of the other things that we will talk about, in fact, we are required to do in this Congress is the reauthorization of what is known as SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Program. This is a program that was started some 10 years ago. It had a 10-year authorization and requires that the Congress reauthorize it this year.

The two gentlemen who were here before me talking about the slow pace of things in this Congress could have added the slow pace of the reauthorization of the current SCHIP language to that list of things that they were concerned about. This is legislation that, again, Congress is required to reauthorize prior to September 30 of this year when the authorization expires. There is no continuing resolution. There is no IOU or Band-Aid we can put on this program. We simply must reauthorize the program if we want it to continue. And it has been a good program, and I would argue that virtually everyone within this body wants it to continue.

Not to say there are not some areas for improvement. A bill that I introduced earlier this year, H.R. 1013, the purpose of this legislation was to ensure that the SCHIP funding that Congress has made available be used to cover children and pregnant adults with this coverage. Right now we have four States that are covering more adults than they are children with their SCHIP funding. That stands the whole program on its head. It is cheaper to cover children with health insurance than it is adults. In fact, the ratio is it costs about 60 cents to provide what otherwise would cost a dollar's worth of health care insurance for adults. So we get a lot of mileage for our dollars when we put that coverage into children. If we take that coverage away from children to then cover adults who otherwise would not belong in the system but get in through some type of waiver, we are not doing a good job with the moneys that we intended to put forward to cover children. And the reality is until we have covered all the children who need coverage in this country, we shouldn't be taking those dollars away from the children to cover

adults in the system. Once we have covered all the children in the country, then perhaps it is time to talk about a waiver. If we want to cover other nonpregnant adults, let's find another program to do that. Let's not steal money from the SCHIP program to provide that coverage.

Another thing that we don't really talk about a lot on the House floor, last year in my committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, we reauthorized the federally qualified health center statute. We never got that completely finished in the House. We should take it up again this year. It should be taken up by the Senate, and this is a program that fully deserves reauthorization by this Congress.

The federally qualified health center statute provides in federally qualified health centers coverage for about 15 million uninsureds. That is access to medicines, access to a medical home, access to mental health services, access to treatment for substance abuse, a significant set of services that are available to people who otherwise would not have access to medical care. Federally qualified health centers do a good job. Both SCHIP and the federally qualified health center system deserve to be taken up and reauthorized by this Congress. If there are improvements that we can make, then by all means let's have the debate and make those improvements necessary, but let's not let those two programs languish and by default be sunsetted and not continue.

Now, the two gentlemen that were here talking earlier were talking about some of the problems that people get into when they lose their health insurance and wanting to extend COBRA benefits, a noble exercise. One of the things that I have really thought is a forward-looking way to go with health insurance, and it kind of gets at what they were talking about, that is the individual ownership of an insurance policy.

The point made by Mr. KIRK of Illinois, gone are the days where a person gets out of high school or college, works in one job, one factory, one manufacturing plant for the remainder of their work life, then retires and gets a gold watch and goes off to a well-deserved retirement. People change jobs in today's economy. Their health insurance ought to be able to be flexible to change with them, to move with them. One way to ensure that is to allow an individual to own their health insurance policy.

Back in the days when I was practicing medicine in the middle 1990s, this Congress passed a bill called the Health Insurance Portability Act of 1996, the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill. In it, it provided for a demonstration product for what were then called the medical savings accounts. Bill Archer, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee at the time, was a champion of the old MSA. I had an MSA when I was a practicing physician. It allows you to build a tax-deferred savings account that is dedicated to your medical expenses. You buy an insurance policy that is yours. You do pay for it with after-tax dollars, but the advantage is that since it has such a high deductible, it typically has a lower premium.

Now, there are some problems with the previous MSAs that were first passed by this Congress. This Congress put a lot of regulations on those insurance policies, and as a consequence, in my home State of Texas, we only had two insurers who were willing to take people on with a medical savings account. When we did the Medicare bill that I referenced earlier in the talk, back in 2003, when we did the Medicare Modernization Act, included within that language was language that allowed for a significant expansion of what we now call health savings accounts. The central concept is still there. It is a high deductible insurance policy owned by the individual, not the employer, or the individual can own the policy. Some employers have now begun to offer health savings accounts. A high deductible policy with a lower premium, and you put money into a tax-deferred savings account. Remember Albert Einstein said there is no power in the universe as strong as the miracle of compound interest. Put that as a pretax expense, and that can be something that grows significantly over time. Imagine that. A health-based IRA or a health savings account, an account that is dedicated only to your health care needs. Start that when you are young. It grows over time, and that can be an incredibly powerful tool to combat problems that might occur with health later in life.

But even if someone has a high deductible policy in their younger years and maybe they don't have quite as much stored up in that health savings account that would cover the deductible, still you get into a catastrophic situation, or it doesn't even need to be a catastrophic situation. In today's environment you have a single car accident and the medical costs can just be astronomical after spending an afternoon in the emergency room, a couple of hours in the CAT scanner, maybe a day or 2 in the intensive care unit, 3 or 4 days in the hospital, and by the time you get out, you have got a bill that will literally shock you. And a health savings account would provide that type of catastrophic coverage.

Why is this important? Say a young person just getting out of college decides they want to go off on their own and they want to be the next Bill Gates. They want to be an entrepreneur. They want to develop their own company. They don't want to work for a large company with its attendant benefits and health care insurance. They just want to go out on their own. Ten years ago you went into the private individual market and said, I want to buy some health insurance because I am going to work for myself and start a small business and be my own boss, you couldn't get anybody to talk to you for any price. There just wasn't a policy available.

Fast forward to the present time, and with the changes we made with health savings accounts in the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, you can go on the Internet. You can type in ''health savings account'' into the search engine of your choice. And in my home State of Texas for a male age 25, just out of college, nonsmoker, you can pick up a high deductible policy in the range of $65 to $75 a month. Not an astronomical expense. Sure, there is a high deductible associated with that. So if you want a flu shot next fall, you are probably just paying for that out of pocket. But if you get pneumonia and you end up in the hospital in the ICU for several days, you are going to have coverage for that so-called catastrophic event because, even though it is a high deductible, your medical expenses will quickly exceed that. So that is a good thing to have so that you do have coverage.

For a young family where a husband and wife want to have the coverage, want to do the responsible thing if they have small children, a health savings account may provide the way to do that and have that coverage beginning at an early age. And over time the money will grow in the actual savings account portion of that. It grows tax deferred. It can accumulate quickly. And as a consequence, the specter of having a very high deductible is something that is now not such a big deal because there is easily money within that health savings account to pay for those health care needs. Even the routine care if someone chooses to do that, the dollars are there to be spent for that purpose.

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The popularity has grown a lot. When I first got mine back in 1997, my old Archer medical savings account, I worried because they said we're going to put a cap on this; we're not going to allow more than 750,000 of these to be sold in the United States of America. I thought golly, I better get out there and get one fast or they are going to all be snapped up. It turned out I didn't need to worry because those original insurance policies, probably less than 100,000 were sold.

But the health savings accounts, when the conditions changed in 2003, have been significantly popular. The last year for which I have accurate and verifiable data is 2005. But by December of that year, the end of calendar year 2005, 3.2 million individuals had coverage through a health savings account; 42 percent of those individuals had families with incomes below $50,000 purchasing an HSA type of insurance. Certainly that is indicative that this is an affordable option. In addition, the number of previously uninsured HSA plan purchasers over the age of 60 nearly doubled, proving that the plans are accessible to people of all ages. And again, out of that number, over 3 million, probably about 40 percent of those

individuals were previously uninsured. So it did have the effect of, at least temporarily, bending the growth curve of the uninsured in this country.

Of those 46 million people that we talked about before that are uninsured, over half, 60 percent, are employed in small businesses. Some of these individuals prefer a more traditional health plan. They would like to have what we talked about earlier, an employer-derived health insurance. But their employers, their small business employers look at those premiums going up every year and they say, you know what, I just cannot do it anymore, and so they drop the benefit because it is simply too expensive.

Now, Congress has had before it, over the last 4 years I think we've had at least three votes on this concept; it has always passed the House of Representatives; it always stalled in the Senate. I don't know if we will take it up this year, but I think we should because I think it is fundamentally a good idea. And maybe at some point we will get some cooperation from the other body.

But to unburden small business owners, Congress has devised the concept of what are called Association Health Plans, essentially allowing a group of small businesses with a small business model to band together to get the purchasing clout of a big corporation. It is really not too hard a concept for most people to understand. It is, again, something that has passed this House at least three times that I am aware of. It is a sensible solution. It allows the spread of the insurance risk amongst a larger group. A small employer, say a realtor in your hometown who has 3 or 4 people working in the office, very difficult, very expensive for them to get insurance, if they can find it. Well, imagine if you let all the realtors in Texas band together and form a single group that was negotiating for the sale of insurance. Now imagine that you couple that with the realtors in Oklahoma, Louisiana and New Mexico. Then you've got a group of people that really is beginning to have some significant financial clout and may be able to get a much better price in the group health insurance market. Well, all of this, from the insurance side, is extremely important. You've got to worry though, are we putting the cart before the horse?

About a year and a half ago, Alan Greenspan, just as he retired as Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board here in Washington, D.C., met with several groups. He met with a group of us one morning, and he was asked the inevitable question, well, Chairman, what about the ability of the Federal Government to pay for Medicare in the future. He alluded to how that was going to be a problem that was going to have to be faced. But at the end of it all, he felt that Congress would be able to come up with an equitable solution to that. And he paused and he said, what concerns me more is will there be anyone there to provide the services that you want when you get there. That is a pretty profound statement, certainly something that has stuck with me since that time.

No question about it in my mind, our country faces a crisis in health care manpower, a physician shortage, if you will, in the future. We need to ensure that the doctors who are in practice today, those physicians I like to call ''mature physicians'' at the peak of their clinical abilities, at the peak of their diagnostic abilities, at the peak of their surgical expertise and abilities, we've got to be sure that they stay in the game, that they continue to practice, that they don't retire early, that they don't wander off and do something else. We need to keep them involved.

At the same time, we need to ensure that the younger physicians, the doctors of tomorrow, those that are in residency programs today, those that might be thinking about going to medical school or into nursing, that those individuals stay involved and in fact pursue their career dream of working in health care.

The first issue that always comes to my mind when I think of what are some of the things that drive doctors out of practice or keep people from going into the practice of medicine, and that is, of course, the conundrum of medical liability. Again, we faced it in this House of Representatives probably four times in the time that I have been in Congress. It is an issue that has never gotten through the other body. Again, I believe we need to continue to push that as an issue because in so many ways we just need some commonsense medical liability reform to protect patients, stop the escalating costs associated with lawsuits that are not well-grounded, and to make health care more affordable, ensure that health care is in fact even available to Americans all across from coast to coast in Alaska and Hawaii, and make sure that those physicians stay in the game and continue to provide the needed services.

I believe we do need a national solution. State to State coverage is always going to be tenuous. My home State of Texas did a great thing as far as medical liability reform is concerned back in September of 2003, but you worry every time the State legislature comes into session every 2 years, is something going to happen that undoes those great steps forward that were taken back in 2003.

I do think that modelling after the concept that was developed, actually originally in the State of California back in 1975, the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act of 1975, signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown, a great step forward that put a cap on noneconomic damages in medical liability suits.

Fast forward to 2003, and the Texas plan came forward. Indeed, the basis of the program or the basis of the reform does lie in a cap on noneconomic damages, but I like to say it's got a 21st century angle to it. There is a $250,000 cap on noneconomic damages for the doctor, a $250,000 on noneconomic damages for the hospital, and a third cap of $250,000 for noneconomic damages from a second hospital or nursing home, if one is involved. In fact, the original cap legislation that worked so well in California, in Texas it has been trifurcated. It is in the aggregate of a $750,000 cap.

Well, how does that work? Did that fix the problem that the State of Texas faced the year I ran for Congress 2003? Well, in Texas, we've gone from 17 medical liability insurers down to two. My personal situation, running my own practice, really having not had a problem that would take me into the courts, but my rates were increasing by 25, 30, 40 percent a year. Well, in 2003, the Texas legislature passed medical liability reform based off that California law, again, updated for the 21st century, for an aggregate cap of $750,000. What has happened since then? Well, remember I just said, we dropped from 17 liability insurers down to two because of the medical liability crisis. We are back up to 14 or 15 carriers. And most importantly, those carriers have returned to the State of Texas without an increase in their rates. They have held their rates down.

My old insurer of record, Texas Medical Liability Trust, between rate reductions, rebates and dividend payments to physicians over the 3½ years since this law was passed, the actual net effect is a 22 percent reduction in premiums for physicians across the board in the State of Texas. Again, remember premiums were going up by 20, 25, 30 percent or more a year, now they are coming down, and over the last few years they have come down 22 percent.

One of the most significant, unintended benefits of this was what happened with the small not-for-profit, community-based hospitals, those hospitals that were essentially self-insured for medical liability. They have been able to take money that was in those escrow accounts against the uncertainty of the medical liability climate that they faced in 2001, 2002 and early 2003, now that money has been able to go to hiring nurses, capital improvements, just the very things you would want your smaller not-for-profit, community-based hospital to be able to do. This is certainly one of the good news stories. And again, the smaller hospitals were not the intended beneficiary of this legislation when it passed in the State of Texas.

I took the language of the Texas-passed medical liability reform, worked it into the type of language that we have to have here in the House of Representatives, ran it through legislative counsel and offered it to Mr. RYAN, Paul Ryan, the ranking member of the Budget Committee on the Republican side, when we were doing our budgetary work in March. He had that bill scored by the Congressional Budget Office. And the Texas plan, as applied

through the House of Representatives language, applied to the entire 50 States, would yield a savings of $3.8 billion over 5 years. Now, not a mammoth amount of money, but when you are talking about a $2.999 trillion budget, savings is savings. And these are monies that we are in a sense just going to leave on the table in this budgetary cycle that could have gone to some of the other spending priorities, some of which I have already alluded to in the SCHIP and the Federally Qualified Health Center statutes. But anything, even those things not dealing with health, $3.8 billion, as the old saying goes, you keep leaving that amount of money on the table and pretty soon you're going to be talking about some real dollars.

And also consider this: A study done in 1996, that's over 10 years ago, out of Stanford University, revealed that in the Medicare system alone, the cost of defensive medicine was approximately $28 to $30 billion a year. The cost of Medicare, not the entire cost of the health care infrastructure of the United States of America, the cost to Medicare was $28 to $30 billion a year 10 years ago. I submit that that number has likely increased today. We can scarcely afford to continue this trajectory that we are on with regards to medical liability in this country.

And again, remember when I started this part of the discussion talking about are we going to have anyone there to provide the services when we want them. And another consideration is that young people today entering college, in college, just getting out of college, who wanted to consider a career in health care, are looking at the crisis that we face in medical liability in this country, and it's keeping them out of the game, and that's not right. One of the obstetrics residency directors from a big New York program was down here actually a couple of years ago now, and I asked her, is the medical liability crisis, is it having an effect on your residency classes that you're recruiting? And she told me that right now we are taking people into our residency program that we wouldn't have interviewed 5 years ago. In other words, we are lowering the class and the capabilities of those people who are willing to go into obstetrics as a specialty. Well, these are our children's doctors, these are our children's children's doctors that are being trained in the residency programs today. I fail to see how it advances the case for patient safety and the well-being of Americans to continue to allow this condition to exist without addressing it.

Again, we voted on the bill several times in this House over the past several years. My understanding is the bill was just recently reintroduced last week. I hope we will have a chance to address it in this House. And I hope we can get some activity from the other body. I am not optimistic, but I believe this is so important that we have got to continue to try to get this done.

This brings me to one of the things I initially spoke about, one of three health care bills, H.R. 2583, the so-called Physician Workforce and Graduate Medical Education Enhancement Act of 2007. There is a Washington-type title that everyone can love. Well, part of ensuring the future health care workforce in this country is going to be to make certain that there are the types of residency programs in the types of communities in which we want doctors to consider going into practice. You know, the funny thing about physicians is they do have a lot of inertia. They tend to stay where they're dropped; that is, they tend to work and have their practice in communities where they trained or close to where they trained.

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A lot of us have followed that trajectory, and I suspect there is nothing unique about that. It will continue to be the way physicians behave for probably well into the future. So the bill introduced just last week was designed to get more training programs in areas that are underserved, like rural areas, inner-city areas, to get young doctors-in-training in locations where they are actually needed.

The Physician Workforce and Graduate Medical Education Enhancement Act of 2007 would develop a program that would permit hospitals that do not traditionally operate a residency training program that will allow them the opportunity to start a residency training program and in fact build that physician workforce of the future on site in those communities where they are in fact needed.

On average, it costs $100,000 a year to train a resident, and that cost for a smaller hospital is clearly prohibitive. Because of the cost consideration, the bill would create a loan fund available to hospitals to make residency training programs where none has operated in the past. The programs would require full accreditation and be focused obviously in rural and suburban inner-urban or other smaller community-type hospitals. I can think of several communities in the congressional district that I represent that might benefit from such a program.

Clearly, it is one thing to say we are just going to educate more doctors, but to get them to practice in the areas where they are needed, and, boy, an area that comes to mind is the area around New Orleans, Louisiana. They have lost doctors. The wholesale loss of doctors since the twin hurricanes of August of 2005, it is going to be very difficult to encourage people to come back to that area. But the reality is if someone trains in that area, the likelihood of them staying in that area is increased.

It is all well and good to create new residency programs, but if you don't have anyone interested in filling that residency slot, it is not going to be really something that does all that much good. So the second bill, H.R. 2584, the High Need Physician Specialty Workforce Incentive Act of 2007, would help locate young doctors where they are needed to solve part of the impending physician shortage crisis that likely could affect the entire country.

We have got to consider training doctors for high need specialties. This act will establish a mix of scholarships, loan repayment funds and tax incentives to entice more students to medical school and create incentives for those students and newly-minted doctors to help them go into healthcare. The program will have a established repayment program for students who agree to go into family practice, internal medicine, emergency medicine, general surgery or OB/GYN, and practice in underserved areas. It will be a 5-year authorization at $5 million a year and it will provide additional educational scholarships in exchange for a commitment to serve in a public or private nonprofit health facility determined to have a critical shortage of primary care physicians.

Again, the Gulf Coast area comes to mind, but there are plenty of areas in my home State of Texas, West Texas and in fact East Texas, that would fit the bill for something like that. It is very similar to what used to be called the Berry Plan. The armed services used to offer a scholarship and some loan forgiveness to encourage physicians to go into one of the branches of service. This is modeled after those plans that were so popular in the early 1970s. Again, it is an important step in getting doctors into the communities where they are actually needed.

The third bill of the three that I introduced last week, H.R. 2585, really deals with the heart of the problem, which is stabilization of the current physician workforce.

When we talk about the current physician workforce, discussing things like medical liability, placement of doctors in locations of greatest need and financial concerns, encouraging doctors to remain in those high-need specialties, the next step is to fix on that largest group of doctors in the country and certainly the largest and still growing group of patients, those baby-boomers that you heard MARK KIRK talk about in the last hour.

Baby-boomers are going to continue to age. They are going to retire, and the demand for services has no where to go but up. If the physician workforce trends continues as they are today, we may no longer be talking about trying to fund the Medicare program. We may be talking about trying to find the Medicare physician. We may be talking about the fact that there is no one there to take care of America's seniors.

Year after year, there is a reduction in reimbursement payments from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to doctors for services that they provide their Medicare patients. This is not a question of doctors just simply

wanting to make more money. It is about a stabilized repayment for services that are already rendered. It is about a question of fundamental fairness. And it is not just affecting doctors. It is affecting patients, and it becomes a real crisis of access.

Not a week goes by that I don't get a letter or fax from a physician back in Texas who says, you know what? I have just had enough of this, and I am going to retire early. I am no longer going to see Medicare patients in my practice or I am going to restrict the procedures that I offer to Medicare patients.

In fact it happened to me while we were home on the Memorial Day recess. A woman came up to me, someone I had trained with, and said, look, I just can no longer do these long, involved operations and be paid literally a pittance for the service, when I could spend my time doing other things that would actually pay for the cost of running my practice.

I certainly understand that. I certainly sympathize with that. It is a difficult situation for doctors to find themselves in, because they want to do right. These are difficult operations that they trained for years to be able to provide for people. Now, the fact that they are so poorly compensated by Medicare, they are simply having to turn their back on these challenging, technically difficult procedures, and say I will just see the well patient in the office and stay out of the operating room. I saw it happen in the hospital environment before I left the practice of medicine to come to Congress.

But I hear it in virtually every town hall that I do back in my district. Someone will raise their happened or come up to me afterwards and say, how come on Medicare, you turn 65 and you have to change doctors? The answer is because their doctor found it no longer economically viable to continue to see Medicare patients because they weren't able to cover the cost of delivering the care rendered. They weren't able to cover the cost of providing the care.

Medicare payments to physicians are modified annually. They use something called the sustainable growth rate formula. A lot of the people around here call it the SGR rate. Because of flaws in the process, the sustainable growth rate formula, mandated physician fee cuts in recent years have only been moderately averted by last-minute machinations and fixes that the Congress has provided. In fact, if no long-term congressional action is implemented, the SGR will continue to mandate cuts for physician reimbursement as far as the eye can see, cuts in aggregate between 35 and 40 percent over the next 10 years.

Now, unlike hospitals, who are reimbursed under essentially a cost of living adjustment every year known as the Medicare Economic Index, physicians are reimbursed under the SGR, which says there is a fixed amount of money to pay for all of the doctor-derived healthcare in this country, and there is more demands on that volume, then the slices of that pie are just going to get successively thinner year after year.

Medicare payments to physicians cover only about 65 percent of the cost of providing the patient services. That doesn't figure in anything for the doctor's take-home pay. That is the cost of providing the services. That is the office rent. That is the nurse's salary. That is keeping the lights on. That is paying for the medical equipment. That is buying the syringes and the medicines that might be administered in that office.

Can you imagine any industry, any business, any company that would continue in business if they received only two-thirds of the cost of what it costs them to provide the services? Currently the sustainable growth rate formula links physician payment updates to the Gross Domestic Product, which actually has no relationship whatsoever to the cost of providing those services.

But simply the repeal of the SGR, one of the big stumbling blocks for that is it is very, very costly when figured in the overall Federal budget. But the reality is we have to do it. Maybe if we do it over time, perhaps we can bring that down to a level that is in fact manageable.

Paying physicians fairly will extend their careers for many of those doctors now in practice and those who would otherwise opt out of the Medicare program or seek early retirement or restrict those procedures that they offer to their Medicare patients. It also has the effect of ensuring an adequate network of doctors available to older Americans as this country makes the transition to the physician workforce of the future.

In the physician payment stabilization bill, the SGR formula would be repealed 2 years from now, in 2010. There would be some incentive payments based on quality reporting and technology improvements installed to protect the practicing of physicians against the 5 percent cut that will likely occur each in the years 2008 and 2009. Those things would be voluntary. No one would have to do them. No one would be required to participate in the quality program or the technology improvement, but it would be available to those doctors and those practices who wanted to offset the proposed cuts that would occur in physician reimbursement over the 2 years until a formal repeal of the SGR would be allowed to happen.

Now, for most doctors, that is unacceptable. They say, well, I want the SGR repealed now, not 2 years from now, and I want it repealed this year and I want a positive update or I am going to stop seeing Medicare patients.

The reality is that possibly if we do this over time, we will be able to get it done. The other reality is I wish we had started this when I first got to Congress 4 years ago, and we might be well on our way or well past the where we would have in fact solved this problem. So, it is time to begin that journey of 1,000 miles with the very first steps, and we do have to focus on the fact that this is a long-term solution.

A lot of people say why do it that way? Why not just bite the bullet and get the SGR out of the way and get it repealed? It costs a tremendous amount of money. The other unfortunate aspect of that costing a tremendous amount of money is it may make the premium for the Part B recipient, it may make that premium go up significantly.

In Congress, we are all required to submit legislation to the Congressional Budget Office to find out how much it costs. If we are going to spend the taxpayers' money, how much are we going to spend, over what time will we spend it?

Because of constraints at the Congressional Budget Office, we are not allowed to do what is called dynamic scoring. We are not able to look at changing a program or a new program and say if we did things this way, we would save money in the future. That is well and good, but we can't claim those future savings to offset the cost of doing it a new way. And that is what static scoring tells us, and that is why dynamic scoring would be so beneficial in a situation like this. But we are not able to use that.

If we look at some of the things we have done already in the Medicare system we can say, you know, if we do it this way, we are actually going to save some money. We are not allowed to capture those savings.

The Trustees Report that came out just a few weeks ago, there were 600,000 hospital beds in the year 2005 that weren't filled because of things that doctors and hospitals are doing better, improvements that have been made in the healthcare system. 600,000 hospital beds that weren't filled. Do we get the financial credit for those 600,000 hospital beds that weren't filled? No, we can't claim that. That is just something that is absorbed by the system, and we go on and reset things for the next year and continue on our merry way with the SGR.

But the reality is if we could capture those savings, if we could aggregate those savings, it is not just in hospital beds, there are other areas where savings are occurring at the same time, if we could capture those savings, aggregate those savings, and use those savings to offset the cost of the SGR repeal, we might very well come down to a much more manageable number.

The old bank robber, Willie Sutton, was famous for saying he robbed banks because that is where the money is. Well, let's go after the procedures where most of the money is spent in CMS, identify where the savings are in delivering the care for people who are in those diagnostic groups, and let's keep that money, capture that money, and use it to offset the cost of the SGR.

I think that is the greatest return on investment that we could expect from those savings that we are likely going to see from Medicare in the future.

The same considerations apply to the Medicaid program as well. Again, it could be a useful exercise to go through and identify the top 10 conditions and see where the easy savings are in taking care of patients with those conditions. How can their care be better managed? How can things be prospectively managed? What types of intervention might keep a patient out of an expensive hospitalization or away from an expensive dialysis unit? These are the times of savings we need to gather.

I see that I am going to run up against some time constraints. I just want to mention health information technology is something that we do have to pay some attention to.

In the SGR reform bill that I introduced, there is some language about moving us down the road on information technology, embracing information technology. I haven't always been a big proponent of that. When I was practicing medicine, if someone had come to me with proposals like that, I would say, you know, that is going to increase the number of hours I spend every day, not increase my payments to any great degree, and I just don't see how it is going to be economically useful to me as a physician.

That was before I traveled to the City of New Orleans for the second time in January of 2006 and was taken into the records room at Charity Hospital shortly after they had gotten all of the water out of the records room at Charity Hospital.

□ 2245

It looked like the records room of any big city hospital. There were rows and rows, perhaps hundreds of thousands of records in this large room, tens of thousand of square feet devoted to the storage of medical records. They were ruined. They had been ruined by the water and by the black mold growing on the manilla folders. There was not enough protective gear to protect someone to go in and pull the charts out of the racks and begin to go through them to get the patient's medical history.

Clearly, the time has come where we need to have the concept of computerized access to medical records. It is something this country needs to embrace.

The old adage when I was in college, you could say, the dog ate my homework. No student today would do a report, a term paper and keep one single paper copy. They have it on a flash drive, on a hard drive, on a floppy disk. They have printed it out several times. They live in the electronic age. It would make no sense to the medical student of today to have a single paper copy of a term paper or lab report that they would have to turn in for a grade. It would never cross their mind.

Some of the other things, the interoperability of our systems is key. Right after the Walter Reed story broke, I was there visiting. Yes, the physical conditions were one thing; but one soldier told me the biggest concern he has is as he prepares his records, he is on medical hold and as he is looking to go back to join his unit or be discharged, he has to put in order his medical records to make the case for staying in the service or get the disability to which he is entitled if he is discharged from the service.

The biggest fear they have is they will spend hour after hour putting records together and highlighting critical areas, have them sit on someone's desk until they are lost, and then have to start over again. Their biggest concern was the inability of the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration to interact with each other on the transfer of medical records. Clearly, that is a concept whose time has come.

Price transparency. I have talked about HSAs. If we are going to have health savings accounts work for Americans, we are going to have to be able to allow them to access information about price, cost and quality of medical care and procedures. I introduced legislation dealing with price transparency earlier.

My home State of Texas has gone a long way in this regard, providing information up on the Internet about the costs at various hospitals throughout the State and how they compare to other hospitals in the State. There is a lot of information. It is technically complex. It may even be boring to listen to, but nonetheless it is part of an incredibly important story. The story of how the most advanced, most innovative health care system in the world itself is in need of a little attention.

The last chapter should read happily ever after. How do we get there? The last chapter may read private industry leads to a healthy ending. We are in a debate that will forever change the way health care is delivered in our country. The next 18 months will spell that out for us. We have to understand what is working in our system. How do we make it work better, and how do we extend that to areas where we don't find excellence in our system, whether those areas be public or private. We can't delay making changes to bring our health care system into the 21st century.

I believe the only way this can work is to allow the private sector to lay the foundation for further improvements. The pillars of the system we have have to be rooted in the bedrock of a thriving public sector, and a thriving private sector, not in the shaky ground of a public and private system always at war with each other, and many times are inefficient.

We need to devote our work in Congress to building a stronger private sector in health care. History has proven this to be a tried and true measure. We can bring down the number of uninsured, increase patient access, stabilize physician workforce and modernize technology if we simply have the political and institutional courage to take the steps necessary.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2007 AT PAGE H5467

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) having assumed the chair, Mr. ALTMIRE, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1427) to reform the regulation of certain housing-related Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to rule XXVII, as a result of the adoption by the House and the Senate of the conference report on Senate Concurrent Resolution 21, the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 43), increasing the statutory limit on the public debt, has been engrossed and is deemed to have passed the House on May 17, 2007.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. GUTIERREZ (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and June 12.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

Mr. EVERETT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. SESSIONS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of taking his son to scout camp.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES of North Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, June 18.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and June 12, 13, 14, and 15.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today and June 12, 13, 14, and 15.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, June 12.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, June 18.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on June 6, 2007, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 1675. To suspend the requirements of the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding electronic filing of previous participation certificates and regarding filing of such certificates with respect to certain low-income housing investors.

H.R. 1676. To reauthorize the program of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for loan guarantees for Indian housing.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 12, 2007, at 9 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2112. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Classical Swine Fever Status of the Mexican State of Nayarit [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0104] received June 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2113. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Emerald Ash Borer Host Material From Canada [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0125] (RIN: 0579-AC39) received June 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2114. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 07-33, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to India for defense articles and services, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2115. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 07-25, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Japan for defense articles and services, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2116. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 07-15, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Finland for defense articles and services, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2117. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 07-23, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Philippines for defense articles and services, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2118. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the C-130 Avionics Modernization Program (AMP program), pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2119. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the Joint Primary Aircraft Trainer System (JPATS) program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2120. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2121. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV) program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2122. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2123. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement Vice Admiral Donald C. Arthur, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2124. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement Vice Admiral Rodney P. Rempt, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2125. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the amount of the acquisitions made from entities that manufacture the articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States in fiscal year 2006, pursuant to Public Law 109-115, section 837; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2126. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule — Loans to Executive Officers, Directors, and Principal Shareholders of Member Banks [Regulation O; Docket No. R-1271] received June 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2127. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 20, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2128. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received April 20, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2129. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — HOME Investment Partnerships Program; American Dream Downpayment Initiative and Amendments to Homeownership Affordability [Docket No. FR-4832-F-02] (RIN: 2501-AC93) received April 17, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2130. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Approval of Condominiums in Puerto Rico on Evidence of Presentment of Legal Documents [Docket No. FR-5009-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AI36) received April 17, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2131. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Expanded Examination Cycle for Certain Small Insured Depository Institutions and U.S. Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks [Docket ID OTS-2007-0006] received April 17, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2132. A letter from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report for Calendar Year 2006 on the country of origin and the sellers of uranium and uranium enrichment services purchased by owners and operators of U.S. civilian nuclear power reactors, pursuant to Public Law 102-486, section 1015; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2133. A letter from the Deputy Chief Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rules to Implement and Administer a Coupon Program for Digital-to-Analog Converter Boxes [Docket Number: 0612242667-7051-01] (RIN: 0660-AA16) received April 25, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2134. A letter from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Acquisition Regulation: Technical Revisions or Amendments to Update Clauses (RIN: 1991-AB62) received June 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2135. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Romney and Wardensville, West Virginia) [MB Docket No. 05-143 RM-11221 RM-11286] received June 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2136. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2137. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2138. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2139. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2140. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Secretary, White House Liaison, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2141. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2142. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Pay Administration (General) (RIN: 3206-AK74) received April 17, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2143. A letter from the Acting Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2144. A letter from the Rules Administrator, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Security; Prevention of Acts of Violence and Terrorism [BOP-1116; AG Order No. 2878-2007] (RIN: 1120-AB08) received April 17, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. SLAUGHTER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 473. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2638) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–184). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. VISCLOSKY: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2641. A bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–185). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. EDWARDS: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2642. A bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–186). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DICKS: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2643. A bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–187). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 251. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit manipulation of caller identification information, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110–188). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 2639. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules with respect to health savings accounts and medical savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. EMANUEL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mrs. CAPPS):

H.R. 2640. A bill to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JEFFERSON:

H.R. 2644. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of marriage and family therapist services under Medicare part B, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JEFFERSON:

H.R. 2645. A bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to improve mental health and substance abuse treatment by providing grants for justice system personnel training, treatment pograms, and diversion programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JEFFERSON:

H.R. 2646. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide funding for mental health services in response to public health emergencies, for statewide plans for providing such services in response to such emergencies, and for the training of mental health professional with respect to the treatment of victims of such emergencies, and to establish the National Mental Health Crisis Response Technical Assistance Center; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JEFFERSON:

H.R. 2647. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve mental health and substance abuse services for juveniles; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ABERCROMBIE:

H.R. 2648. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the reduction in the deductible portion of expenses for business meals and entertainment; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BILBRAY (for himself and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 2649. A bill to make amendments to the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOYD of Florida:

H.R. 2650. A bill to modify certain water resources projects for the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint Rivers, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 2651. A bill to require large publicly traded companies and significant emitters of greenhouse gases to report their emissions to the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 2652. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to generate renewable energy and encourage novel technologies related to the production of energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES:

H.R. 2653. A bill to provide for priority consideration for grade crossing safety improvements where there have been serious collisions; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN (for herself and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 2654. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 South Dumont Avenue in Woonsocket, South Dakota, as the ''Eleanor McGovern Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. HIRONO:

H.R. 2655. A bill to provide for a loan forgiveness program for certain individuals who serve as early childhood educators; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MAHONEY of Florida (for himself and Mr. PUTNAM):

H.R. 2656. A bill to enhance the ongoing profitability and viability of America's farms, forests, and ranches by making conservation activities more cost-effective and efficient, by creating new revenue opportunities through biofuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Science and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 2657. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to

ensure that employees are not improperly disqualified from benefits under pension plans and welfare plans based on the misclassification or reclassification of their status; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 2658. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for farmers' investments in value-added agriculture; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POMEROY (for himself, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS):

H.R. 2659. A bill to treat payments under the Conservation Reserve Program as rentals from real estate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (for himself, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 2660. A bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to extend the period for filing charges of discrimination in violation of such title and to provide relief for certain current injuries arising from compensation calculations attributable to compensation decisions made at any time in violation of such title; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 2661. A bill to make careers in public service more feasible for students with high educational debt; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 2662. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to collect certain data pertaining to cancelled and diverted flights of air carriers; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H.R. 2663. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to extend a requirement for the prescreening of air passengers to international flights that overfly the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. WEINER:

H.R. 2664. A bill to require the Federal Government to reimburse a State or local government for financial losses incurred when an employee of the State or local government who performs public safety or first responder duties and who is also a member of a reserve component of the uniformed services is called or ordered to active duty for a period of more than 30 days; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WELCH of Vermont (for himself and Mr. HODES):

H.R. 2665. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in implementing cultural heritage, conservation, and recreational activities in the Connecticut River watershed of the States of New Hampshire and Vermont; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 2666. A bill to provide for the implementation of a system of licensing for purchasers of certain firearms and for a record of sale system for those firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WOOLSEY:

H.R. 2667. A bill to provide for the establishment of a disabled farmers' market nutrition pilot program; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. WU:

H.R. 2668. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to reduce class size through the use of fully qualified teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H. Con. Res. 167. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Lena Horne should be recognized as one of the most popular performers of the 1940s and 1950s and for her outspoken opposition to racial and social injustice; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MCINTYRE (for himself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. HAYES, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. WAMP, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FILNER, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. AKIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. PITTS, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BAKER, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BOREN, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. SHULER, Mr. FORBES, Mr. COOPER, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GOODE, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H. Res. 474. A resolution recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H. Res. 475. A resolution congratulating the University of Arizona Wildcats for winning the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Softball Championship; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MEEHAN (for himself, Mr. SHAYS, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MICA, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. CAMPBELL of California):

H. Res. 476. A resolution condemning bigotry, violence, and discrimination against Iranian-Americans; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. BACHUS, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WATT, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H. Res. 477. A resolution recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 23: Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. RAMSTAD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CLEAVER, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 25: Mr. GILCHREST.

H.R. 35: Mr. HARE.

H.R. 82: Mr. BAKER, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. SESTAK and Mr. SULLIVAN.

H.R. 176: Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 237: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 303: Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 333: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 464: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 555: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 621: Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. HAYES

H.R. 662: Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 675: Mr. BOOZMAN.

H.R. 690: Mr. TIBERI, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 715: Mr. PAYNE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 718: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 741: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 758: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 760: Mr. PASTOR and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 784: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 857: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky.

H.R. 928: Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 943: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 962: Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 971: Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 980: Mr. STUPAK, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 997: Mr. STEARNS, Mr. WELLER, and Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1038: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 1043: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1073: Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 1098: Mr. GERLACH and Mr. LATOURETTE.

H.R. 1102: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1108: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1113: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. SOUDER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 1115: Mr. MCNULTY.

H.R. 1187: Mr. VISCLOSKY.

H.R. 1189: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 1192: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 1239: Mr. FOSSELLA.

H.R. 1261: Ms. FALLIN, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. STEARNS.

H.R. 1280: Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1295: Mr. GOODE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 1304: Mr. COBLE, Mr. BOREN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. HODES, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 1338: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 1363: Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. POMEROY.

H.R. 1366: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. EHLERS.

H.R. 1418: Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas,

Mr. CARNEY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. PICKERING.

H.R. 1428: Mr. WAMP.

H.R. 1441: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 1456: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 1459: Mr. JONES of North Carolina and Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 1475: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1496: Mr. CARTER.

H.R. 1514: Mr. GINGREY and Mr. REHBERG.

H.R. 1542: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1551: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 1567: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1576: Mr. HARE, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. WELLER, and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1673: Mr. HERGER.
H.R. 1705: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1707: Mr. WU and Mr. EMANUEL.
H.R. 1709: Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 1732: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 1776: Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1780: Mr. FEENEY.
H.R. 1783: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 1791: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 1809: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 1810: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 1845: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 1866: Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. FORTUÑO.
H.R. 1912: Mr. FORTUÑO.
H.R. 1957: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1975: Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H.R. 1977: Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 2017: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 2027: Mr. CARNEY, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 2032: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 2060: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 2109: Mr. CANTOR.
H.R. 2111: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2129: Ms. WATERS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. EMANUEL.
H.R. 2131: Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 2164: Mr. ALEXANDER.
H.R. 2165: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. BONO, Mr. HILL, Ms. CASTOR, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 2169: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 2232: Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 2265: Mr. DINGELL and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 2287: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 2295: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 2304: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 2341: Mr. SHAYS and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2347: Mr. BACA, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. HODES, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2349: Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 2352: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 2358: Mr. CASTLE.
H.R. 2362: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. ROHRABACHER.
H.R. 2367: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2373: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 2384: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2392: Ms. HIRONO and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 2401: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 2417: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2421: Mr. EMANUEL.
H.R. 2425: Mr. BLUNT.
H.R. 2426: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 2435: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 2443: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DENT, and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 2458: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 2470: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. OBERSTAR.
H.R. 2499: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 2503: Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Ms. KILPATRICK.
H.R. 2508: Mrs. MYRICK and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.
H.R. 2537: Mr. ISRAEL and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 2593: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. ORTIZ.
H.R. 2604: Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. MCNULTY.
H.R. 2605: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 2633: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2637: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.J. Res. 9: Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. BUYER, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. STEARNS, and Mr. EVERETT.
H.J. Res. 12: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. GORDON, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. TANCREDO, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, and Mr. HENSARLING.
H.J. Res. 28: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LEE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CARSON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HOLT, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. WATT.
H. Con. Res. 21: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H. Con. Res. 104: Ms. BERKLEY.
H. Con. Res. 138: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LEE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. FERGUSON.
H. Con. Res. 162: Mr. COURTNEY.
H. Res. 226: Mr. FILNER.
H. Res. 231: Mr. WELLER.
H. Res. 257: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MCHUGH, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H. Res. 282: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. WELLER, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 287: Ms. MATSUI.
H. Res. 353: Ms. LEE and Mr. FERGUSON.
H. Res. 356: Mr. HOLT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SPACE, and Mr. PAYNE.
H. Res. 395: Mr. SARBANES.
H. Res. 431: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. BERMAN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 442: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H. Res. 444: Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 467: Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CANTOR, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. HENSARLING, and Ms. MATSUI.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. Each amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law is hereby reduced by 5.7 percent.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

AMENDMENT NO. 2: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to recruit or hire a total of more than 45,000 full-time equivalent airport screeners.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. LANGEVIN

AMENDMENT NO. 3: Page 50, line 26, insert ''*: Provided further*, That $50,000,000 of such amount shall be for cybersecurity research and development'' after ''Impact Assessment''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. DEAL OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT NO. 4: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 544. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide assistance to any State or local government that fails to or refuses to assist in the enforcement of Federal immigration laws.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. DEAL OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT NO. 15: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to destroy or put to pasture any horse or mule belonging to the Unites States that has become unfit for service until the individual trainer or handler of the horse or mule is given the option for the transfer or conveyance of the horse or mule to the trainer's possession.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. TANCREDO

AMENDMENT NO. 16: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 544. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to carry out the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187).

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. TANCREDO

AMENDMENT NO. 7: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 544. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1373(a)).

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. TANCREDO

AMENDMENT NO. 8: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 544. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to carry out the diversity visa program established in section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(c)).

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MRS. DRAKE

AMENDMENT NO. 9: Page 2, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,400,000)''.

Page 17, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $9,100,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MRS. DRAKE

AMENDMENT NO. 10: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 544. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to grant an immigration benefit to any individual who commits manslaughter while under the influence of alcohol and while operating a motor vehicle that has been involved in interstate commerce.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. WELDON OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 11: Page 18, line 25, insert before the period at the end the following: ''*: Provided further*, That, of the funds made available under this heading, $250,000 is for a study to determine how participation in the program under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357(g)) can be increased nationwide''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. WELDON OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 12: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 544. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide funds to a State or political subdivision of a State that refuses a reasonable request made by the head of a law enforcement agency of the State or subdivision that the State or subdivision take such steps as may be necessary in order for the law enforcement agency to participate in the program under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MS. GINNY BROWN-WAITE OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 13: Page 2, line 16, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $89,125,000)''.

Page 11, line 24, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $89,125,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MS. GINNY BROWN-WAITE OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 14: Page 15, line 15, insert after the colon the following: ''*Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, $300,000,000 shall be obligated for the purposes of constructing fencing along the southwest border of the United States:''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. CONAWAY

AMENDMENT NO. 15: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. It is the sense of the House of Representatives that any reduction in the amount appropriated by this Act achieved as a result of amendments adopted by the House should be dedicated to deficit reduction.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. CONAWAY

AMENDMENT NO. 16: Page 11, line 24, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000) (increased by $5,000,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MS. CORRINE BROWN OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 17: In title I, in the item relating to ''Office of the Chief Financial Officer'', after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $500,000)''.

In title I, in the item relating to ''Inspector General, operating expenses'', after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $500,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MS. CORRINE BROWN OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 18: Page 61, after line 11, insert the following:

(d) Orlando International Airport and Miami International Airport shall be two of the seven airports selected to implement a pilot program to screen airport workers who enter or re-enter secure airport space.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MS. CORRINE BROWN OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 19: Page 3, line 14, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 39, line 14, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MS. CORRINE BROWN OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 20: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) None of the funds provided by this Act shall, effective as of April 1, 2008, be used to fund any position described in subsection (b).

(b) The positions described in this subsection are as follows:

(1) Within the Office of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Ombudsman, the Deputy Chief of Staff (Policy), the Policy Advisor (Office of the Chief of Staff), and the Director of Public Liaison (Office of the Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs).

(2) Within the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Assistant Secretary (Policy and Planning), the Director of Policy and Program Analysis, and the Regional Administrators.

(3) Within the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Chief of Policy and Strategy.

(4) Within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development.

(5) Within the Office of the Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response, the Director of Policy.

(6) Within the Office of US-VISIT Program, the Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor.

(7) Within the United States Customs and Border Protection, the Policy Advisor.

(8) Within the Transportation Security Administration, the Director of Special Projects for Transportation Security Policy.

(9) Within the Office of the Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security, the Director of Transportation Security Policy for Border and Transportation Security.

(10) Within the Office of the Under Secretary for Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection Policy.

(11) Within the Office of the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, the Special Assistant for Science and Technology.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. CROWLEY

AMENDMENT NO. 21: Page 2, line 9, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $15,000,000)''.

Page 2, line 16, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $35,000,000)''.

Page 39, line 14, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $50,000,000)''.

Page 40, line 5, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $50,000,000)''.

Page 40, line 8, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $50,000,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. GINGREY

AMENDMENT NO. 22: Strike section 527 (page 65, beginning at line 17).

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 23: At the appropriate place, insert the following:

Sec.____. Any reports required in this Act and accompanying reports to be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations and the Department of Homeland Security's annual justifications of the President's budget request shall be posted on the Department of Homeland Security's public website not later than 48 hours after such submission unless information in the report compromises national security.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 24: On page 39, line 9, before the period, insert the following:

Provided further, That funds be used to increase outreach to encourage emergency preparedness efforts for vulnerable communities, including racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and the economically disadvantaged.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 25: At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC.____. PIPELINE AND REFINERY VULNERABILITY.

That not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a classified report describing the security vulnerabilities of the nation's pipelines and oil refineries to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. ISSA

AMENDMENT NO. 26: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 544. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with an entity that employs individuals unless the entity agrees to elect to participate in the basic pilot program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note).

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. SHAYS

AMENDMENT NO. 27: Page 7, line 16, after ''which'' insert the following: ''$100,000 is for sharing counter-terrorism and stolen and lost travel document information between the Department and Interpol and''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. POE

AMENDMENT NO. 28: At the end of title V, add the following new section:

Sec. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary of Homeland Security to implement a plan under section 7209 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–458; 8 U.S.C. 1185 note) that permits travel into the United States from foreign countries using any document other than a passport to denote citizenship and identity.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. CARTER

AMENDMENT NO. 29: Page 14, line 16, strike ''Office:'' and insert ''Office.''.

Page 14, strike line 17 and all that follows through page 16, line 2.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. ELLSWORTH

AMENDMENT NO. 30: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. 544. None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be used to enter into a contract in an amount greater than the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract that the contractor owes no Federal tax debt. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the certification requirement of part 52.209-5 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall also include a requirement for a certification by a prospective contractor of whether, within the three-year period preceding the offer for the contract, the prospective contractor—

(1) has or has not been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against the contractor for violating any tax law or failing to pay any tax;

(2) has or has not been notified of any delinquent taxes for which the liability remains unsatisfied; or

(3) has or has not received a notice of a tax lien filed against the contractor for which

the liability remains unsatisfied or for which the lien has not been released.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 31: In title I, under the heading ''Office of the Secretary and Executive Management'', after the first dollar amount insert ''(reduced By $138,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 32: In title I, under the heading ''Office of the Secretary and Executive Management'', after the first dollar amount insert ''(reduced By $300,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 33: In title I, under the heading ''Office of the Secretary and Executive Management'', after the first dollar amount insert ''(reduced By $1,241,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 34: In title I, under the heading ''Office of the Under Secretary for Management'', after the first dollar amount insert ''(reduced By $142,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 35: In title I, under the heading ''Office of the Under Secretary for Management'', after the first dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $350,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 36: In title I, under the heading ''Office of the Under Secretary for Management'', after the first dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $10,160,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 37: In title I, under the heading ''Office of the Under Secretary for Management'', after the first dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $1,467,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 38: In title I, under the heading ''Office of the Under Secretary for Management'', after the first dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $1,212,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 39: In title I, under the heading ''Office of the Chief Financial Officer'', after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced By $6,045,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 40: In title I, under the heading ''Office of the Chief Financial Officer'', after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced By $400,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 41: In title I, under the heading ''Office of the Under Secretary for Management'' after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced By $13,331,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 42: In title I, under the heading ''Office of the Chief Financial Officer'', after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced By $79,000''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 43: In title I, under the heading ''Office of the Chief Financial Officer'', after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced By $9,961,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 44: Page 31, line 13, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $16,000,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 45: Page 39, line 14, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $25,000,000)''.

Page 39, line 16, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $25,000,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 46: Page 39, line 14, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $300,000,000)''.

Page 39, line 16, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $300,000,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 47: Page 39, line 14, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $20,000,000)''.

Page 40, line 5, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $20,000,000)''.

Page 40, line 23, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $20,000,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 48: Page 39, line 14, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $190,000,000)''.

Page 40, line 5, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $190,000,000)''.

Page 40, line 10, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $190,000,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 49: Page 39, line 14, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $225,000,000)''.

Page 40, line 5, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $225,000,000)''.

Page 40, line 17, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $225,000,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 50: Page 39, line 14, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $50,000,000)''.

Page 40, line 5, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $50,000,000)''.

Page 41, line 5, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $50,000,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 51: Page 39, line 14, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $58,000,000)''.

Page 42, line 5, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $58,000,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 52: Page 39, line 14, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $50,000,000)''.

Page 42, line 5, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $50,000,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 53: Page 42, line 25, after each dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $270,000,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 54: Page 42, line 25, after each dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $23,000,000)''.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 55: Strike Section 512.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 56: Strike Section 514.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 57: Strike Section 536.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 58: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for grants for use in high threat, high-density urban areas may be used to support dance classes.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 59: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for grants for use in high threat, high-density urban areas may be used to support puppet shows.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 60: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for grants for use in high threat, high-density urban areas may be used to support bingo games.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 61: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for grants for use in high threat, high-density urban areas may be used to support yoga classes.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 62: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for grants for use in high threat, high-density urban areas may be used to support art classes.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 63: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for grants for use in high threat, high-density urban areas may be used to support theater workshops.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 64: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for grants for terrorism prevention activities may be used to support dance classes.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 65: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for grants for terrorism prevention activities may be used for puppet shows.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 66: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for grants for terrorism prevention activities may be used for bingo games.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 67: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for grants for terrorism prevention activities may be used for yoga classes.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 68: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for grants for terrorism prevention activities may be used for art classes.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 69: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for grants for terrorism prevention activities may be used for theater workshops.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 70: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

Sec. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for interoperable communications grants may be used for supporting dance classes.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 71: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

Sec. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for interoperable communications grants may be used for supporting puppet shows.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 72: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

Sec. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for interoperable communications grants may be used for supporting bingo games.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 73: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for interoperable communications grants may be used for supporting yoga classes.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 74: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for interoperable communications grants may be used for supporting art classes.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 75: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and local programs'' for interoperable communications grants may be used for supporting theater workshops.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 76: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—emergency performance grants'' may be used for supporting yoga classes.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 77: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—emergency performance grants'' may be used for supporting bingo games.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 78: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—emergency performance grants'' may be used for supporting puppet shows.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 79: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—emergency performance grants'' may be used for supporting dance classes.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 80: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—emergency performance grants'' may be used for supporting art classes.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 81: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available in this Act in title III under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—emergency performance grants'' may be used for supporting theater workshops.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 82: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the alteration or removal of the Galveston Causeway Bridge in Galveston, Texas.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 83: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the alteration or removal of the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge in Burlington, Iowa.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 84: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the alteration or removal of the Canadian Pacific Railway Bridge in LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 85: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the alteration or removal of the Chelsea Street Bridge in Chelsea, Massachusetts.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 86: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay the salary of a Department of Homeland Security Director of the Office of Multimedia.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 87: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to purchase a Louis Vuitton handbag.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 88: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay for adult entertainment.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 89: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay for a parking ticket.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 90: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to purchase jewelry.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 91: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay a bail bond.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 92: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 Federal employees at any single conference occurring outside the United States.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 93: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. Total appropriations made in this Act (other than appropriations required to be made by a provision of law) are hereby reduced by $362,540,000.

H.R. 2638

OFFERED BY: MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 94: Page 31, line 13, insert after expended ''Provided that, of the funds made available under this heading, at least $3,000,000 is for the establishment of a National Transportation Security Center of Excellence.''

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of America

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *110th* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007 *No. 93*

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KENT CONRAD, a Senator from the State of North Dakota.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, speak to us today that here in Your presence we may find knowledge of what You want us to do. Guide our Senators this week so that they clearly understand Your desires and give them the wisdom to obey. Provide them with daily strength to honor You with their service. May they never act in such a way that they lose their self-respect. Keep them from being the kind of people who want to get everything out of life while only putting a little into it. Remind them that they will answer to You for the way they have used their talents to serve others. Give them the ambition to honor You with faithfulness and humility.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KENT CONRAD led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of Rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President Pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3:30 p.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 3:30 p.m., the Senate will have 2 hours of debate as follows: an hour on the motion to proceed to the energy legislation, and the second hour will be debate on the motion to proceed to the legislation expressing no confidence in Attorney General Gonzales. Starting at 5:30 p.m. today, the Senate will conduct a rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the Gonzales legislation. If that cloture vote fails, then the Senate will have a vote on the motion to proceed to the energy legislation.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I now ask unanimous consent that at 5:10 today, until the vote at 5:30, the time be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders, with the majority leader controlling the final 10 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONSIDERATION OF IMMIGRATION AND ENERGY ISSUES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have spent 2 weeks on the immigration bill, and we listened to hour after hour of debate. I don't think there is a single Senator, no matter how one may have finally voted on the motion to proceed or not to proceed to the bill, who doesn't see an urgent need to fix our badly broken immigration system. Even those people who oppose this legislation vehemently believe the system is broken and needs to be fixed.

So everyone agrees that we need to fix it, and I think the best way to fix it is to legislate. When it came time to vote on the bipartisan compromise last Thursday, 7 Republicans joined with 38 Democrats to invoke cloture. Let us put that in proper perspective. Fourth-fifths of Democrats voted to proceed to complete this legislation, and one-seventh of the Republicans voted to proceed. That is 80 percent and 14 percent—80 percent of the Democrats said move forward and 14 percent of the Republicans said move forward. Eighty-six percent of the Republicans said no.

Today, in an hour or so, I am going to send a letter to President Bush to lay out my hope that we can still move forward on this legislation, but I want him to know that further progress will require active support from more Republicans, which is something he has to make sure his Republicans understand.

I see in today's Roll Call newspaper that one Republican Senator said: I think the Democrats are going to have to take care of most of those votes, the newspaper article says. Without mentioning the Senator's name, the article states:

Put the onus on Democrats to make up the 15-vote deficit on cloture, saying Republicans have nearly maxed out support on their side.

This appears on page 24 of Roll Call: ''I think the Democrats are going to have to deal with most of those [votes],'' the Senator said.

Mr. President, 80 percent and 14 percent. It is the President's bill. So if other Republican Senators feel the

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same as the Senator who is expressed on page 24 of Roll Call, saying we have to overcome the 15-vote deficit, it won't happen. We have about maxed out at 80 percent.

The letter I am going to send to the President will say a number of things. Among other things, it will say:

A strong spirit of bipartisanship has held together the coalition of Democrats and Republicans who negotiated the compromise and has sustained the Senate through 2 full weeks of debate on the bill. Unfortunately, that bipartisanship was largely absent in a crucial vote last Thursday.

Then I will go on to state to the President the percentages I just outlined.

I further say in the letter to the President:

We appreciate the efforts of you and other Republicans who have worked with us to get the bill this far. But we believe it will take stronger leadership by you to ensure that opponents of the bill do not block the path to final passage. Simply put, we need many more than seven Republicans to vote for cloture and final passage of the bill.

This letter will be signed by Senators REID, DURBIN, SCHUMER, and MURRAY, the Democratic leadership team.

I want to get the bill done. The overwhelming majority of the Democratic caucus has already voted for cloture. The American people are certainly looking to Congress for leadership. We hope President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress will find a way to work with us to deliver this bill to the immigrants, businesses, and all other Americans who deserve it.

If we see new cooperation and a clear way forward from the Republican caucus, I will do everything possible to readdress the immigration issue after the debate on the Energy bill is completed. And it is difficult for me to even say this because I really wanted to move next to the Defense authorization bill. If we can work out something, when we finish this Energy bill, to complete immigration, I want to do that.

Finally, Mr. President, on energy, we will turn our focus this week to one of the great remaining challenges of our time: our national energy policy.

In 1931, Thomas Alva Edison had a meeting with Henry Ford, whose cars were driving up consumer demand for gasoline. This is what Edison told Ford:

I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that.

Here it is, 76 years later—76 years later—and we haven't tackled our addiction to oil, and it has grown into a three-pronged crisis: threatening our economy, threatening our Nation's security, and threatening our environment.

Today, we will use 21 million barrels of oil and tomorrow the same. How much is 21 million barrels of oil? It is a ditch 10 feet deep and 200 football fields long or a ditch 10 feet deep and 11 miles long. Every day, we use that oil—every day.

The bill we begin debate on today—the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection Energy Efficiency Act of 2007—takes several major steps toward reducing our dependence on foreign oil, promoting renewable energy that we produce right here in America, and protecting our environment from global warming. This bill is a substitute to H.R. 6. This bill is a bipartisan bill.

A number of my chairmen came to me and said: We have this great legislation in my committee; can we bring it forward? I said: No, we have to have an energy bill; our initial energy bill has to be bipartisan. So the Energy Committee, under the direction of Senators BINGAMAN and DOMENICI, came up with a good package. That is part of what we are going to be debating in the Senate.

Then, in the Commerce Committee, Senator STEVENS and Senator INOUYE also came up with an extremely important piece of legislation dealing with CAFE standards, which is making cars more efficient. That is going to be in the bill to be brought to the floor.

Senator BOXER and Senator INHOFE also worked together to come up with another piece of legislation that we have put in this one bill. Their part of this bill is also excellent and deals with green buildings and making the massive fleet of Federal cars more energy efficient. It is a good piece of legislation, and it is a bipartisan bill.

There will be people wanting to put tax measures on this, but I think we should wait until the tax committee—Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY—does that. This is a bill which we should try to protect the bipartisan aspect of. It really is quite a good bill, and if we are able to pass it, we will save 4 million barrels of oil every day. That is pretty good.

This bill will set new energy efficiency standards for lighting, appliances, and water use. This bill alone will save ½ trillion gallons of water every year. For a place like Nevada, where we get 4 inches of rain every year in Las Vegas, that is a lot of water.

This is a bill which protects consumers by punishing companies that price gouge and manipulate supply for their profits. It is a bill which invests in carbon capture and storage, and it directs the President and his Cabinet to improve diplomatic relations with our energy partners in order to give us more leverage in the global energy market.

Altogether, this bill will save American consumers tens of billions of dollars every year, cut our oil consumption, reduce our dependence on foreign energy, and, by the way, might just save the planet while we are at it.

It is a good, important bill, a bipartisan bill, and as I have indicated, many of my colleagues will be tempted to offer tax amendments. I ask that they wait until the Finance Committee has had an opportunity to make recommendations on an energy tax amendment before any additional amendments are offered on this bill.

I hope my colleagues will vote in favor of the motion to proceed. In fact, I hope we can proceed to the bill immediately and not have to use the 30 hours. That will allow time for more amendments.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, just a brief word about the immigration bill. We could have been wrapping it up tonight.

As I indicated to my good friend, the majority leader, on Thursday afternoon, I thought there was every reason to believe we could have finished the immigration bill by tonight. Instead, we ended up having another cloture vote—in my view, a day or two premature—taking Friday off, and today spending our time on a meaningless resolution giving the President advice about whom the Attorney General ought to be.

Having said that, I appreciate the comments of the majority leader that he would like to finish the immigration bill. There is a substantial number of Republican Senators who believe this bill would be an improvement over the current situation, over the status quo, and so I hope we will be able to chart a path to get us back on track at some point and hopefully complete, on a bipartisan basis, what could well be the most important domestic achievement of this Congress.

I am pleased to hear the majority leader say there is a possibility that we could get back to this measure and wrap it up. That certainly is my hope, and I will look forward to working with him toward that end.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 3:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from North Dakota.

ATTORNEY GENERAL GONZALES

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the issues surrounding

the removal of eight U.S. attorneys last year. Attorney General Gonzales has claimed that he had no involvement in the firing of the U.S. attorneys. In fact, this is his statement. He said:

I was not involved in seeing any memos, was not involved in any discussions about what was going on. That's basically what I knew as the Attorney General.

That is really a stunning claim. His own Chief of Staff, Kyle Sampson, admitted the Attorney General misled the country. He is not alone. Kyle Sampson, former Chief of Staff to the Attorney General, said:

I don't think the Attorney General's statement that he was not involved in any discussions . . . was accurate. I remember discussing with him this process of asking certain U.S. attorneys to resign.

The Washington Post reported, on Michael Battle, the former Director of the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, and I quote from that story:

The former Justice Department official who carried out the firings of eight U.S. attorneys last year told Congress . . . that a memo on the firings was distributed at a November 27 meeting attended by Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales.

NBC News reported on William Mercer, the Acting Associate Attorney General:

Justice Department official William W. Mercer told congressional investigators on April 11 that he attended a meeting with the Attorney General . . . to discuss ''fired U.S. Attorney Carol Lamm's situation.''

It is simply not credible that the Attorney General of the United States had no role in the removal of eight U.S. attorneys. After all, he is the head of the Justice Department. To his credit, the Attorney General did eventually admit that he had misspoken in describing his lack of involvement. Given the growing public record, I don't think he had much choice.

However, to the great disappointment of people on both sides of the aisle, the Attorney General failed miserably in his attempt to set the record straight. In his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Attorney General used the words, ''I don't recall,'' or a variant on those words, 64 times. ''I don't recall,'' ''I don't have any recollection,'' ''I have no memory''—64 times. Some counts have that number at over 70. Some even approach 90.

Time after time, the Attorney General was unable to respond to even basic questions. He couldn't explain or couldn't remember why the U.S. attorneys were fired or how he was involved. Again, his performance was truly stunning. His inability or refusal to answer basic questions raises serious issues. Is he incompetent or is he simply playing the loyal soldier? Why were these U.S. attorneys removed?

Unfortunately, the answer that immediately suggests itself is that these firings were politically motivated. Let's look at some of the fired U.S. attorneys and the possible political reasons for their dismissal. Here we have them.

David Iglesias, New Mexico—there was a probe of Democrats not completed quickly enough. We had prominent Republicans complaining that he had not reached conclusion on a probe of Democrats quickly enough.

Carol Lamm, in California—she secured the conviction of a Republican Congressman, also had indicted the No. 3 official at the CIA, and was investigating a Republican Congressman.

Daniel Ogden, Nevada—investigated a Republican Governor and former Republican Congressman.

Bud Cummins in Arkansas—was replaced by a Karl Rove operative. He investigated a Republican Governor of Missouri.

John McCay, in Washington State—to the dismay of local GOP partisans, did not investigate the gubernatorial election won by a Democrat.

Paul Charlton, Arizona—he investigated Republican Congressman Jim Colby and Rick Renzi.

You start to connect the dots here. They said the reason these people were removed was because of poor performance. At least that is the assertion of the Attorney General. But if you look at the written reviews of these same U.S. attorneys, ones who had been removed and ones for whom you can find a clear partisan reason for their removal—look at the written reviews of their performance, which is the reason given by the Attorney General for their removal.

David Iglesias, New Mexico, written review:

Respected by the judiciary, agencies and staff . . . complied with department priorities.

Carol Lamm, California:

Effective manager and respected leader.

Daniel Ogden, Nevada:

Overall evaluation was very positive.

Bud Cummins of Arkansas:

Very competent and highly regarded.

John McCay, Washington State:

Effective, well-regarded and capable leader.

Paul Charlton, Arizona:

Well respected . . . established goals that were appropriate to meet the priorities of the department.

What do we have here? The Attorney General says he wasn't involved. Others of his own staff say he was involved. Then he says it was performance reasons for which these people were removed, but if you look at the written reviews of the people who were removed, their performance reviews were excellent.

But what you do have is a clear political motivation in case after case involving these U.S. attorneys. When you go back to the reason the Attorney General is giving now, that it is performance based, here is what the former supervisor of these prosecutors said:

Comey added that:

The reasons given for their firings have not been consistent with my experience. . . .

And that:

I had very positive encounters with these folks.

Comey was effusive in his praise of several of the fired prosecutors.

Comey was the Deputy Attorney General, and he described Paul Charlton of Arizona as '' one of the best.'' He said he had a very positive view of David Iglesias of New Mexico, and called Daniel Ogden of Las Vegas ''straight as a Nevada highway and a fired-up guy.''

Of John McCay of Seattle, Comey said:

I was inspired by him.

Now, it doesn't take long to figure out what has happened. The Attorney General comes and testifies he can't recall, he doesn't remember, that he wasn't really a part of it. He is contradicted by his own staff. Then he says it is performance based, but the performance reviews are without exception positive for these people who have been fired. Their supervisor, who was Deputy Attorney General, has rave reviews for virtually all of them.

Let's connect the dots. These are politically motivated firings. I don't know what other conclusion one can come to, and that is a very serious matter. I have been in the Senate for more than 20 years. I have never come to the floor and raised questions about the political motivation of an Attorney General—never. I do so now, and I do it because I believe this is a serious matter.

When the administration of justice becomes politically tainted in this country, that is an enormously serious matter. There is no longer, in my mind, any question but that this Attorney General has tainted his office. That is only further demonstrated by his late night visit to the hospital bed of the Attorney General of the United States, at that time John Ashcroft, to get him to sign documents that he refused to sign about the legality of certain actions of this administration.

We have seen enough. This Attorney General needs to leave his office. He has tainted his office. He does not deserve the high responsibility and enormous honor serving as Attorney General of the United States.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Missouri.

MEDIA BIAS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, recently I returned from Iraq where I visited Tikrit, Baghdad, Bamadi, and Balad with three of my congressional colleagues. We had the opportunity to meet with the commanding officers and troops on each location. On the floor of the Senate I spoke to you about witnessing firsthand some of the progress being made. Since I have seen so little coverage of that progress, I think progress bears repeating.

The new plan, the counterinsurgency plan, is showing initial signs of progress. Violence in al-Qaim, Haditha, Hit, Ramadi, and Falluja has dramatically decreased due to local leaders now siding with coalition forces pursuing al-Qaida in Iraq.

In Baghdad, U.S. and Iraqi security forces are clearing and holding some of the most dangerous areas, and sectarian violence has decreased.

I was especially impressed with the successes in Ramadi, where only a few months ago some were claiming it lost forever, and al-Qaida said it was going to establish its headquarters there. In April, attacks in Ramadi decreased by 74 percent. All 23 tribal areas in Ramadi are cooperating with U.S. forces to fight al-Qaida militants, 263 weapons caches were discovered in the preceding 3 months, and Iraqis are volunteering by the thousands to join the Army and local police force.

I am disappointed this progress has not been widely covered by the media in the United States. In fact, the only TV coverage I have seen was a 60-second clip by Nick Johnson of CNN, who did an excellent job. I see the LA Times had a story, ''Iraqi Tribal Chiefs Forming an Anti-Insurgent Party.''

The frustration at the failure of our media to call the successes what they were is very high. Earlier last week, my office received an e-mail from one of our troops serving in Iraq. He detailed an exciting success story, the establishment of a new joint command precinct for Iraqi police, Iraqi Army and Marines, the first such precinct headquarters to be established in Falluja. His e-mail detailed what a success the operation had been. Almost 200 Iraqis volunteered for police recruitment, hundreds more received outpatient medical care, damage claims were settled, and all present received food and oil rations. And the Iraqis seemed to be very pleased to be cooperating with the United States.

But the enemy, being very clever, working to thwart any and all progress, reacted to this success story by sending in some poor suicide bomber. Thanks to aggressive patrolling efforts by Iraqi forces, the bomber was forced to detonate his vest almost half a mile away when he was halted by police. He caused superficial wounds to one Iraqi civilian and killed himself. No one else was injured, no other damage caused. In the aftermath of the incident the precinct signed up an additional 75 recruits for police service.

As this American warrior wrote to us:

> This bomber failed. He failed to kill innocents and he failed to deter the progress of standing up Iraqi police.

But to his frustration there was no coverage of this good news story. Indeed, the media, the U.S. media totally misreported the story. A number of media outlets carried these headlines. From the Baltimore Sun, ''Attack on Iraq Police, At Least 20 Dead.''

From the Los Angeles Times, ''Twenty Iraqis Die in Suicide Attacks.''

Our correspondent wrote that he was shocked. He checked it out every way he could, but it appears to have been a false report. The headlines refer to the failed attack but depicted a dramatically different outcome. There has been no apparent retraction, so thousands upon thousands, maybe hundreds of thousands who saw the headline assumed yet another tragic incident occurred in Falluja and just lumped that in with all the other bad news that makes up a grim picture of Iraq. And you see why our men and women fighting over there are frustrated.

The following morning our correspondent found himself in another situation. He learned a combined Iraqi Army police and U.S. Marine patrol in Falluja encountered a small band of insurgents at a suicide vehicle factory. The police engaged the enemy, killing four of them, and the Iraqi Army and Marines trapped additional escaping insurgents, killing three more. Two large trucks laden with explosives and rigged to be suicide vehicles were found.

This was a best case scenario: enemy killed in his tracks, weapon was discovered before it caused any harm, there were no civilian casualties whatsoever, and U.S. demolition forces blew up the two suicide vehicles. Instead of celebrating this success, the e-mail noted—the writer noted it was disappointing to read a headline, ''Children Killed.''

According to the story, the U.S. tank fired a high-explosive round at insurgents placing an IED in Fallujah yesterday, killing three Iraqi children. The insurgents got away. To anyone watching the news that day, it would seem the war in Iraq is being lost and the terrorists are winning. While there has been significant progress in Iraq, there is no doubt we are losing the war of information. I couldn't have said it better than the young man who wrote my office in frustration, who said:

> What incredible economy of effort the enemy is afforded when U.S. media is their megaphone. Why spend precious resources on developing your own propaganda machine when you can make your opponent's own news outlets scream your message louder than you ever hoped to do independently.

The young man ended his e-mail by saying the incidents he detailed were very important to him and his comrades who were serving in Iraq. Typical of our brave warfighters, the young man stressed that he and his fellow soldiers will continue to fight the fight. He acknowledged there will be mistakes, setbacks, and casualties that the world will hear about, but there will also be successes, victories over enemy combatants, progress, stability, and growth in the new Iraq, but, tragically, it appears no one is going to hear about that in our media since it has been increasingly clear that our media is unwilling or able to report anything except bloody headlines and bad news. The U.S. Government has a responsibility to do a better job of public diplomacy, strategic influence getting our story out.

The U.S. military has made a real difference in Iraqi communities. There are examples of good stories, such as the local new precinct joint command headquarters. But somehow we are not doing an adequate job of spreading the news. Let me cite an example from today's Washington Post page A11: ''Tribal Coalition In Anbar Said To Be Crumbling.'' Well, I have missed it, perhaps, if I saw anything in the Washington Post about the coalition. About 23 sheiks in the tribal areas are cooperating with the United States. But when you read the story a little farther, you see the headline is about one Sunni leader who has great concern about another Sunni leader, and calls him a ''traitor.'' Unfortunately, this happens to go on frequently among tribes.

When you read farther down in the story, we finally interview General Petraeus. General Petraeus said: I think they have done this for their lives. This is not just a business deal that they have struck; when you oppose al-Qaida, you are putting it all on the line. This is not an economic issue.

That was the message from our commander. He did not get the headline. There was another member of the council who said that: The salvation is like one family. There are no problems between us and the members.

U.S. military officials said virtually everyone in Anbar belongs to a tribe and that rather than ignore that fact, they were trying to exploit it.

> There is an overlay of government structure and tribal structure, and the two, when they work well, mesh and, in a sense, complement each other in Anbar.

I was able to see an article, a TV story by Ollie North this past Sunday, a war story. He was talking about the good old days in World War II. If there was anything good about the old days in World War II, Hollywood and the media were on the same side as our troops. What a wonderful vestige of the old times.

I thought this was a great opportunity to see what had happened in the past. The war of ideas and public opinion is not just critical in Iraq, it is critical in the broad war on terror.

As we know from reading the statements of Ayman al-Zawahari, the No. 2 in command, he knows they cannot win the war militarily; they can win it only by influencing public opinion in the United States. Unfortunately, recent congressional action indicates the terrorists may not be far off base. Resolutions to withdraw from Iraq, delaying funding for the troops, telling the Sunni terror cells and the Shia militias that America's political will is wavering—the supporters of these resolutions are sending a message: Hang on, the United States will not have the political will to outlast them. Our men and women in uniform are right to be disheartened that we have not only the media but some Members of Congress who are unduly influenced by our enemy. It is critical that we not fall into this trap set by al-Qaida and the

other Islamic terrorists who wish to defeat us. It is about time we realize our brave men and women in Iraq are putting their lives on the line, they are under fire every day. They are fighting a battle and they are making progress in the global war on terror. They need the funds for equipment, which we finally passed to them, but they also deserve our moral support and support in winning the hearts and minds not only of the United States but of the world.

I yield the floor, and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WEBB). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NO CONFIDENCE RESOLUTION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, this afternoon the Senate will decide whether to end debate on proceeding to Senate Joint Resolution 14, which expresses the sense of the Senate that the Attorney General no longer holds the confidence of the Senate or the American people.

I rise to oppose this so-called no confidence resolution on both procedural and substantive grounds and will urge my colleagues to vote against ending debate. To paraphrase Shakespeare, whether or not this joint resolution amounts to sound and fury, it signifies nothing. It is nothing more than a bit of political theater which should be rejected out of hand.

Let me make two points about its form and two points about its substance before offering a few comments about the controversy from which it arose. The first point I want to make about its form is that this measure would express the sense or opinion of the Senate through a joint resolution. As opposed to regular Senate resolutions that require only Senate passage, joint resolutions are legislative vehicles requiring passage by both houses and signature by the President.

We use joint resolutions to propose constitutional amendments and some other legislative business, but this legislative vehicle is simply the wrong way to conduct non-legislative business such as expressing the opinion of one house. In a report dated today, the Congressional Research Service concludes that the form of this measure as a joint resolution is inappropriate for what it purports to do.

I think this is significant and the reason for this conclusion is obvious. If this joint resolution should somehow pass the Senate—which I certainly expect it will not—it will be sent to the House.

How on Earth can the House vote on the sense of the Senate? What could a House vote about the Senate's opinion on this matter possibly mean? By a negative vote, would the House be saying that what the Senate has expressed as its own opinion is really not the Senate's opinion? This makes no sense whatsoever. In fact, the House already has its own resolution regarding the Attorney General's service, and it is a regular House resolution.

The sponsors of S.J. Res 14 either do not understand or have disregarded how the legislative process is supposed to work. I suspect it is the latter, using this political ploy to force the President's involvement.

Either way, this body should reject it out of hand.

The Senate has not used a joint resolution in the past on the rare occasion when it has sought to criticize executive branch officials. Resolutions in the 109th Congress to censure the President or condemn remarks by a former Cabinet Secretary were Senate resolutions.

The resolution to censure the President introduced in the 106th Congress, offered by one of the cosponsors of today's joint resolution, was a Senate resolution. Resolutions in the 81st and 82nd Congresses demanding the resignation of Secretary of State Dean Acheson were Senate resolutions. The resolution to censure and condemn President James Buchanan in 1862 was a Senate resolution. Our only attempt to censure the Attorney General, back in 1886, was through Senate resolutions. This unprecedented use of a joint resolution would distort our legislative procedure, and I urge my colleagues to reject it.

The second point about the form of this measure is that it purports to be a no confidence resolution. Parliaments take no-confidence votes for an obvious reason. In a parliamentary system of government, the legislative body's confidence or support is necessary for the head of government and cabinet ministers to serve.

For an equally obvious reason, the so-called no-confidence resolution before us should be rejected. This is not a parliament. In our Presidential system of government, the separation of powers means that the chief executive is elected separately from the legislature, and cabinet officials such as the Attorney General serve at the pleasure of the President.

Under the Constitution, the Senate's consent was required for the Attorney General's appointment, but our confidence is not required for the Attorney General's continued service. The Attorney General serves at the pleasure of the President, not at the confidence of the Senate.

The separation of powers has been a casualty throughout the controversy concerning the removal of U.S. Attorneys that gave rise to this misguided resolution. As with the Attorney General—and with very few exceptions—U.S. attorneys serve at the pleasure of the President.

The U.S. attorney statute says that they are subject to removal by the President. Neither the Constitution nor this statute say anything about the confidence of the Senate for the continued service of officials the President has authority to appoint.

The separation of powers, a principle fundamental to our constitutional system itself, is becoming a casualty of partisan politics.

The brand new Congressional Research Service report I mentioned earlier could not identify a single resolution like this one even being offered in the past and this should not be the first. No matter what its substance, a joint resolution is inappropriate for expressing the sense of the Senate about his issue. No matter what its form, a resolution expressing a lack of confidence in an executive branch official is inappropriate in our system of government.

Let me now address two points regarding the substance of this inappropriate joint resolution. The first point is about the real purpose behind its words. Even though expressing a lack of confidence in an executive branch official is irrelevant in our system of government, we all know that the real purpose behind this resolution is to pressure the Attorney General to resign.

On the one hand, if its sponsors want to call for the Attorney General's resignation, they should be honest and do so. On the other hand, Senators certainly do not need a resolution—especially one as fundamentally flawed and inappropriate as this one—to call for the Attorney General's resignation. As a number of this resolution's sponsors have already done, with the rapt attention and constant repetition of a compliant media, Senators can demand the Attorney General's resignation any time they choose.

My second point about the substance of this misguided joint resolution concerns its actual content, the words themselves.

This joint resolution does not condemn or criticize the Attorney General for anything he has done or said. It does not call for his censure. And, just to repeat, this joint resolution does not call for the Attorney General's resignation.

In the past, the Senate has considered resolutions doing each of these, albeit through regular Senate resolutions properly suited to the task. But this joint resolution before us does not even contain a single ''whereas,'' clause offering any indication of the basis or any reason for what it says. Rather, this joint resolution speaks vaguely of ''holding confidence,'' as if this were an all-or-nothing proposition, as if this were some kind of a pass-fail test.

Even when parliaments take no-confidence votes, those votes are at least limited to the confidence of parliament itself. This joint resolution purports to speak about all the confidence of all the American people. But what could a ''yes'' or ''roll vote on such a resolution possibly mean? Would a ''no'' vote

mean that no American has any confidence in the Attorney General about anything?

Would a ''yes'' vote mean that every American has complete confidence in the Attorney General about everything?

Because neither one of those can possibly be true, a resolution worded this way is either seriously misguided or nothing but a publicity stunt. It is not focused on his job performance, or his leadership of the Justice Department, but is focused on the Attorney General himself.

A resolution asking for a ''yes'' or ''no'' vote on something as vague and misdirected as confidence in a person attempts to reduce the multifaceted and complex to the unilateral and simplistic. In doing so, this misleading joint resolution turns a bit of political theater into a theater of the absurd.

The Senate should not even consider such a resolution evoking the image of Caesar listening for the chants of the crowd before giving a thumbs-up or a thumbs-down. Rather than purporting to speak for the American people, I think we should let the American people speak for themselves.

I found 16 opinion polls by nationally recognized polling outfits during March and April asking Americans whether the Attorney General should resign. These polls did not ask a vague, squishy question such as: Do you have confidence in the Attorney General? No these polls asked the real question behind the joint resolution before us today: Do you think the Attorney General should resign? An average of 39 percent of Americans said ''yes.'' Only one poll showed bare majority responding in the affirmative and, considering its margin of error, even that one might not show majority support for this result at all.

Frankly, I am a little surprised that the percentage of Americans who say the Attorney General should resign is not higher. My Democratic colleagues and many of their media allies, after all, have been working very hard week after week after week to persuade our fellow citizens that the Attorney General should go.

Daily front-page news coverage, Senate and House hearings, protests and lobbying by activists, blogs, columns, editorials—the Attorney General's critics have been pulling out all the stops for 6 months now. And while the joint resolution before us suggests that this aggressive, coordinated effort has deprived the Attorney General of everyone's confidence about everything, only a little over a third of Americans think he should resign. The Pew Research Center examined news coverage during the week in March when the Attorney General gave a much-criticized press conference. They found that the story about dismissed U.S. attorneys was the most reported story in the national media, with coverage jumping eight fold from the previous week. In spite of that Herculean media effort, however, only about 8 percent of Americans said this is the story they followed most closely.

These national polls are far better suited to measure what the American people think than the joint resolution before us, and my Democratic colleagues might want to consider another nugget of public opinion.

A USA Today/Gallup poll showed that while 38 percent of Americans believe that the Attorney General should resign, 40 percent of Americans believe that Democrats in Congress are spending too much time on this issue. Let me repeat that. More Americans say Democrats spend too much time on this issue than believe the Attorney General should resign. One reason might be that there is so little to show for the effort.

Just a few weeks ago, one of my distinguished Democratic colleagues said during a press conference that Democrats just know that U.S. attorneys were fired last year for improper reasons. How do Democrats know this? Because they have any evidence for that conclusion?

No. My Democratic colleague had to admit that ''we don't have a smoking gun.'' That is Washington political code for ''just take our word for it because we can't prove it.''

Just a couple of weeks before that, another distinguished Democratic colleague told a gaggle of reporters after a Judiciary Committee hearing that he ''just knows'' someone in the White House ordered that those U.S. attorneys be removed. Now, how does he know this? Because he has any evidence for this conclusion? No. He too had to admit that ''of course we don't know that''

It is truly ironic that this controversy involves prosecutors. Prosecutors must have some evidence to bring charges. Prosecutors must have some evidence for a conviction. I just wish that some of my Senate colleagues felt such an obligation either to prove their allegations or move on to more important matters.

We have been investigating and probing the removal of those U.S. attorneys for 6 months. Dozens of staff in the Senate, the House, and the Justice Department have done little else since the 110th Congress began. We have seen hearing after hearing, interview after interview, thousands of pages of documents, and even hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars to hire outside law firms as reinforcements.

Democrats continue to authorize subpoenas not only for people who have not refused to testify, but for people who have agreed to testify, and even for people who have already testified. And after all that, my Democratic colleagues have to admit that they have no smoking gun, they cannot prove the accusations they continue to repeat. There are plenty of innuendos, caricatures, and characterizations. But repeating talking points, sound bites and cliches is no substitute for evidence.

This summer, Americans will see sequels of several movies in the theaters. Here in the Senate's political theater, we have already seen several sequels of the same movie. Last week's Judiciary Committee hearing, for example, was part five on the hiring and firing of U.S. attorneys. Every one of those same sequels has the same ending. It is no wonder more Americans believe that enough is enough than believe the Attorney General should resign.

Before I close, let me say a few words about the controversy that was the impetus for this misguided joint resolution. As I said earlier, U.S. attorneys serve at the pleasure of the President. With very few exceptions, he may remove them for whatever reason he chooses. The President has the authority to remove a U.S. attorney to allow someone else to serve in that position or because that U.S. attorney's performance is, in some general or specific way, inadequate. Each of the U.S. attorneys removed last year had served his or her 4-year term and had no right to serve longer if the President didn't want them to. That means the real issue is whether these U.S. attorneys were removed for genuinely improper reasons, such as interfering with an ongoing case. After all this time, all this effort, and all this taxpayer money, there is no evidence for that conclusion.

I must candidly say, at the same time, that the process by which this administration set out to evaluate U.S. attorneys and replace some of them was bungled from the start. Proper respect for the office of the Federal prosecutor and for the individuals who occupy it would, it seems to me, require a more rigorous, disciplined, organized process than apparently was used here. The Attorney General has said as much and said he should have been more involved. I also think the individuals who were asked to resign deserve better, more respectful treatment. But there is a high burden of proof for those who say that a badly executed and explained process, even a poorly conceived and mismanaged process, was instead a nefarious, partisan, political scheme to subvert the justice system. Continuing to make such claims without coming close to meeting that burden appears to many designed, instead, to serve partisan political goals.

As I close, I ask my colleagues to consider one more set of polls. During the same 2 months, March and April, as they were asking about the Attorney General's resignation, national polling outfits also asked Americans if they approve of the way Congress is doing its job. While an average of 39 percent of Americans believe the Attorney General should resign, an average of 56 percent of Americans disapprove of how we are doing our job. Should we all resign? I think there are some people who probably would say yes. Far more Americans disapprove of Congress than believe the Attorney General should resign. I wonder whether spending so

much time on fishing expeditions that yield no fish and wasting time on inappropriate, misleading resolutions such as the one before us today only add to Americans' disapproval of our job performance.

In a statement last Friday, the main sponsor of this joint resolution said the vote on this resolution is about loyalty. I suppose he meant loyalty to the President, as if that were the only reason to oppose using the wrong vehicle for a misleading statement that has no relevance to our system of government. In a way, I agree this is about loyalty, but I think it is about loyalty to the Constitution, to the integrity of the legislative process, to this body as an institution, and to a fair and honest debate about these issues. If my colleagues are loyal to those, they will see that this bit of absurd political theater serves no real purpose and will only add to most Americans' already negative view of how we are doing our job.

So I urge my colleagues to reject this cloture motion.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to ask what the time allocation is because I wish to speak on the Democratic side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The remaining 20 minutes is under the control of the majority.

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, similarly reserving the right to object, I have been waiting. I wonder if we might have a unanimous consent agreement that I be permitted to speak for 10 minutes, unless the Senator from California wants to go first?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, if I might respond to that. Of course I want to cooperate, but I wish to use the 20 minutes of Democratic time. I would be prepared to extend the time for morning business if the Senators would agree to that.

Perhaps there could be a unanimous consent agreement that Senator SPECTER is allowed 10 minutes, and I would be allowed the 20 minutes of Democratic time, requiring an extension of 10 minutes of morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, how much time remains on each side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority has 18½ minutes and the Republican time has expired.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the majority has 18½ minutes, and the minority has how much?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority time has expired.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. If I may, Mr. President, through the Chair to the distinguished ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, say my suggestion is we extend the time of morning business to accommodate the Senator's 10 minutes and my 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to speak about the resolution of no confidence on Attorney General Gonzales. This resolution poses many currents and crosscurrents and many overlapping currents and crosscurrents. I have written down five of the currents which I believe are involved in the analysis of this issue.

First: Have I lost confidence in Attorney General Gonzales? Second: Is this resolution politically motivated? Third: Does Senator SCHUMER have a conflict of interest? Fourth: Will this resolution likely lead to the departure of Attorney General Gonzales or give him more reason to stay on? And fifth: Is the principal reason for this resolution to help the Department of Justice or to embarrass Republicans? It is an interrelationship and a wing of these various considerations which has led to my own conclusion on this resolution.

First of all, have I lost confidence in Attorney General Gonzales? Absolutely yes. Attorney General Gonzales has made representations which are false. He said he was not involved in discussions. He was contradicted by three of his top aides and by documentary evidence, e-mails. He said he was not involved in deliberations. Again, he was contradicted by three top aides and documentary evidence, the e-mails. He said he was not involved in the memoranda which were circulated on this matter. Again, contradicted by three top aides and documentary evidence.

He said the terror surveillance program brought no objection within the Department of Justice, and we find on examination there were serious dissents within the Department of Justice on the constitutionality of the terrorist surveillance program. So much so that Alberto Gonzales, when he served as White House counsel, was one of those who went to the hospital room of then-Attorney General John Ashcroft to get Attorney General Ashcroft to certify that the program was constitutional. So there is no doubt in my mind that there is no confidence which is residing in Attorney General Gonzales.

This is much more than a personnel matter. This is a matter for the administration of the Department of Justice, which is second only to the Department of Defense on the welfare of the people of the United States. The Department of Justice has the responsibility for investigating terrorism and antiterrorism, has the responsibility for enforcing our drug laws, has the responsibility for enforcing Federal laws of violent crime and white-collar crime. The Attorney General has the responsibility for supervising 93 U.S. attorneys from around the country who have very important positions, something that I know something about in some detail, since I was the district attorney of Philadelphia for some 8 years. There is no doubt the Department at the present time is in shambles.

The Attorney General called me before his hearing came up and asked for my advice, and I said: Set out the reasons why you asked these individuals to resign. Set out the reasons why. He did not do so. The day after a very tempestuous hearing in the Judiciary Committee, he called me again and asked for my advice as to what he ought to do. I said: Al, you still haven't responded as to why you asked these people to resign. I took the position at that time, and I take the position at the present time, that I am not going to ask the President to fire Attorney General Gonzales. That is a matter for the President to decide. I am not going to let the President tell me how to vote, and I am not going to say to him how he ought to run the executive branch on grounds of separation of power. Similarly, with Attorney General Gonzales, as to what he does, that is a personal decision for him to make. But I have been very emphatic in the Judiciary Committee hearings, as we have investigated this matter, that I think the Attorney General has not done the job and that the Department of Justice would be much better off without him.

The second question I looked at is: Is this resolution politically motivated? I think that it certainly is. This ties in to the crosscurrent as to whether Senator SCHUMER has a conflict of interest. I believe he does. I said so to Senator SCHUMER eyeball to eyeball, confronting him in the Judiciary Committee meeting. The day after New Mexico's U.S. Attorney David Iglesias testified about a conversation that Iglesias had with Senator DOMENICI, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee posted on their Web site criticisms of Senator PETE DOMENICI. The following day, the Democratic fundraising apparatus, led by Senator SCHUMER, published a fundraising letter, and there is no doubt about that conflict of interest. Senator SCHUMER has been designated to lead the investigation because he is the chairman of the relevant subcommittee. So I think there is no doubt about the overtone of heavy politicization and the conflict of interest.

The third consideration I have is will this resolution likely lead to the departure or give the Attorney General a reason to stay on? My hunch is the thrust of the resolution, if it seeks his ouster, is going to be a boomerang and is going to be counterproductive. My own sense is there is no confidence in the Attorney General on this side of the aisle but that the views will not be expressed in this format. Already, some who have called for his resignation on the Republican side of the aisle have said they will not vote for this resolution. Others who have declined to comment about his capacity have said that this is not the proper way to proceed, that our form of government does not have a no-confidence vote.

Is the principal reason for this resolution to help the Department of Justice or to embarrass Republicans? I

think clear cut, it is designed to embarrass Republicans. It is designed to embarrass Republicans if the Senate says the Senate has no confidence in the Attorney General, and it is designed to embarrass Republicans who vote against the motion for cloture because it will be a ''gotcha'' 30-second commercial in later campaigns. It will be used to say that whoever votes against the motion to invoke cloture is sanctioning the conduct of Attorney General Gonzales, and anybody who votes against the motion to invoke cloture is going to be the recipient of those 30-second ''gotcha'' commercials.

Now, there are many reasons to vote against the cloture motion. One reason—and a dominant reason—is that the Senate has a lot more important things to do than engage in this debate on this issue. Thursday night, the majority leader took down the immigration bill. Regrettably, he had cause to because the Republican Senators who had objected to the immigration bill wouldn't allow any amendments to come up. They wouldn't allow their amendments—they didn't step forward with their amendments, nor did they allow others to offer amendments. But we were on the verge of getting a list. It was taking a little more time. The majority leader took down the bill. But the national interest would be a lot better served had we continued with the bill on Friday or perhaps on Saturday—we can work on Saturday—or return to the bill today—or still return to the bill today, instead of taking up this resolution.

Another reason why people could justifiably vote against cloture is because the investigation is not complete. That is still hanging fire, so why have the resolution before we finish our investigation?

But there is another reason: the Constitution arguably expresses a way to deal with Attorney General Gonzales, and that is by impeachment, as it is not in line to have a resolution of disapproval. That is the British system of no confidence. It is my sense that many on this side of the aisle, if not most, if not almost all—I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. It is my sense that many on this side of the aisle—most, if not almost all—will vote against cloture because there are ample reasons to vote against cloture. But as I look at this matter, as to which is the more weighty, the more compelling, the more important, candidly stating I have no confidence in Attorney General Gonzales or rejecting the outright political chicanery which is involved in this resolution offered by the Democrats, I come down on the side of the interests of the country, and moving for improvements in the Department of Justice is to make a candid statement that I have no confidence in the Attorney General, which I have said repeatedly. It is no surprise. I am going to deal with this resolution on the merits and vote to invoke cloture.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I don't often differ with the distinguished ranking member. But I came to the floor as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee now for 15 years and as one who takes no particular pleasure in what I am about to say. I urge a ''yes'' vote on cloture. I want to say why.

The Department of Justice is one of the country's most important departments. It has a budget of $24 billion and over 100,000 employees. It is charged with combating terrorism, fighting violent crime, stopping drug trafficking, upholding civil rights, and enforcing civil liberties. It houses key agencies, including the FBI, DEA, the Bureau of Prisons, the Marshals Service, and U.S. Attorney's Offices.

As a leader of the Department, the Attorney General is the chief law enforcement officer for the people of this Nation. He is the chief lawyer of the United States. He runs a big department. He must be a strong manager who can direct the day-to-day operations and an independent leader with an unyielding commitment to the law, who is willing to stand up against, yes, even the President, if necessary. He must lead by example, upholding the highest ethical standards.

I think President Lincoln's Attorney General put the challenge on the map when he said this:

> The office I hold is not properly political, but strictly legal, and it is my duty above all other ministers of state to uphold the law and to resist all encroachments from whatever quarter.

That is the job of the U.S. Attorney General. The subject before us today is the fact that, for many of us, this Attorney General has not lived up to this standard, and he has lost our confidence. Unfortunately, the Attorney General has failed to meet the challenges during his tenure.

The Department of Justice has become highly politicized in its hiring and firing—I hope to lay that out—and I believe in many of the legal opinions it issues as well. In many respects, it is today an extension of the White House, rather than the scrupulous, independent enforcer of Federal law as suggested by President Lincoln's Attorney General.

Through the investigation into the hiring and firing of at least 9 U.S. attorneys, we have heard Attorney General Gonzales give vague and unconvincing responses in critical areas about his Department's performance.

The Attorney General testified that he does not know who selected the various U.S. attorneys to be fired; therefore, he does not know why they were fired. Can you believe that? He testified that the firings were based on a ''process of consulting with senior leadership in the Department.'' However, every single one of the Department of Justice's senior officials who have testified has stated under oath that they did not place a U.S. attorney on the termination list, with one exception—Kevin Ryan of California. This includes Kyle Sampson, the Attorney General's Chief of Staff; James Comey, former Deputy Attorney General; Paul McNulty, Deputy Attorney General; Mike Elston, Paul McNulty's Chief of Staff; Monica Goodling, White House Liaison; Bill Mercer, Associate Attorney General; Mike Battle, Director of the Executive Office of the U.S. Attorneys; and David Margolis, Associate Deputy Attorney General. They have all said they did not add names to the list of those to be fired. To this day, we have been unable to find out who put in place the unprecedented targeted program to fire several U.S. attorneys midterm, at one time, and who made the decision to place these attorneys on that firing list.

We also learned that an internal order, entitled ''Delegation of Certain Personnel Decisions to the Chief of Staff,'' that was issued March 1, 2006—in that order, the Attorney General designated his role in hiring and firing certain senior officials in the Department of Justice to his Chief of Staff, Kyle Sampson, and a young, 33-year-old former researcher for the Republican National Committee, Monica Goodling. I must say that I find this a major abdication of the duty of a leader. In fact, according to internal memos, the Attorney General was going to completely abdicate his role, until the Office of Legal Counsel stepped in, saying he must at least be consulted in the process.

In a memo dated February 24, 2006, Paul Corts, Assistant Attorney General for Administration, wrote this:

> The Office of Legal Counsel advises that permitting the Attorney General's delegates to approve appointments (or removals) of constitutionally ''inferior officers''. . . would be inconsistent with the [Excepting Clause in the Constitution]. The Office of Legal Counsel recommends that the delegates exercising the authority of this delegation submit appointments or removals to the Attorney General.

Taken together, the most favorable interpretation of these various actions is that the Attorney General has clearly sought to avoid these key responsibilities.

Unfortunately, information has come to light that demonstrates that the problems are not limited to poor management. Rather, the Department's reputation, independence, and credibility have been put in serious question.

Mr. Gonzales has stated that he believes the Attorney General wears ''two hats''—one as a member of the President's staff and another as the Nation's top law enforcement officer. How does this compare with what I just read from Abraham Lincoln's Attorney General? Answer: It does not.

It is this perspective which I believe has led the Attorney General to treat

the Department of Justice as a political arm of the White House rather than as the independent law enforcement agency it should be. For example, the committee's investigation has shown that seven of the nine U.S. attorneys who were fired were not fired for so-called ''performance reasons'' at all, as stated. In fact, when reviewing the six evaluation and review staff reports, which are called the EARS reports, of the fired U.S. attorneys, all were given strong, positive performance evaluations. Here are some examples:

Bud Cummins:

United States Attorney Cummins was very competent and highly regarded by the Federal judiciary, law enforcement, and the civil client agencies.

Despite this review, Mr. Cummins was fired in June of 2006.

Carol Lam:

U.S. Attorney Carol Lam was an effective manager and a respected leader in the District . . . The United States Attorney committed significant prosecutorial resources to the felony immigration and border crime cases.

Despite this review, Mrs. Lam was fired on December 7, 2006, ostensibly for the very reason that the EARS report found she had done a good job.

David Iglesias:

This U.S. Attorney had well-conceived strategic plans that complied with Department priorities and reflected the needs of the District overall. The U.S. Attorney effectively managed complaints, detention decisions, and pretrial practices.

Despite this review, Mr. Iglesias was fired on December 7, 2006.

Dan Bogden:

U.S. Attorney Bogden was actively involved in the day-to-day management of the U.S. Attorney's office, had established an excellent management team, and had established appropriate priority programs that support Department initiatives.

Despite this review, Mr. Bogden was fired on December 7, 2006.

Paul Charlton:

U.S. Attorney Charlton also made his goals and expectations clear to his staff. . . .The U.S. Attorney's office prosecuted more immigration violations than any other district.

Despite this review, Mr. Charlton was fired December 7, 2006.

John McKay:

McKay is an effective, well-regarded, and capable leader of the [U.S. Attorney's office] and the District's law enforcement community.

Despite this review, Mr. McKay was fired on December 7, 2006.

The Department did not turn over the EARS reports for the two U.S. attorneys who were said to have performance concerns and who were not identified until late in the process—Margaret Chiara and Kevin Ryan.

Since the initial cause for the firing, performance was clearly debunked by these reports. It now appears that these 6 U.S. attorneys were fired because they upset the political arm of the White House.

For example, David Iglesias, by all accounts a rising star, was only placed on the list to be fired after the President and Karl Rove called the Attorney General to pass along complaints.

Specifically, Kyle Sampson, former Chief of Staff to the Attorney General, testified on March 29, 2007, that:

I do remember learning, I believe, from the Attorney General that he had received a complaint from Karl Rove about U.S. Attorneys in three jurisdictions, including New Mexico, and the substance of the complaint was that those U.S. Attorneys weren't pursuing voter fraud cases aggressively enough.

Mr. Sampson went on to testify that he also remembered that:

Just a week before I left the Department in March, I remember the Attorney General telling me that he had had a meeting with the President in October sometime. . . . I remember the Attorney General saying, ''You know, I remember the President in that meeting we had in October telling me that [there were] concerns about Iglesias.''

In addition, the committee's investigation has shown that many of the U.S. attorneys who were fired, or put on a list to be fired, were handling contentious election-related cases, including Todd Graves, former U.S. attorney in Missouri, who recently revealed that he, too, was forced to resign after he had refused to support a case against the Democratic secretary of state in Missouri, alleging that Missouri was violating Federal law for failing to purge voter rolls—that is despite the rules of the Department urging that no case involving election practices be brought prior to an election; John McKay, former U.S. attorney in Washington, fired, it appears, because he refused to bring a case during the hotly contested gubernatorial race against essentially the Democratic candidate; David Iglesias, former U.S. attorney in New Mexico, who, it appears, was fired because he refused to bring a case alleging voter fraud prior to the election; Tom Hefflefinger, former U.S. attorney in Minnesota, who was put on a list to be fired when he was pushing for an investigation into voter discrimination against Native Americans; Steve Buskupic, U.S. attorney in Wisconsin, who was put on a list to be fired, and his district was the focus of a document sent over from the White House for investigation that provided information on Milwaukee voting trends.

These are just examples of U.S. attorneys who were fired or considered to be fired because of their involvement in election fraud cases. Other U.S. attorneys who were fired were involved with sensitive public corruption cases.

The congressional investigation has also uncovered that political considerations were being taken into account with regard to hiring and firing decisions for career employees at the Department and the prestigious Honors Program. Now, that is a no-no.

Monica Goodling, a young, inexperienced lawyer, 33 years old, was named White House Liaison at the Department of Justice, and in that role she was given the authority to hire and fire personnel for many critical positions at the Department.

On May 23, 2007, Ms. Goodling testified that ''I may have gone too far in asking political questions of applicants for career positions, and I may have taken inappropriate political considerations into account on some occasions.''

This is a 33-year-old making these decisions. Where was the Attorney General?

The Congress has also discovered that political appointees directed changes to be made to the performance evaluations of career staff and overrode career attorneys' recommendations regarding which cases to pursue or not pursue.

For example, in testimony before the House, Joe Rich, who worked at DOJ's Civil Rights Division for 37 years, testified that he was ''ordered to change the standard performance evaluations of attorneys under my supervision to include critical comments of those who had made recommendations that were counter to the political will of the front office and to improve evaluations of those who were politically favored.''

What does this do to the credibility of the Department of Justice of the United States?

In the Senate Judiciary Committee's hearing last week, Brad Schlozman testified that ''on a number of occasions, I believe I did order [Joe Rich to change performance evaluations.]''

There you have it, the politicization of the Department of Justice.

Sharon Eubanks, lead attorney for the Department of Justice on the tobacco cases, has stated that in June 2005, she was pressured to ask for lesser penalties against the tobacco companies. She said:

At first, the administration officials attempted to get the litigation team and me and my staff to agree to lower the amount, but there was no basis for doing that, and we refused. And finally, after a number of very heated discussions, I said, ''You write it and I'll say it.''

What a terrible comment about some of the biggest cases ever made in the history of the United States.

Each of these facts on its own is disconcerting, but taken together, they show a department being run based on politics and not on law.

I also believe the Attorney General has compromised important legal principles by taking positions and espousing opinions that are outside the mainstream of legal thought. For example, the Attorney General testified on January 18, 2007, that habeas corpus, the right to challenge one's imprisonment, is not protected by the Constitution. Here is what the Attorney General said:

There is no express grant of habeas in the Constitution. There is a prohibition against taking it away . . . I meant by that comment, the Constitution doesn't say ''Every individual in the United States or every citizen is hereby granted or assured the right to habeas.''

He has also pushed to narrow the definition of torture and changed to whom the Geneva Convention applies. In the January 2002 memo he wrote:

In my judgment, this new paradigm renders obsolete Geneva's strict limitations on questioning of enemy prisoners and renders quaint some of its provisions.

And when it comes to Guantanamo, Attorney General Gonzales has expressed strong objections to closing the detention facility and moving detainees to the United States.

The New York Times reported of March 22 of this year that Mr. Gates argued to close Guantanamo. But according to administration officials—this is the newspaper only:

Mr. Gates's arguments were rejected after Attorney General Gonzales and some other Government lawyers expressed strong objections to moving detainees to the United States, a stance that was backed by the Office of the Vice President.

And despite the fact that the U.S. Code states ''the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act shall be the exclusive means'' by which electronic surveillance may be conducted, the Attorney General has argued that the language used in the authorization for use of military force implicitly authorized the President to exercise powers, ''including the collection of enemy intelligence.''

In his prepared testimony from January 2006, he stated:

The Supreme Court confirmed that the expansive language of the resolution—''all necessary and appropriate force''—ensures that the congressional authorization extends to traditional incidents of waging war . . . [and] the use of communications intelligence to prevent enemy attacks is a fundamental and well-accepted incident of military force.

He is thereby saying that Guantanamo is a creature of this and, therefore, legal. I don't agree with that assessment.

I believe each of these legal opinions has had dramatic negative consequences, including negatively impacting America's relationship with most countries abroad.

Finally, and perhaps most disturbing, the Senate has heard testimony from Deputy Attorney General James Comey that calls into question the Attorney General's character and integrity.

Mr. Comey testified about the conversation in the intensive care unit of George Washington University Hospital where he witnessed then-White House Counsel Gonzales ''trying to take advantage of a very sick man'' to reverse a judgment that the Terrorist Surveillance Program was illegal.

The testimony—his testimony, Comey's testimony—raised questions about actions that are contrary to the ethical standards lawyers are required to uphold.

Mr. Comey's testimony stands in sharp contrast to the statements made by Mr. Gonzales to the Senate about this incident.

In response to Senators' questions on February 6, 2006, the Attorney General left the impression that any reports of disagreement within the administration about the surveillance program were either inaccurate or in reference to some other program or issue.

He said:

There has not been any serious disagreement [about the program] . . . The point I want to make is that, to my knowledge, none of the reservations dealt with the program that we are talking about today.

That was under oath, Mr. President, before us. He didn't tell us about this. He didn't tell us that he went, as White House Counsel, to a critically ill man's intensive care unit bed and tried to reverse a decision that the Acting Attorney General was making. It wasn't until Mr. Comey came forward and told us about it did we know.

What do I conclude? Each of these issues is serious on its own and each would raise serious questions about the qualifications and service of this Attorney General. The Department of Justice is charged with enforcing the law and protecting all Americans' rights and security. The Attorney General must enforce the law without fear or favor to its political ramifications. He must act independently and pursue justice wherever it may lead, and without compromise. He must uphold the highest ethical standards.

Let me quote again from President Lincoln's Attorney General:

[t]he office I hold is not properly political, but strictly legal; and it is my duty, above all other ministers of State, to uphold the law and to resist all encroachments from whatever quarter. . . .

This is what the Attorney General should be. That is why I am going to support the motion to close off debate and support the resolution.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

CREATING LONG-TERM ENERGY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE NATION ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 3:30 p.m. having passed, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6) to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 4:30 p.m. shall be equally divided and controlled between the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we be allowed to equally divide a full hour, which was our plan this afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Some of that time may be yielded back, but I didn't want to cut off anyone who wishes to speak on this issue before we go to a vote.

Mr. President, today we begin consideration of energy legislation in the Senate. Later today, we will be voting to take up legislation that will make a meaningful and bipartisan contribution to charting a new direction for America's energy policy.

There is a growing consensus among Federal, State, and local policymakers across the ideological spectrum, also from corporate leaders and the American public in general, that our Nation needs to move faster and needs to go farther to secure its energy future.

America's family farmers and businesses look no further than the prices that are posted at the corner gas station to see the vivid and daily indicators of the economic perils inherent in maintaining the status quo. In fact, they have watched as gas prices have stayed at more than $3 per gallon for well over a month.

Our national security experts cite the geopolitical implications and the foreign policy challenges presented by the rise of State-owned energy companies and by our own growing dependence on oil imports. In 2005, the United States imported roughly 60 percent of the petroleum that we consumed. Without decisive action, that figure is expected to approach 70 percent over the next two decades, with more than 35 percent of that increase expected to come from member nations of OPEC or the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Meanwhile, economists take note of our energy policy's fiscal implications as well related to America's global competitiveness. In 2005 and 2006, our dependence on petroleum imports combined with rising prices to add an estimated $120 billion to our Nation's trade deficit.

There is no doubt there is a compelling case for action, but there is also something more fundamental that is embedded in the American consciousness that is animating the national call for a new direction in our energy policy.

President Franklin Roosevelt once observed:

The creed of our democracy is that liberty is acquired and kept by men and women who are strong and self- reliant.

Perhaps it is this American principle of self-reliance that is driving national debate forward when it comes to energy policy.

After all, by tapping America's limitless capacity for innovation, our most abundant renewable resource, the United States can become more energy self-sufficient. Americans believe we can and should lead the world when it comes to developing the new technologies that will produce clean alternative energy and help us to address the threat of global warming. Inherent in this grand challenge is enormous opportunity—opportunity to build a

stronger economy, to create the high-paying jobs of the 21st century, and the opportunity, of course, to lower our energy costs.

No single political party has a monopoly on these ideas. Rather, these ideas are broadly shared by Members of the Senate on both sides of the political aisle. The shared will to make progress in securing America's energy future is what has brought us to this point today. Later this afternoon, we will vote on a motion to proceed to legislation that represents the bipartisan efforts of four committees in the Senate—the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, the Commerce Committee, and the Foreign Relations Committee. If we are successful in bringing the measure before the Senate, I believe by the time the debate is concluded, we will also have the recommendations of a fifth committee, the Senate Finance Committee, to add to this legislation.

Suffice it to say there has been a tremendous amount of bipartisan legislative effort on display in bringing this measure forward. Since the outset of the 110th Congress, the Senate has held more than 50 hearings on energy and climate-related issues. That is at least one hearing held every other day that we have been in session. As it relates to what we have been able to accomplish in the Senate Energy Committee, let me at the outset thank Senator DOMENICI, the ranking member on the committee, for the goodwill and the diligence he has demonstrated at every step in this effort.

On the second day of the 110th Congress, we jointly announced an all-day conference related to biofuels policy. This conference drew submissions and suggestions from more than 100 stakeholders. During that all-day session, attended by nearly every member of our committee, we heard from about 30 experts, who gave us suggestions that formed the intellectual basis for the committee's work in the important area of renewable fuels. After that, we held more than 15 energy policy-related hearings, including 8 oversight and legislative sessions, specifically tailored to take testimony on the issues at the core of our legislation. Those issues, in addition to biofuels, were energy efficiency and, second, carbon capture and storage.

As a result of this process, Senator DOMENICI and I were able to circulate a bipartisan proposal to the committee for markup. After a session at which we adopted almost 30 amendments from members on both sides of the dais, the Energy Committee reported legislation with a substantial bipartisan margin of 20 to 3. On the whole, I think what we were able to accomplish in a relatively short period of time is something all members of our committee can be proud of.

As I mentioned, the legislation touches on three key topics related to our energy future. First, it boosts domestic renewable fuel supplies. It does so in a manner that will reduce life cycle greenhouse gas emissions and spur regional diversity of biofuels production and infrastructure.

The second thing the bill that came out of the Energy Committee does is it proposes to enhance economywide energy efficiency in a way that will reduce our Nation's imports of foreign oil and provide significant savings to consumers.

The third item we addressed is that we will invest in the carbon capture and storage technologies that will help us to cut back on the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

I think it would be helpful to describe for my colleagues some of these issues in a little more detail.

First, on the topic of biofuels, there is no question that in recent years many factors have sharpened public focus on the search for viable alternatives to conventional petroleum-based fuels. I have already described many of those factors, including increased world oil prices, concerns regarding import dependence, and the environmental effects of vehicle emissions.

Biofuels, which is a term that includes both ethanol and biodiesel, can be derived from an array of crops and other biological materials that are available throughout our Nation. Since the 1970s, all cars and light trucks with gasoline engines built for the U.S. market have been able to run on ethanol blends of up to 10 percent. That is E10. A smaller yet increasing number of vehicles that is now estimated at about 6 million on American roads today can run on fuel comprised of 85 percent ethanol or E85. Meanwhile, existing diesel engines can run on biodiesel in any concentration. Due to concerns about quality standards, however, manufacturers may not honor warranties for engines running on biodiesel blends in excess of 5 percent, that is B5, or 20 percent, which is B20.

There is little question that passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 was a watershed event for the Nation's biofuels industry. Establishing the first Federal renewable fuel standard, the RFS, created an escalating requirement for the amount of biofuels blended in U.S. gasoline, starting with 4 billion gallons in 2006, and accelerating to 7.5 billion gallons in 2012.

However, less than 2 years after that Energy Policy Act was signed by President Bush, increased use of biofuels is already surpassing the original RFS targets, with 5 billion gallons added to U.S. gasoline in 2006. Another 6 billion gallons of production capacity is expected to go into operation by 2009, bringing total domestic production capacity to approximately 11.7 billion gallons. According to the Energy Information Administration's 2007 Annual Energy Outlook:

> the market potential for biofuel blends—that is B10, B5, and B20—remains significantly larger than the current production levels and will continue to absorb the biofuel supply for the foreseeable future.

Yet as the Energy Committee began developing its legislation, it was obvious significant challenges remained if biofuels are to become a cornerstone of U.S. efforts to improve our energy self-sufficiency. Today, approximately 98 percent of domestic ethanol production is derived from cornstarch, and that creates upward pressure on commodity prices, restricting production to regions of the country where corn is grown, and posing challenges to efficient distribution of the fuel.

Diversifying feedstocks to include a broader array of renewable biomass can promote regional diversity in biofuels production and distribution, spreading economic benefits to rural communities across the country and relieving pressure on corn commodity prices. In addition, it can lead to greater efficiency in the fuel production process and help save on fossil fuel emissions.

Another issue key to making biofuels a significant factor in displacing domestic petroleum use relates to existing infrastructure challenges. Of the nearly 170,000 vehicle fueling stations in the United States, only 1 percent carried E85 or biodiesel in 2006. Consumers must have access to these fuels if they are to become a viable alternative.

To address these various challenges, the Energy Committee's legislation increases and extends the existing RFS to 36 billion gallons in 2022, with specific incentives for the production of biofuels from new sources of renewable biomass. Taken together, these provisions will help provide market certainty to both the existing ethanol industry and to the next generation of advanced biofuels producers.

In addition, our legislation provides resources to help break down infrastructure barriers to renewable fuel distribution, and it invests in research into the basic scientific challenges associated with the use of promising new feedstocks.

Altogether, the Energy Information Administration has estimated the legislation's biofuels provisions can help reduce America's petroleum imports by a million barrels per day, an important contribution to improving our Nation's energy security.

The second major topic of the Energy Committee's reported legislation is energy efficiency. The obvious goal of these provisions is to use existing resources more efficiently, which promises to further enhance U.S. self-sufficiency and provide environmental benefits and, of course, save consumers money.

Improving efficiency in transportation remains one of the most important and vexing energy challenges facing this Nation. Consumption of liquid fuels is currently projected to grow by more than 6 million barrels per day,

from 2005 to 2030, with 5.8 million barrels per day attributable to transportation. So as fuel consumption increases, so too do U.S. imports, a key concern for both the economy and our national security.

The Senate Commerce Committee has reported legislation that will increase corporate average fuel economy standards for the first time in many years, and this legislation is also included in the bill we will vote on later this afternoon. The Commerce Committee's chairman and vice chairman are to be congratulated on finding a way forward on this very difficult issue.

As such, I am pleased to say the provisions reported by the Energy Committee also support the goal of reducing the transportation sector's consumption of liquid fuels in general, and gasoline in particular. Our provisions establish an escalating goal for reducing U.S. gasoline consumption, starting with 20 percent in 2017. That is enough to reduce world oil prices more than $2.50 per barrel under current EIA assumptions.

This national goal ramps up to 45 percent in 2030, which is the equivalent of 5.6 million barrels of oil per day. That is more than twice the amount of oil the United States imported from the Persian Gulf in 2005.

To complement these initiatives, the legislation also makes investments in advanced vehicle technology development, basic science related to energy storage, and public education about how consumers can help reduce their own petroleum consumption.

In addition to the transportation sector, efficiency is a resource we can better deploy in end uses throughout the U.S. economy. For example, lighting and common household appliances can account for as much as two-thirds of an average American family's electricity bills. By improving a number of appliance efficiency standards and streamlining and strengthening the Department of Energy's existing program, consumers stand to collect $12 billion in benefits as a result of provisions included in this underlying bill.

In fact, altogether, the bill's appliance efficiency provisions will save at least 50 billion kilowatt hours per year, or enough to power roughly 4.8 million typical U.S. households. It will save 17 trillion Btus of natural gas per year, or enough to heat about a quarter million typical U.S. homes, and it will conserve at least 560 million gallons of water per day, or 1.3 percent of daily potable water usage around this Nation. These savings result from provisions which establish the first ever Federal water conservation standards for clothes washers and dishwashers.

Finally, on the topic of efficiency: The legislation recognizes the Federal Government itself represents the Nation's largest energy consumer and can play a key role in bringing new technologies to market. The Federal Government has an obligation to lead by example, and in doing so we can save taxpayers money.

For example, even as the Government has reduced its energy consumption, saving 2.5 percent from fiscal year 2004 to fiscal year 2005, Federal energy costs nevertheless increased 24.1 percent or $14.5 billion. Clearly, rising energy prices have an impact on the Federal budget, just as they have an impact on the budgets for families and on the budgets for businesses across America.

To capture additional savings, this legislation strengthens Federal energy requirements from lighting procurement, to petroleum displacement, to energy management strategies across Federal buildings. As a result, leading efficiency groups have estimated that the legislation's provisions in this area can save 60 trillion Btu's of energy, 15 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, and almost $4 billion of taxpayer money between now and 2015.

A final issue touched on by the NRC committee's reported legislation relates to carbon capture and storage or carbon sequestration. While scientific and technological challenges remain, carbon sequestration holds particular promise related to the potentially large amounts of carbon dioxide emitted from the use of fossil fuels. Electric generating plants may be the most likely initial candidates for implementing carbon sequestration.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 directed the Secretary of Energy to carry out research and development on technologies designed to capture carbon dioxide, specifically with respect to combustion-based energy systems. However, given the critical nature of these efforts, the need to demonstrate emerging methodologies, and the potential to apply them to a wider variety of energy technologies, our legislation strengthens and further expands this research.

In summary, I believe the Energy Committee has produced legislation that will help us move forward expeditiously with groundbreaking research on carbon sequestration that is key to addressing global warming, will help spur diverse domestic renewable fuels production, and it will promote energy efficiency throughout our economy.

These efforts, of course, by our committee, have been further complemented by good bipartisan work of the other Senate committees I mentioned. Taken together, these bipartisan measures form the backbone of a national strategy that meet at least three complementary goals: boosting U.S. energy self-sufficiency, driving American leadership in clean alternative energy, and putting us on a trajectory to address the threat of global warming.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the motion to proceed to energy legislation which we will have later this afternoon.

I know my colleague, Senator DOMENICI, wishes to speak, giving his views on the pending legislation.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. BOXER. Parliamentary inquiry before my friend yields: How much time do we have on our side?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 8½ minutes remaining on the Democratic side.

Mrs. BOXER. I was hoping to get 5 minutes to speak.

Mr. BINGAMAN. As soon as Senator DOMENICI has concluded his statement, I am glad to yield 5 minutes to the Senator from California.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. SALAZAR. Parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I believe I have the floor. I will be glad to yield for a question.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, would it be possible to have my colleagues yield 3½ minutes, following Senator BOXER's statement on our side?

Mr. BINGAMAN. I am glad to yield the remaining 3½ minutes on this side to the Senator from Colorado.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, might I ask the Senator from California, would she like to speak now and then I will speak after her? I have all my time. I would just as well accommodate you. You are going to speak 5 minutes, and the Senator, would you like to speak 3½, then, and then I will use mine at the end?

Mr. SALAZAR. That would be fine with me.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask it be ordered that that time be allotted now and the time for the Senator from New Mexico follows that.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The time allocation will be as stated.

Mr. DOMENICI. I yield to the Senator from California.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am here to say this is a very important moment in the Senate. We are moving toward a change in our Nation's energy policy. Clearly, this day has taken a long time to come.

Obviously, the bills included in the leader's package, Senator REID's package, are not the be-all and end-all of everything we have to do. But it is a significant step forward. As I said the day I was fortunate enough to gain the gavel of the Environment and Public Works Committee—and the Senator who is presiding knows this—as soon as we had the votes we would move forward with good legislation.

I think Senator BINGAMAN has certainly had that same attitude, to begin moving and getting bills to the floor. I was very pleased when Senator REID agreed that we could have a group of bills put together which would be a real confidence builder so the people know we are working.

As Senator BINGAMAN said, we have three committees represented in this

particular piece of legislation. The committees that participated in this, as Senator BINGAMAN said, are the Energy Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, and the Commerce Committee. How fortunate am I to sit on two of the three committees. I wish I sat on all three—this is such an important issue—but I am so pleased to be able to sit on both the Environment Committee, of which I am the Chair, and the Commerce Committee.

We all know global warming is a looming problem for us. We all should know at this point. The Environment Committee has held at least 12 hearings on the subject, at which the Presiding Officer was present—I think at almost all of them. We know the Federal Government is lagging behind on global warming; that is, reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We are lagging behind Europe. We are lagging behind the mayors of this country and many States, including my State of California, where there has been a bipartisan move forward on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The contribution the Environment Committee has made to this bill is to do that, it is to essentially make the Federal Government a model of energy efficiency and of lessening the carbon footprint we are making.

I am very proud of that. Every single one of the bills that is in this package passed the Environment committee with overwhelming support. Only one had a few against it at the end, but almost all of them were virtually unanimous.

We started off taking a look at Federal Government buildings, and we realized we are way behind the times in terms of the way we use energy. Since our committee has jurisdiction over these buildings, we decided to say that from now on, we are going to make sure we can save money for taxpayers by reducing the energy costs in Federal Government buildings. Not only that, but we set up a very important grant program which will give matching grants to local governments so for their buildings they can have help making them energy efficient.

I do not know if my colleagues are aware of this, but in America 39 percent of global warming emissions are attributed to buildings. If the Federal Government takes the lead and we help all governments make their buildings energy efficient, we are moving forward.

We also passed a very good compromise bill by Senators LAUTENBERG and WARNER on new buildings, the green buildings legislation. We also passed a bill on a Capitol powerplant, kind of a model project to see what we can do from the carbon coming out of that coal-fired plant. We are excited about that. We passed a bill that would make the energy building, the Department of Energy building, a solar building.

Wrapping it up I see my time is up. We are very happy to partake in this bill. We think we are finally moving forward on global warming in a small but deliberative way to set the stage, by making the Federal Government the leader, in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

I thank Senator BINGAMAN for the time and I believe Senator SALAZAR is next.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado is recognized for 3 minutes.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, let me, first of all, congratulate Senator BINGAMAN and Senator DOMENICI, the chairman and ranking member of the Energy Committee, for their great work and their leadership. I think the legislation they have brought to the floor today, along with the legislation from the other jurisdictions in the Senate, exemplifies the working relationship we have seen from the Energy Committee over the last 2 years. The 2005 Energy Policy Act could not have been passed without the bipartisan leadership exhibited by Senator BINGAMAN and Senator DOMENICI. For that, I am grateful to be a part of their committee.

Let me say to all our colleagues, we should definitely vote yes on the motion to proceed, as we embark on this journey of looking at energy independence for our Nation. The drivers for energy independence, in my mind, are stark and clear. It is fundamentally one of the very most important issues that face our Nation today. First and foremost, the driver of national security compels us to get rid of the addiction we currently have to foreign oil. When one looks at what is happening in Lebanon and the funding of the Hezbollah organization that continues to create havoc in that part of the world, it is a stark reminder to us that for too long, America has slept while our enemies have fueled themselves with the dollars that come from the very high price of oil from places such as Iraq. Our country today is dependent on us being able to grasp that concept of national security.

That is why in this Senate Chamber you will see it is not only Democrats who are going to be working on this energy legislation but it is Republicans working on this legislation, because the issue of energy independence is not a Democratic agenda or Republican agenda, it is an agenda that is essential to the future security of America.

I am hopeful, as we move forward with this legislation, we will grasp the fact that we are taking some significant steps forward. First, the biofuels increased by moving forward with a renewable fuel standard will mean we will be quintupling the amount of energy we expect we can produce from biofuels. Second, the major initiative with respect to energy efficiency is something we ought to embrace. That is low-hanging fruit for all of us in America as we deal with energy independence. Third, we take major steps with carbon sequestration and move forward on the debate on global warming, which is essential to our country; and finally, looking at other issues, such as CAFE standards, will help us get down the road. I urge all my colleagues to join us in this historic endeavor as we march forward toward energy independence in our Nation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, might I first say to Senator BINGAMAN, I enjoyed his remarks and summary of where we are and where we have been. Most of that trip has been together; part of it with you on the majority and part of it me on the majority. In combination, there is some pretty good legislation. People may still say they want more, but when you have a system such as we have in America, you have to have two bodies, the Senate and House, agree. We have debate, they have a Rules Committee. Then you go to conference and, think of it, how those two, the House and Senate, naturally disagree. Right? We have to get all that in agreement before we have a bill that goes to the President. Then he has to sign it.

We are lucky. The very first one we did, the big bill, probably the best piece of legislation in modern times to cause America to produce more energy, what energy we could, and to do it in a manner that was frugal, with reference to environmental damage, was the first one and the President did us a great favor. He came to our State to sign it, as you recall. It was the first major piece of legislation. I think that was great on his part, a very good gesture, because the two Senators were from New Mexico and it was the first big bill and it was one he signed with relish—which means, even as to the executive branch, it was not too far off the mark.

Before I get to my statement, I am going to say there is one thing that did not go right. In your remarks, Senator, you mentioned a couple of times how we in the first bill had promoted technology because it was obvious to everyone that, so long as America lived in a world with cheap oil, the power of those who would invent and would use new technology in the field of energy was minimized when gasoline was 50 cents at the pump, because there was no broad incentive to do something about it.

But about the time we got to our major bill, it was quite clear that we no longer were even major players on the international oil scene. They could almost do with us what they wanted because we were way too dependent. They grew more and more, and that made those who do not like America less and less concerned about the economics of them having a monopoly, so to speak. Toying around with the country that is an open economic society is a big difference. They can really wreak havoc.

But when we did our bill, we put in a provision, a kind of catch-all. I remember working on it, and I remember you

questioning it. Then after a while we agreed, and it was the section that provided for loan guarantees and other incentives for the technologies we mentioned in this bill as being most important for America's future.

You and I remember one of those that happened was nuclear. We even had to work hard on a different kind of incentive for nuclear, and we got it in. It was a new kind of insurance for the first few who built theirs, that they get an insurance policy from the Federal Government so as to permit them to expedite the building of that very complicated, energy-producing nuclear powerplant.

But the administration, because somebody in high places does not like loan guarantees—there are all kinds of loan guarantees in government and in this world. But somehow somebody said: You know, we don't like them. And the Department of Energy does not do them, if you can imagine.

So the Department of Energy has not been doing loan guarantees. Who cares. There are loan guarantees all over the Government. The Department of Agriculture has billions of dollars in loan guarantees. I don't think we are going broke. They are paid back. It is just that the guarantees are given in a manner that permits those who use them to get money where they otherwise would not.

Well, we did not do that yet in that first bill. I think we still—you and I—owe the citizens of our country another push, and maybe we ought to check into it and give one more push to the administration to see how we can enhance the promotion of loan guarantees by the administration because there should be, for all kinds of products that need a lot of money for experimentation, and for many other technologies, there should be a very big pot of loan guarantees. Not $300, $400 million, there ought to be more, a few billion, so that they can do the work, draw their money on new ideas, and get on with helping us make that step from a society that was almost totally roped in by oil and gas and nothing else, into a society with a great divergence of energies.

That is the way we are going in the legislation. The bill before us continues that momentum. So I speak today as we prepare to consider energy legislation on the floor of the Senate to provide the proper context of this bill. I think it would be instructive to reflect, as I have just done, upon the recent accomplishments of Congress.

I have already indicated to you about 2 years ago the President signed the Energy Policy Act of 2004. Senator BINGAMAN from my home State, this sweeping law was the most comprehensive energy policy enacted in decades.

I have watched with pride—and this has not been mentioned enough because it is hard to do. But I have watched with pride that in just 2 years, this long-term policy has already begun to show great positive impact in the short term. The Energy Policy Act is brightening our Nation's nuclear renaissance. Already over 30 nuclear powerplants are in the works. Imagine that. We went more than two decades without a single one applying, and we have now over 30, with a number of them way up near the top of the clearance scale where we will be seeing them cleared for the beginning of construction soon.

I am sure many of us will go to that and say it is high time, and we were pleased to be part of it. Now, if operational, these plants will provide enough electricity for nearly 30 million American homes, while displacing about 270 metric tons of carbon dioxide each year.

Just think of that. Think of how much we would have to do to displace that much carbon dioxide if it was produced, and we had to get rid of it after it was produced, in a coal-burning powerplant or some other plant in the process of ignition-produced CO_2.

This is safe, clean, affordable, and reliable large-scale energy for our Nation. That is why earlier this year the Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved two early site permits for new reactors in Illinois and Mississippi.

As we try to reduce our dependence on foreign energy and address the issue of the global climate change, it becomes imperative for our energy and environmental security that we keep the momentum going on nuclear energy in this country.

On coal technologies, clean coal technologies, the policies set forth in the Energy bill of 2005 have resulted in bringing 159 new coal-based facilities to various planning stages. Over the next 5 years, the United States will add an estimated 60,000 miners to the American workforce. Just think of that, Mr. President. Everybody has been wondering if we are going to have enough jobs, enough jobs for our people, because they are looking at the economy of yesteryear, not of tomorrow.

Coal miners, instead of being out of work, we will be looking for people to join the corps of coal miners in this country as we produce more coal because we are going to learn how to use it clean in our country as we seek to avoid this total dependance upon crude oil and natural gas.

This past week, the Departments of Treasury and Energy together announced new instructions for applying tax credits for advanced coal and gasification projects. In total, three Energy bill tax credits will provide over $1.5 billion to help advance energy projects and capture and sequester carbon dioxide. These are already being done and the credits have been given under the laws which were written in this thoughtful process of developing legislation over the past 2 years.

This bill also put in place mechanisms to ensure a secure, reliable electricity grid for our Nation, and helped transform our agricultural bill into an Energy bill—we already know that—providing rural America literally thousands of jobs and billions in new capital investment dollars to help bring clean fuel to our Nation's gas tanks.

In the area of biofuels, the 2005 bill created a solid foundation for these significant policies set forth in the bill, as we will consider this shortly on the Senate floor. As a result of the Energy bill of 2005, we revitalized a renewable fuel industry in America through the first ever renewable fuel standard and production tax credit. We all wondered when that would come. It is done.

There are now 114 biorefineries nationwide, with the capacity to produce 5.5 billion gallons of ethanol a year. That is all because of the act that we passed in 2005 that we keep referring to that we worked here in this body, on a bipartisan basis, and then went to the House the same way, and then had the President join us with great joy in signing it in our State.

Additionally, ethanol refinery construction and expansion currently in the works has enough combined capacity to have an additional 6 billion gallons of ethanol. The biofuels policy included in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 has helped create approximately 10,000 American jobs across many sectors of our Nation's economy. I think sometimes we wonder why the economy did so well. Maybe we should look around and say maybe the money spent on energy facilities across this land, because of this act, had something to do with keeping the employment up and keeping the growth up. I am not sure of that, but I just throw it out.

Indeed, that act of 2005 could have been called a jobs act, could have been called a jobs-producing act, a diversification act, providing jobs that were never there before. Ethanol production and demand are setting records in America as we seek renewable fuel to power our cars that we drive.

The bill reported out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee this year, with a strong bipartisan vote, we responded to that call for sustainability and to provide a path for the emergence of cellulosic ethanol. That is what we are here to work on today.

That will mean we will be able to produce much more cellulosic ethanol, which will do the same thing as ethanol except it will make us able to produce far more since we can add the cellulosic to the ethanol that comes from corn, and what a machine we will have to produce gasoline for our cars.

In the 2005 Energy bill, we addressed almost every conceivable area of energy policy—from coal to nuclear to electricity transmission, to oil and gas, hydrogen to biofuels. We did this with a majority of both parties in the Senate, embracing this forward-thinking policy for America.

This wasn't even a close vote. In each case it was substantially more than 60 votes, a bipartisan vote, almost equal from each side on each of the important bills. There have been two already. This one will be the third.

Simply put, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 has already helped to strengthen our energy security and to grow our Nation's economy. More importantly, if implemented effectively, the larger impacts of this great bipartisan legislation will be felt for decades in this country.

As we prepare to debate on the floor of the Senate today, we are going to consider a bill smaller in scope and less bold in its version. Nevertheless, this bill represents bipartisan work spanning four committees of the Senate. There are a lot of good policies in this bill. However, I believe there must be a full and fair debate on this bill and a complete amendment process to ensure that the work we will do in the Senate and for the American people on energy policy will be complete. Anything short of that will be a departure from the example of the 2005 act.

The bill we expect to soon consider provides for a biofuels mandate with the potential to displace 20 percent of the growth in gasoline that we use in this country by 2020. This addition of 36 billion gallons of biofuels a year will see the majority of its content come from cellulosic ethanol, a sharp and important move away from corn-based ethanol in our fuel mix.

We consider this an energy-efficient measure that if properly implemented has the potential to provide important efficiencies in vehicles, buildings, homes, and businesses to save the American consumer more than $12 billion annually. This is one part of our energy policy that goes unnoticed, the one I have just described, important efficiencies. And I do say to our majority, who was my minority member when we started, that he has led the effort in this part of the changes in the energy policy, those that would make us more efficient.

He described today in his speech how much efficiency will come just from washing machines and dishwashers. I am not ashamed to talk on the floor about dishwashers. Some people say we shouldn't talk about dishwashers. Why shouldn't we, when it saves a huge amount of energy? I remember when I got a dishwasher. I got a laundry board as a gift from a constituent because I had helped with REA that went up the mountain and took electricity up there. So she came down to me at the foot of the mountain and said: Here is your washboard. I don't need it anymore; I got electricity. I just bought a washing machine. I am thanking you by giving you the washboard. She didn't have efficiency; that was all brawn, right?

Anyway, this bill will save us a lot of energy on those two items that we need and use to make our lives better.

On fuel economy, the Senate stands poised to address vehicle fuel efficiency. One way to help reduce our dependency is by reforming our CAFE standards for the vehicles we drive. Everybody should know the Commerce Committee did that and, by act of our leader and the floor procedures, that is on this bill. So if people want to do something about CAFE, it is pending. Once this bill is made pending, it is the subject matter before the Senate, the CAFE standards, which will compel automobile companies to do better than they have in terms of miles per gallon. We have never gone as far as the Commerce Committee did, so it ought to make for a few hot speeches here on the floor. I don't know when they will come, but sooner or later they will because the CAFE standards for vehicles we drive will be changed.

I have only one page remaining. I don't need to use all my time, especially when some Senators have had to wait. I will close by saying to Senators who are not paying attention and to staffs watching for their Senators, we are not going to be on this bill very much longer today. If you want to come down and speak, I have a little bit of time. I can give you some. But I think we are going to start yielding to other Senators, I assume, and move on. I haven't talked to Senator BINGAMAN on that.

How much time do I have remaining?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. DOMENICI. I reserve that time and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. DOMENICI. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The clerk will continue the call of the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI. I yield back the remainder of my time. I say to the Senator from New York, I was just trying to find out if there were more people on my side.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, in the coming weeks the Senate will debate our national energy policy. An important part of that debate will involve tax and other incentives to encourage development of our abundant domestic energy resources. This debate will affect the lives of every American.

During that debate we must find a way to encourage greater use of renewable energy sources, advanced clean coal technologies in the generation of electricity, and accelerate efforts to move that clean energy to markets by building large transmission projects. Furthermore, we need to find alternative ways to produce energy, such as through fuel cells and other distributed generation.

For too many years, Congress has sent mixed messages about the importance of energy independence, security, diversity, and reliability, especially in the area of renewable and distributed energy and the opportunity for using advanced clean coal technology. The Congress has lacked the commitment, or perhaps understanding, about the major role that renewable energy and clean coal can play in helping our Nation meet its future electricity demands without seriously impacting the environment.

This is despite the fact that policymakers have been told repeatedly by energy developers that certainty about the availability of incentives is absolutely essential before they can commit the capital needed to move forward on a major energy project. Yet Congress has passed energy incentives that, in many cases, are available for as a little as one year or two.

In my judgment, the hood ornament for this start-and-stop, boom-and-bust energy policy is the tax credit for facilities that produce electricity from wind and other renewable resources. This credit has been extended for short periods five times, and shamefully has been allowed to expire three times, since it was enacted in 1992. The Tax Code is replete with other energy tax incentives that Congress made available for just a year or two, and that will expire before their full benefit can be realized.

It is imperative that we provide a clear signal to the marketplace that we are committed to the development of renewable sources of energy and advanced clean coal technologies. That is why I introduced the Clean Energy Production Tax Incentives Act to make these incentives available for 10 years.

The vast majority of energy facilities and infrastructure are owned, developed, and operated by the private sector. We must work closely with industry and other stakeholders to provide incentives so that these steps can be taken. For example, I am very supportive of a whole range of clean energy technologies and resources. North Dakota epitomizes that with its coal, oil, gas, wind and other renewable resources. We can and must utilize them now and into the future. If we want secure, clean, and reliable energy resources in the future, we must work with the private sector to help achieve our goals. This bill has the support of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Xcel Energy, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, the American Wind Energy Association, and Otter Tail Power Company.

I also believe we must advance our energy interests in a fiscally responsible manner. The costs of the clean energy tax incentive investments in this legislation would be offset by closing

down tax loopholes that allow profitable U.S. multinational companies to avoid paying their fair share.

Over the years, I have heard a few clear messages from the investment community, Federal and State regulators, energy industry, and environmental and local community interests. It must be clean so that we are incentivizing an environmentally sustainable energy option. We need to send the right market signals with duration, with a sustained commitment, and with certainty so that the best investment decisions are made.

I believe this legislation is an important step in that direction.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL ALBERTO GONZALES NO LONGER HOLDS THE CONFIDENCE OF THE SENATE AND OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume debate on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 14, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A motion to proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 14, expressing the sense of the Senate that Attorney General Alberto Gonzales no longer holds the confidence of the Senate and of the American people.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Republican leader shall control the time from 5 to 5:20, and the majority leader shall control the time from 5:20 to 5:30.

The Senator from New York is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: The Republican leader controls the time from 5:10 to 5:20, as I understand?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, it is from 5 to 5:20.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that those of us in favor of this resolution be given a half hour to debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. DOMENICI. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a misunderstanding. They weren't supposed to start until 5:10, but the order says 5 o'clock, which would only give us 10 minutes to debate this motion.

Let me begin and not waste any further time. I rise in support of the motion to proceed to a vote of no confidence on Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. It is a fair measure. I know it is one with few precedents, but it is called for today because the dire situation at the Department of Justice is also without precedent. The level of disarray and dysfunction, the crisis of credibility, and the failure of leadership are all without precedent. It is a simple measure we have before us. Let me read it.

It is the sense of the Senate that Attorney General Alberto Gonzales no longer holds the confidence of the Senate and of the American people.

Are there any Members here who don't agree with that sentiment? If so, I haven't heard them. Senators are not a shy lot. Their silence on this point is deafening. So if Senators cast their votes with their conscience, they would speak with near unanimity that there is no confidence in the Attorney General. Their united voice would undoubtedly dislodge the Attorney General from a post he should no longer hold. But we may not have a unanimous vote here today, I am told. That is a puzzle because no matter what standard one applies, no matter what criteria one uses, the Attorney General cannot enjoy the confidence of the Senate. He certainly doesn't of the American people.

The bill of particulars against the Attorney General is staggering. On the question of the Attorney General's credibility, the record speaks for itself. Repeatedly, the Attorney General has misled the Congress, misled the American people, and given incredible explanations for the U.S. attorney firings. The Attorney General's comments have been a series of shifting reactions and restatements. Is this confidence-inspiring conduct from the Nation's chief law enforcement officer?

We learned that Attorney General Gonzales was personally involved in the firing plan after being told he wasn't. We learned that the White House was involved after being told it wasn't. We learned that Karl Rove was involved after being told he wasn't. We learned that political considerations were paramount after being told they weren't. Then, when the Attorney General finally had the opportunity to set the record straight on April 19, 2007, what did he do? More than 70 times he answered ''I don't know'' when asked the most basic questions about how he came to fire 10 percent of the Nation's U.S. attorneys. The Attorney General admitted he didn't know the reasons why several U.S. attorneys were fired but insisted in the very next breath that he knew they were not fired for improper reasons. Does that inspire confidence? One of our most mild-mannered Members, Senator PRYOR, believes he was lied to directly by the Attorney General, and he has good reason to think so.

Time after time, the Attorney General has shown he doesn't have the credibility to lead the Department. This is not a liberal or conservative assessment. This is not a Democratic or Republican assessment. It is a universal one. Listen to the words of the conservative National Review magazine, which wrote on March 28:

What little credibility Gonzales had is gone . . . Alberto Gonzales should resign. The Justice Department needs a fresh start.

That is on credibility.

On the Attorney General's lack of commitment to independence and the rule of law, the record is also disturbingly clear. The Attorney General has long shown that he misperceives his role. He forgets that he is the people's lawyer, not just the President's. If one needs a single image to symbolize the Attorney General's contempt for the rule of law, it is that of Alberto Gonzales bending over John Ashcroft's sickbed on the night of March 10, 2004. It is the picture of then-White House Counsel Gonzales trying to take advantage of a very ill man who didn't even have the powers of the Attorney General to approve a program that the Department of Justice could not certify was legal.

That example, unfortunately, has plenty of company. Consider the image of Attorney General Gonzales in March of this year making Mrs. Goodling feel ''uncomfortable''—her word—by going through the sequence of events related to the U.S. attorney firings. How often do people comfort someone by reviewing their recollection of events that are subject to congressional investigation? Add to those examples the documented violations with respect to national security letters and other admitted abuses in connection with the PATRIOT Act. How can such leadership inspire confidence?

Rule of law in the Gonzales regime, sadly, has apparently been an afterthought rather than a bedrock principle. Again, there is no liberal or conservative or Democratic or Republican position on the Attorney General's lack of independence and commitment to rule of law; it is virtually unanimous. Consider the words of the conservative group the American Freedom Agenda:

Attorney General Gonzales has proven an unsuitable steward of the law and should resign for the good of the country.

On the question of whether the Department has been improperly politicized, the record is again clear.

Attorney General Gonzales has presided over perhaps the most politicized Department in history. We have learned that under Alberto Gonzales, being a ''loyal Bushie'' was more important than being a consummate professional. We have learned that U.S. attorneys who were performing their duties admirably were apparently dismissed because of unfounded allegations by political figures, allegations that were never investigated or never proven. We have learned that an unprecedented voter fraud case was brought in Missouri on the eve of an election in clear violation of the Department's own policy. We have learned that deep suspicions about improper politicizing even at the entry level of the professional ranks were correct. We have learned from the Attorney General's own former senior counselor Monica Goodling that she

''crossed the line'' in considering partisan affiliation in filling career positions at the Justice Department—career positions, not political positions.

The Office of Professional Responsibility and the Office of Inspector General have now opened investigations relating to the hiring of immigration judges, civil rights lawyers, and Honors Program attorneys. All of this, of course, occurred under the Attorney General's watch. Either the Attorney General knew about these potentially illegal activities and did nothing or he was oblivious to what was going on beneath his own nose. Either way, Mr. Gonzales is responsible for a deeply political culture at the Department, unprecedented in modern times. As former Deputy Attorney General Jim Comey has said, these kinds of blows to the reputation of the Department will be hard to overcome. Does that kind of leadership inspire confidence?

Finally, given all of this, on the basic question of competence and effectiveness, the Attorney General has proven himself to lack the leadership ability needed to right the Department. By every account, the Attorney General's handling of the U.S. attorney firings has been catastrophic. Morale at the Department is at an alltime low. How can we have confidence in an Attorney General who can't get his story straight? How can we have confidence in an Attorney General who still can't tell us why 10 percent of the Nation's U.S. attorneys were fired? How can we have confidence in an Attorney General who would allow his top staff to take the fall for his own failings? How can we have confidence in an Attorney General who allowed improper and possibly illegal political hiring to take place?

Given the crisis of confidence and credibility, given the abysmal record of trampling the rule of law and longtime standards of nonpolitical hiring, the vote today should be an easy one. Some will claim they are opposing the motion because they say this vote was called for political reasons. This vote is not about politics. If this were all about politics, it would be easy to sit back, let the Attorney General remain, cast aspersions on him for the next 18 months, and reap the political benefits. But the Department of Justice is too important, and we have an obligation to do everything we can in a bipartisan way to demand new leadership.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, we have had some timing difficulties. We have only had about 10 minutes to debate this resolution.

Might I ask the minority leader a question? What is his pleasure? I had been told he was coming at 5:10, but the agreement says 5.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, my understanding is I am to speak at 5. I have a leadership meeting at 5:15. I have a time problem. I do not seek to get in front of the Senator from New York, but I really need to speak at 5 o'clock, at the time I was anticipating speaking.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the minority leader be given his 15 minutes now, that then I be given another 10 minutes to finish my remarks, and the Senator from Rhode Island be given 10 minutes to speak, and that we vote immediately thereafter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, the Senator from Mississippi and I are going to—I guess the Senators from Texas and Mississippi and I are going to divide the 15 minutes. Madam President, provided that Senator LOTT and I could divide the 15 minutes, and Senator HUTCHISON could get an additional 4 minutes, then I would be agreeable to the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I would add to the request—Senator REID wishes 10 minutes at the conclusion of the debate. So adding the 15 minutes for the minority leader, divided with the minority whip from Mississippi, and 4 minutes for the Senator from Texas, 10 minutes for myself, 10 minutes for the Senator from Rhode Island, and 10 minutes for the Senator from Nevada, I ask that we have that time and then we vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, when will the vote commence?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It will commence at 5:49.

Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, there are four ways to become a Senator: by appointment, by special election, by winning an open seat, or by defeating an incumbent.

My good friend from New York, who has been speaking, and I came to the Senate the same way: by defeating an incumbent. That way is often the hardest, so I am sure the Senator remembers his 1998 Senate race against our former colleague, Senator Al D'Amato.

It was quite a race. The Senator from New York surely remembers one of his criticisms of Senator D'Amato: that Senator D'Amato had, in essence, abused his office.

My friend from New York said it was improper for Senator D'Amato to use his official Senate position to investigate the former first lady while Senator D'Amato was also chairman of his party's Senate campaign committee, the NRSC. My friend from New York said, in referring to Senator D'Amato:

> Do you know what he did right after he got elected? He became chairman of the national Senate Republican Campaign Committee, the most blatantly political position you can hold. Then . . . he embarked on his partisan and political inquisition of the First Family.

According to the New York Times, the thing about Senator D'Amato's activities that my friend from New York appeared to find particularly galling was that his behavior was motivated by reelection concerns.

Given the two hats my friend from New York currently wears, you can see why I obviously found the standard he set out in 1998 to be quite intriguing.

We all talk to the media—some of us more than others—and we may make offhand comments we later regret, especially in the heat of a campaign. But the Senator from New York thought his conflict of interest charge was so important that he ran a television ad about it. The Buffalo News reported:

> Among the blizzard of attack ads running this weekend is one in which Schumer charged that D'Amato used the Banking Committee . . . to mount a 'vicious' partisan attack on first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton three years ago.

Now, New York is certainly an expensive media market. Yet because my good friend from New York was so concerned with Senator D'Amato's chairing the NRSC while he was investigating the First Lady, he spent a lot of money urging New Yorkers to remove Senator D'Amato from office. So he must have really thought it was a serious conflict for someone to lead his party's campaign committee while also leading an investigation into an administration of the opposite party.

How times change, Madam President. Now my good friend is leading his party's principal campaign committee for the Senate, the DSCC. At the same time, he is leading an official Senate investigation into the Justice Department.

He chairs the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts.

The media widely reports that he has been tapped by the majority leader to lead this investigation. The piece in the National Journal calls him the Democratic ''point man'' on this particular subject—our good friend from New York.

He usually has chaired one of the numerous hearings the committee has already held on this subject. To borrow from the National Journal, you could say he is ubiquitous when it comes to this subject.

The campaign committee he chairs has repeatedly used material derived from his investigation for partisan campaign purposes.

He held a press conference before the ink was barely dry on the Schumer resolution. There, he predicted, amazingly, that we would go to this resolution immediately after immigration. And it looks as if the majority leader filed cloture on immigration to make sure we kept the schedule of my good friend from New York.

Last, but not least, he is the author of the resolution we will be voting on in a little while.

So I find myself perplexed about the application in these circumstances of the standard the Senator from New York set out in 1998. We could call it the Schumer standard.

It seems to me that Senator D'Amato's position in 1998 is like the current position of my friend from New York in all material respects.

So given that the Senator from New York has said it is a serious conflict of interest for someone to lead his party's campaign committee while he uses his official position to lead an investigation of the administration of the opposite party, I cannot understand why it is not a conflict of interest for my friend from New York to lead his current investigation of the Justice Department.

And given that the Senator from New York wanted Senator D'Amato removed from office under similar circumstances, I also cannot understand why my good friend should not at least recuse himself—recuse himself—from the official investigation of the Justice Department that he himself has been leading.

In conclusion, I hope it is not the case that our friend from New York wrote this resolution and pushed the Senate to spend its valuable time on this particular resolution for partisan political purposes. And if he did not do that, then I trust we will not see the campaign committee he is chairing using the Senate's vote on this resolution—his own resolution—for campaign purposes.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, parliamentary inquiry: How much time do I have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 9½ minutes.

Mr. LOTT. I have 9½ minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Madam President.

I had some passing remarks to make last week about believing we should find a way to move forward the immigration reform effort—to improve it, to change it, but to try to get it done—because it is an issue we should not just push aside.

We ran into some difficulties, and there is no use in trying to recount how that happened. I think the important thing is we try to find a way to resurrect it, get it properly considered, amended, voted on, and concluded, if at all possible. But that goes to the heart of what I want to say today.

Is this what the business of the Senate is really all about, a nonbinding, irrelevant resolution? Proving what? Nothing. If this should go forward, we would have hours, days—who knows, a week—debating on whether to express our confidence or lack thereof in the Attorney General—to no effect.

Now, I have been in Congress 35 years. I have been in the Senate since 1989. I do not recall anything of this nature having been proposed before. Maybe we should be considering a vote of no confidence in the Senate or in the Congress for malfunction, for an inability to produce anything. Yet this resolution would bring up this issue and have us spend time debating it.

This is not the British Parliament, and I hope it never will become the British Parliament. Are we going to bring the President here and have a questioning period like the Prime Minister has in Great Britain?

So I am very much concerned about this. A vote of no confidence of any Cabinet official would have no effect. The President makes that decision. And I suspect the ability of a Cabinet official to perform or not perform is in the eye of the beholder.

But the main point is, that is not our job. We do not have authority to make that determination. So what are we going to accomplish today? This is all about partisan politics. Nobody is fooled by this. This is about trying to get a vote to try to put some people on the hot spot. That is what it is really all about.

Now, by the way, you have not seen me running around making a big scene of expressing my confidence one way or the other in this Attorney General, or any other Attorney General, or the Justice Department, for that matter, regardless of who is the President of the United States.

We are supposed to be here to pass laws, to get things done. When was the last time we did something like that? Not this year. Frankly, not over the last 3 years because of gymnastics like this—exercising to no effect. No. What should we be doing for the American people? We should be trying to find a way to have strong immigration reform for illegal and legal immigrants. We made a 2-week effort. Some people said: Oh, that is long enough. I can remember us spending weeks on a bill—I think 6 weeks on No Child Left Behind. I remember one time we spent a month on a tobacco bill, which we eventually had to pull down and move on.

To spend in the Senate weeks on a very important issue, so Senators can express their views and offer amendments, and they can be voted on, is quite normal. But, no, we are not doing immigration reform. We hope to be able to get to Defense authorization.

Oh, and by the way, what happened to the appropriations bills? The majority leaders do know, I think, that if you do not begin the appropriations process in late May or early June, you are not going to make it. The majority leader has, appropriately, said we are going to pass all the appropriations bills in regular order. How does he intend to do that? We are not going to do a single one in June, and we will be lucky if we do four in July. It is not going to happen.

We are going to wind up with a train wreck at the end of the fiscal year. We are going to have all these appropriations bills, once again. I cannot just blame Democrats. We have done the same thing: an omnibus appropriations bill with all kinds of shenanigans being involved in that, trying to lump all these bills together—put the Defense appropriations bill in there and irrelevant language and say: Here. Take the whole wad, Mr. President.

Oh, yes, we did it to Clinton, and we have done it to President Bush, but it is not the way to do business. Can we do something about health care? Can we get this Energy bill done? Remember now, if you start these different cloture votes, being able to find a way to get an Energy bill done—not to mention other things we would like to do after that—they are going to be delayed or derailed completely. So this is a very disappointing spectacle here today.

Now, the sponsor of the resolution—the fact is, he is chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. He is in that position, and then he is taking these attack positions. So I do not think anybody has to be drawn a further picture to understand what is going on with this effort.

So I urge my colleagues: Look, he has made his point, made his speech. We are going to have a vote in a few minutes. We ought to summarily punt this out into the end zone where it belongs. This is beneath the dignity of the Senate. How low will the Senate go? If we get into this for hours or days, pity how much it is going to debase this institution even further.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed, and let's move on to the business of the Senate and the business of the American people. The American people may not have particular confidence one way or the other in this Attorney General, but this is not an election of the Attorney General.

I urge my colleagues to vote against cloture on the motion to proceed and let's get on with the business of the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I rise to speak against this motion as well. I agree totally with the Senator from Mississippi in saying: What are we doing spending this whole day talking about a resolution which everyone knows will have no effect whatsoever, except probably on the nightly news, which I assume was the purpose of introducing it in the first place.

We have talked about the judgment of the Attorney General in handling the U.S. attorney personnel issues. There is clearly a division. There has been a lot of discussion. A number of people have said what they think of the handling of that situation. But stating your opinion is very different from having the Senate address this matter. The President relieved almost all of his Cabinet when he changed into his second term. Why wouldn't he be able to

replace U.S. attorneys who also serve at his pleasure in the same way he decided to change leadership in the Cabinet? That is the right of the President. The Senate has the right to confirm Cabinet officers and U.S. attorneys, and we have exercised that right. What the Senate should not be doing is passing meaningless resolutions that could only serve a political purpose.

With the issues we have facing this country, how could we be spending a whole day, and possibly more if cloture is invoked, on a resolution that will have no impact? Why wouldn't we be talking about immigration, which we discussed last week and the week before that when we were in session? We were making headway. Immigration is a very important issue for our country.

The Energy bill which is before us is a very legitimate, major issue for our country. We all want to bring gasoline prices down. But all of a sudden, thrust in the middle of the energy debate is a meaningless resolution of no confidence in the Attorney General. There has been no allegation that he has done something criminal or illegal, just that people disagree with his judgment.

There were people who disagreed with the Attorney General serving in the previous administration—Janet Reno—when the Branch Davidian complex in Waco, TX was charged and people died. Many felt the Attorney General jumped the gun and took too drastic an action, when talking would have been better. Or the Elian Gonzalez issue. There was much disagreement about the handling of that issue. I didn't see Republicans running to the floor of the Senate seeking a resolution of no confidence in the Attorney General. I think, frankly, the majority is jumping the gun in doing something such as that here. I hope we will put this away by not invoking cloture on the motion to proceed. Frankly, I hope we will restore the reputation of this body by taking up the issues that affect our country, debating them, and having votes.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, in regard to my good friend from Texas, I think there is a little bit too much protestation here. We have spent less than 2 hours on this issue—just 2 hours—and now we are being told we don't have enough time to debate whether one of the most important Cabinet officers is up to the job. That doesn't hold water. They are not upset we are taking 2 hours away from debate. They have spent much more time on many more things that are of less consequence to this country.

But let me say this: The minority leader and the minority whip have made my case better than I ever could. They failed to utter the words: We have faith in Attorney General Gonzales. They failed to state: We have confidence in Attorney General Gonzales. In fact, in the entire speech of both the minority leader and the minority whip, there was not a single word uttered in defense of the Attorney General. No wonder the other side doesn't want this resolution brought up. They know the Attorney General has failed miserably in his job. They know the President has clung stubbornly to keeping a man who virtually no one in America thinks is up to the job, who overwhelmingly has lost his credibility in his answers and nonanswers and ''don't knows.'' They can't defend him. So they do what somebody does when they don't have much of an argument—they seek diversions. We will not be diverted. The rule of law is too important. The rule of law is too sacred.

Is it unusual to have a no-confidence resolution? Yes. But it is just as unusual—more unusual—to have an Attorney General not in charge of his department on a major issue facing his department—the firing of U.S. attorneys—to say he didn't know what was happening 70 times; to have an Attorney General contradict himself time after time after time. For me, it is unusual in whatever airport I go to around this country to have people come up to me—it has happened five or six times now—and say: I work in the Justice Department. I am a civil service employee. Keep it up, Senator. Our Department is demeaned—one of them used the word ''disgraced''—by the fact that Alberto Gonzales is still Attorney General.

So, yes, a no-confidence resolution is unusual, but this is not simply a policy disagreement. Oh, no. This is a major scandal. This is a series of inappropriate behaviors by a Cabinet officer. I don't have a single bit of doubt that if the shoe were on the other foot, my colleagues from the other side of the aisle would be complaining more loudly, more quickly than we have.

What do you do when there is someone in an office who we all know doesn't deserve to be in that office, and not a word—except for Senator HATCH—not a word of confidence has been spoken by the other side? We heard 19 minutes of speeches a minute ago. We don't hear the words: We support the Attorney General; we have confidence in the Attorney General; the Attorney General should be able to stay. It is because his record is indefensible.

So, yes, this no-confidence resolution is unusual, but it rises to the highest calling of the Senate, to seek rule of law over politics, to seek rationality and fairness over stubbornness and political games. This is what we are supposed to do. We have a function of oversight. There is no question Attorney General Gonzales has failed on credibility, on competence, on upholding the rule of law.

The Nation has been shocked by what he has done. He urged an ill John Ashcroft, on John Ashcroft's sickbed, to sign a statement that the Justice Department itself thought was not justified by the law in terms of wiretaps, and he is still Attorney General. John Ashcroft, who is hardly a liberal, hardly a Democrat, threatened to resign because of what then Counsel Gonzales attempted to do, and he is still in office.

The bottom line is very simple. We have a sacred, noble obligation in this country to defend the rule of law. There was an article in the New York Times the other day about how some people are using elections to try to justify themselves staying in office in some less developed countries. But the public wasn't falling for it, because without rule of law, without democracy, without law being applied without fear of favor, there is no freedom. Our job is to be vigilant in protecting that freedom.

Some of my friends tossed off charges of ''political''—to vote ''no'' when one, in fact, agrees with the sentiment in the resolution is to cast a vote for the worst political reasons. A ''no'' vote ratifies the President's support for the Attorney General. A ''no'' vote condones the conduct of the Attorney General. A ''no'' vote condemns the Department to a prolonged vacuum in leadership and a crisis of morale.

It is politics simply to cover for the President when you know on this issue he is wrong. It is politics to put blind loyalty to a political leader over the sacred century after century tradition of rule of law. It is politics to voice opposition to the Attorney General and then refuse to back one's conviction with one's vote. It is politics to know that Alberto Gonzales should not, must not, remain as Attorney General and then quietly, meekly cast your vote to keep him.

I yield the floor, and I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized as part of the unanimous consent agreement.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I yield 2 minutes to the Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Rhode Island for yielding a couple of minutes.

There have been a couple of times in my career when I have walked into a room and have been humbled. Obviously, the day I walked in this place, I was humbled beyond words. But when I first walked into a criminal courtroom as an assistant prosecutor as a very young lawyer, I was also humbled by the responsibility that had been placed upon me by our system of justice. I remember talking to one of the older prosecutors in the office about what I should worry about. He said: Just remember, remember that woman with the scales of justice, Claire. Remember she has a blindfold on.

That blindfold is what this is about today. Frankly, it doesn't matter whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, whether you were for George Bush or not for George Bush. What matters today is how those prosecutors

out there in this country feel right now, and what this incident did to the way they feel about their jobs. Because there are thousands of professional prosecutors—some of them have been appointed, some of them have been hired, some have been elected—what they all have in common is they understand their job is not about politics, it is about the rule of law.

When this whole incident unfurled in front of the American public, to all of those prosecutors it felt as though they were being cheapened, that somehow Gonzales and the rest of them were saying they were being judged on their politics and not on their professionalism.

So I come here just for a moment to try to give a voice to those thousands of prosecutors out there. I know them. I have worked with them shoulder to shoulder for years. They care deeply about their work, they care deeply about the rule of law, and they care deeply about fundamental justice.

On their behalf, I rise today for a moment to say this Chamber should vote unanimously a vote of no confidence against the Attorney General of the United States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Missouri for her remarks. Like her, I have been appointed and elected as a U.S. attorney and as an attorney general. I ask all of my colleagues who are listening to take her at her word. Prosecutors across the country are horrified about what has happened. I applaud Senator SCHUMER for what he has done to push this forward.

The Senate has an important oversight role. We have advice and consent responsibilities, and we have a Judiciary Committee on which Senator SCHUMER and I serve. I tell you, the U.S. Department of Justice is a precious institution in our democracy. It is under siege from within, and we need to take some action.

This resolution is not about partisanship. It is not about scoring political points. It is about two very important things—one, letting the people of America know we care about an honest, independent, and truthful Department of Justice. That is not meaningless. It is also about letting the career people within the Department of Justice know that we hear them, we care about them, we know what has been done to this Department is shameful; that this ordeal for them will one day be over, and we will work hard as people who care about this country and about the Department of Justice to make that day come soon, so that once again truth and justice can be the stars that guide the Department of Justice. That, too, is not meaningless.

Madam President, the bill of particulars against Attorney General Gonzales is long. First is the fact that he does not respect the institution he leads. Time-honored traditions and practices of the Department, vital to the impartial administration of justice, have been gravely damaged or destroyed on his watch.

One, U.S. attorneys used to come from their home districts, where they were accountable to local people, where they knew the judges and the law enforcement officers. Not under this Attorney General. Now they fly them in from Washington where they will do President Bush's bidding.

Two, U.S. attorneys were always put up for advice and consent. Not under this Attorney General. He presided over the statutory circumvention of our Senate confirmation process.

Three, the list of people at the White House and the DOJ who used to be able to talk about cases with each other recently included only four people at the White House and only three at the DOJ. Not under this Attorney General, where 417 White House officials, including Karl Rove, can now have these formerly illicit conversations with the Department of Justice.

Four, career attorneys were kept free of partisan interference. Not under this Attorney General. There are politics in the Honors Program, politics in career official appointments, politics in personnel evaluations, and politics in the appointment of immigration judges.

Five, U.S. attorneys were almost always left in place to do their jobs once they were appointed, knowing that they had a higher calling than their political appointment. Not under this Attorney General. Simply put, a man who doesn't care about those institutions of the Department of Justice is the wrong person to lead it back out of the mess he has put it in.

He has politicized this Department to a degree not seen since the Nixon administration—U.S. attorneys fired for political reasons, with White House fingerprints all over the place, and Karl Rove and others passing on information to the Department of Justice about voter fraud to pump up interest in cases. DOJ policy is ignored, with no justification; written policy was ignored to bring indictments on the eve of a critical election in the State of Missouri; the White House Counsel chastising a U.S. attorney over mishandling a case. How does the White House Counsel know whether a DOJ attorney mishandled the case? Who is telling him what is going on in the DOJ? The DOJ even invented the position of White House Liaison—first time ever—who, by her own admission, screened applicants based on inappropriate and probably illegal political factors.

Third, the Attorney General has set the bar for his office far too low. His stated definition of what is improper for him and his staff, believe it or not, tracks the legal standard for criminal obstruction of justice. Is that the kind of Attorney General we want? Is that the kind of accountability to himself we want? The Attorney General should do a lot better than that.

There has been an almost unbelievable series of half-truths and obfuscations coming out of the Attorney General and his circle. They told us that the firings of U.S. attorneys were performance related. Not true. They told us the Attorney General was not involved and didn't discuss the plan to fire U.S. attorneys. Not true. They told us the White House was not involved. Not true. They told us these EARS performance evaluations were not relevant. Not true. They told us the Attorney General didn't discuss the substance of the testimony with other witnesses during the investigation. Not true. They told us the Chief of Staff of the Deputy Attorney General never made threatening calls to U.S. attorneys who were going to publicly discuss the matter. Again, not true.

How many times can the Department of Justice say things that are not true?

Fifth, the hypocrisy is almost unbelievable. The Attorney General's own incompetence and misjudgments fail the very test he claimed he set for the fired U.S. attorneys. As one of my colleagues said to Attorney General Gonzales at his hearing, ''Why should you not be judged by the same standards at which you judged these dismissed U.S. Attorneys?''

Madam President, our Attorney General would fail that standard. How can he oversee our Federal Bureau of Investigation when the FBI Director had to warn FBI agents guarding the Attorney General not to obey his instructions, when he was White House Counsel scurrying over to the ailing Attorney General's hospital room to try to get his signature on a document?

You can say this is just a partisan exercise, but it may take a decade to repair the damage Attorney General Gonzales has caused. Every day that passes without his resignation is one more day before the repair has begun. From the perspective of the Bush administration, I can see how a wounded, grateful Attorney General on a very short leash may be just as they want as they try to exit Washington without further indictments. But that is not the Attorney General America needs to maintain the best traditions of the Department of Justice through administration and administration and administration, through Republicans and Democrats alike, and to ensure the fair administration of justice in our country.

As a former U.S. attorney who has profound respect for the Department of Justice and its thousands of career employees, I believe America deserves an Attorney General who will lead by example, who will set the very highest standard for himself and his staff, who will do his best to keep politics out of the justice system and will restore the country's faith and confidence in one of its most important institutions.

Please set aside politics and let us stand up for the Department of Justice. Let us restore a vital institution in American life. Please let us vote for

cloture and proceed to do what our duty calls for us to do.

I yield the floor.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I will vote in favor of cloture on the motion to proceed. After months of troubling and even shocking disclosures about the U.S. Attorney firings and the politicization of the Department of Justice, it is important for the Senate to go on record on the question of whether the Attorney General should continue in his post. This vote may end up being our only vote on this matter, but since the resolution itself is nonbinding, this vote, though procedural in nature, is sufficient to inform the Nation exactly what the Senate's position is. Those who vote against cloture plainly are comfortable with the Attorney General remaining right where he is. Those of us who vote for cloture are not.

In January 2005, I voted against Alberto Gonzales to be the Attorney General because I was not convinced he would put the rule of law, and the interests of the country, above those of the President and the administration. Unfortunately, those concerns have been realized over and over. It is not just the U.S. Attorneys scandal. In recent months, the Department's Inspector General issued a very troubling report on National Security Letters. The Attorney General, of course, had assured us that the Department could be trusted to respect civil liberties in its exercise of the unprecedented powers it was given in the Patriot Act.

Perhaps the Attorney General's biggest failure concerns the warrantless wiretapping program. When he came before the Judiciary Committee for his confirmation hearing, he gave very misleading testimony to a question I asked concerning whether the position the administration had taken with respect to torture might also allow it to authorize warrantless wiretaps. He called my question ''hypothetical.'' Just less than a year later, we found out that the administration had in fact taken precisely that position for years.

His appearance before the Judiciary Committee last year to discuss the legal justification of the wiretapping program was one of the weakest and least convincing I have ever seen. And the recent testimony of former Deputy Attorney General James Comey concerning Mr. Gonzales's bedside visit to former Attorney General John Ashcroft raises serious questions about his veracity at that hearing. It also raises questions about his ethics, and, once again, his respect for the rule of law.

But it is not just his commitment to the rule of law and his willingness to tell the truth to Congress that troubles me about this Attorney General's tenure. At his most recent appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee to discuss the U.S. Attorney firings, I questioned him about whether he did some of the most basic things that you would expect a manager to do if he delegated to his staff a major project like deciding which of 93 presidential appointees to top law enforcement positions to fire. He could not recall doing any of them. We know that the Attorney General was involved in this process and made the final decisions on the firing plan, but he can't seem to remember much beyond that, even though it was only a few months ago that this all took place. He has failed in a very significant way. He should resign.

With the snowballing problems at the Justice Department, it could hardly be more plain that the Attorney General has lost the confidence of Congress and the public. As Mr. Comey said in response to my written question: ''This entire affair has harmed the Department and its reputation.'' The Department of Justice should always be above reproach. The AG should step down for the good of the country. Since he will not, the Senate should express its judgment, on behalf of the American people.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, as a former U.S. Attorney for 12 years and as an assistant U.S. attorney for over 2 years, I am well aware that U.S. attorneys serve at the pleasure of the President and that they are appointed through a political process that involves home State senators conferring with the President of the United States before the nomination is made, and which involves confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

As I have observed previously, the matter involving Attorney General Gonzales concerning the appointment and removal of certain U.S. attorneys arose because at some point there was interest in a substantial change in the persons holding the offices of U.S. attorneys throughout the country. Apparently, some wanted a large number of changes and others did not. To them, it may have seemed like an easy thing to do. The President would simply just remove them and appoint others.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales had no previous experience in the Department of Justice at any time in his career and seemed to have very little interest in who were serving as U.S. attorneys. This was an error on his part. Attorney General Gonzales simply did not understand that the removal of a U.S. attorney is always a delicate and difficult process. First, U.S. attorneys have Senatorial support. Their appointment was initially cleared by the U.S. Senator for that State and often the Congressman from that district. Secondly, they have local support among their friends and constituents and they often have built up strong support among local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies. Those bonds are often strong and the removal of a U.S. attorney often causes concern among those law enforcement agencies and groups. They have also often gained support in the local community with childrens' advocacy groups, crime prevention groups, and victims' rights groups.

Finally, almost every U.S. attorney will have one, sometimes more, sensitive cases that are ongoing at any given time. Anyone familiar with the process will know that removing a U.S. attorney who is in the process of handling some high profile criminal case will often result in quite a bit of political pushback, even if the U.S. attorney has very little hands-on involvement with the case.

One of the problems that the Attorney General had was that he did not fully understand these dangers in removing U.S. attorneys because he had never been involved in it as a member of the Department of Justice. He simply did not comprehend the seriousness of the issue with which he was dealing. If he had, he would have spent a great deal more time on it than he did. He would not have delegated it to his assistants—many of them young and also not experienced—in the reality of this process either.

As a result, there occurred an unseemly series of events that reflected poorly on Attorney General Gonzales and other members of the Department of Justice, and which has damaged the reputation of the Department of Justice. This was not a small matter but a very important matter. I think now he realizes the importance of this process and is sincerely apologetic for allowing it to develop the way it did. He is also apologetic for the way that he responded to the inquiries made about the proposed U.S. attorney changes.

Let me insert, parenthetically, that much of the criticism leveled against the Attorney General, the President and his aides has been exaggerated and sometimes quite inaccurate. But, if it comes from a member of Congress or a Senator, that means you never have to say you are sorry. However, if the Attorney General, in responding to attacks, makes explanations that are in any way less than fully accurate one can expect that he will be attacked vociferously as attempting to mislead or worse. Unfortunately, there is a double standard and it often results in unfairness and this is one of those cases. Many of the complaints against Attorney General Gonzales have been very unfair and unfortunate.

After this spasm developed, I was worried about the Attorney General's capacity to lead the Department of Justice effectively and expressed concern as to whether or not he would be able to assemble an able staff to complete his term and whether or not it would be, in sum, better for the Department of Justice that he step aside. I publicly suggested that he and the President meet together and discuss this issue with frankness. I quoted the Attorney General himself as saying that the matter was not about the Attorney General, but was really about what was best for the Department of Justice.

It now appears that the Attorney General and the President have concluded that the Attorney General committed no offense, committed no crime

for which he should be impeached, and has not made any error sufficient that he should no longer remain as Attorney General. The Attorney General's lack of experience in certain aspects of the Department of Justice were well known before he was confirmed by the Senate. In my personal view, there is no Cabinet member that requires more personal experience and detailed knowledge of the agency they will lead than the Attorney General. It is a very, very tough job and the Attorney General must be able to personally handle a large portfolio of issues and at the same time have a comprehensive grasp of complex legal issues and legal precedents involving the Department of Justice. For example, Attorney General Janet Reno was constantly struggling in the office. Before becoming the Attorney General, she had simply been a county district attorney and had never been involved in the kinds of issues she faced as Attorney General. In the future, I expect to be far more assertive in the confirmation process as I will insist that any Attorney General nominee have significant relevant experience.

In conclusion, I conclude that there is not cause for any censure of Attorney General Gonzales and I conclude that there is no basis whatsoever for him to be impeached.

It has been 120 years since a no-confidence vote has been had on any Cabinet member. That is something they do in Europe. It is not something we do in the United States. This no-confidence resolution is not necessary, it is harmful to our system, and should not be a precedent in the future. Frankly, it is driven by politics and not by what is best for the Department of Justice because this process will greatly magnify any errors that he has made and create a false impression. Attorney General Gonzales is a good man who sincerely wants to meet the highest standards of the Department of Justice.

The process in our government is that the President nominates for the position of Attorney General, and the Senate votes to confirm them or not. After that confirmation, unless he is subject to impeachment, it is not good policy for the Senate to rush in and express formal opinions about the Cabinet officer and his or her performance. Therefore, I have, after considerable thought, concluded this resolution is bad policy and precedent, and is unfairly damaging to the Department of Justice. It is a political overreach and should not be passed. Therefore, I oppose the resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, when Alberto Gonzales came before the Senate as the President's nominee for Attorney General, many of us were concerned that he would not be able to distinguish between his past role as White House Counsel and his new role as Attorney General. During his service as counsel to the President, he had assisted the President in promulgating a series of disastrous policies that ran roughshod over the rule of law and damaged the United States in the eyes of the world. He refused to give detainees the protections of the Geneva Conventions, calling them ''quaint.'' He facilitated the establishment of Guantanamo and denied other basic legal protections to detainees. He approved an interpretation of the law that was inconsistent with international agreements. He authorized the use of torture, a step that led to the horrors of Abu Ghraib. At every turn, he promoted an extreme view of the President's authority. Yet, when he came before the committee seeking confirmation, he assured us: ''With the consent of the Senate, I will no longer represent only the White House; I will represent the United States of America and its people. I understand the differences between the two roles.''

That assurance has proven hollow. On issue after issue, Mr. Gonzales has singlemindedly served the President's agenda, without any respect for the broader responsibilities of the Attorney General. He has continued to promote an extreme view of the President's power as Commander in Chief to authorize warrantless eavesdropping in violation of the law, secret detentions, abuse of detainees, and violations of the Geneva Conventions. He believes that the President can issue signing statements that nullify duly enacted statutes whenever they might limit the President's discretion. As Attorney General, he has used the enormous power of his office to promote the agenda of the White House.

The current U.S. attorney scandal has revealed the devastating legacy of Mr. Gonzales's tenure as Attorney General. We now have a Department of Justice that is wide open to partisan influence and has abandoned many of the basic principles that kept the Department independent and assured the American people that its decisions were based on the rule of law.

As a result, the Department of Justice is now embroiled in a scandal involving the firing of U.S. attorneys, under a process controlled by inexperienced, partisan staffers in consultation with the White House. U.S. attorneys were targeted for firing because they failed to serve the White House agenda. Karl Rove and the President passed along to the Attorney General complaints that U.S. attorneys failed to pursue voter fraud. Over the past 5 years, the Department of Justice has actually pushed hard to prosecute voter fraud, but among the hundreds of millions of votes cast in that period, it has managed to convict only 86 people nationwide. The pursuit of virtually nonexistent voter fraud at the ballot box is part of a Republican effort to suppress the legitimate votes of minority, elderly, and disabled voters. Other measures taken in this cynical scheme include photo ID laws and purges of voter rolls.

The conclusion is inescapable that the firings of U.S. attorneys were part of an effort to put partisans in charge of U.S. attorney offices in key States. New Mexico, Washington, Arkansas and Nevada are all closely contested States. Add those States to which the Attorney General sent interim appointees from Washington in the past 2 years—Florida, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota—and the pattern is clear. Attorney General Gonzales, more than any other Attorney General in memory, has tried to turn the Department of Justice into an arm of a political party.

In addition, under his leadership, the Department's hiring procedures have been corrupted by partisan officials who rejected longstanding merit-based hiring procedures and placed political party loyalty ahead of legal merit in hiring career attorneys. His Department of Justice has tried to obliterate the distinction between political appointees and career civil servants.

In his testimony before the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Gonzales has repeatedly made false statements. He told us the warrantless eavesdropping program could not be conducted within the limits of The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Then, on the eve of an appearance before the committee, he told us that the program now fits within FISA. He told us that there had not been significant disagreement over that program, but we now know that as many as 30 members of the Justice Department were prepared to resign if an earlier version of the program proceeded unchanged. He stated that he had not seen memoranda or been involved in discussions about the U.S. attorney firings, but it was later revealed that he did both. He told us that only eight U.S. attorneys had been targeted for firing, but it turns out the list was longer. He has said scores of times that he does not recall key meetings and events. With each misstatement and memory lapse, the Attorney General's credibility has faded until there is nothing left.

In the years I have served in this body, I have had the privilege to work with many Attorneys General. The defining quality of the outstanding occupants of that office—both Democrats and Republicans—has been an understanding that the law and the evidence trump loyalty to a political party or a president. Respect for the rule of law lies at the heart of our democracy. If our machinery of justice becomes just another means to preserve and promote the power of the party in office, we have corrupted our democracy. If the American people believe that partisanship is driving law enforcement, our system of justice cannot survive.

We need a strong and credible Attorney General who believes deeply in our system of justice as we undertake the difficult and essential job of restoring the credibility of the Department of Justice. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution of no-confidence as a first step in rebuilding the faith of the American people in the Department of Justice.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, 28 months ago, on February 3, 2005, I voted against the confirmation of Alberto Gonzales to be the Attorney General of the United States. Hallelujah, Amen! Eight days before that, I was one of 13 Senators who voted against the nomination of Condoleezza Rice to be the U.S. Secretary of State. And, if the Senate had been permitted to vote on the nomination of Paul Wolfowitz to head the World Bank, I would have voted against that nomination, too.

I am proud of my votes against confirmation of these failed architects of the unconstitutional war in Iraq. Their flawed policies have cost our Nation dearly. I shudder to contemplate the billions and even trillions of dollars and the decades of effort that it will take to correct their extraordinary errors in judgment. These are the same administration officials, led by Alberto Gonzales here at home, who have done everything they can to abolish our Nation's carefully calibrated separation of powers and to undermine Americans' civil liberties. Based on ongoing errors in judgment and mistakes made on his watch, I remain convinced that my vote against Alberto Gonzales was in the best interests of this country.

It is, therefore, not surprising that I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of S.J. Res. 14. This resolution expresses the sense of the Senate that Attorney General Gonzales no longer holds the confidence of the Senate and of the American people. Frankly, he never held my confidence. Not from day one, and I will tell you why that is so.

When President Bush nominated Alberto Gonzales to be the U.S. Attorney General, the President stated that Mr. Gonzales, as White House counsel, had a ''sharp intellect,'' and that it was White House counsel's ''sound judgment'' that had, in the President's words, ''helped shape our policies in the war on terror.''

Sharp intellect and sound judgment? I have heard of damning with faint praise, but applying those words to someone who has had a major role in the reckless and incompetent way in which this administration has waged its so-called war on terror is hardly a compliment.

But don't expect Alberto Gonzales to take responsibility for what happened on his watch. Throughout his time in this administration, whenever Mr. Gonzales has been questioned about what he knows about improper conduct, his standard and repetitive response, in the words of the fictional Sergeant Schultz is simply: ''I know nothing.'' When questioned about who made the decision to fire U.S. attorneys for what appear to be purely political reasons, he implausibly states that while he signed off on the decision, he was not really responsible because he was out of the loop.

At a press conference on March 13, Attorney General Gonzales stated that he knew nothing of the scandal surrounding the U.S. attorneys, because he was, in his words, ''not involved in seeing any memos, was not involved in any discussions about what was going on,'' and, he said, ''that's basically what I knew as the Attorney General.'' Mr. President, that is not an impressive response. Even the Attorney General now says his comment was ''too broad'' and that he ''misspoke.'' He now admits that he did have some involvement. But he said this only after the Justice Department released e-mails and memoranda which showed that he had, in fact, been involved in discussions about the firings.

He also claimed that he is not really responsible, because, in his words, ''in an organization of 110,000 people,'' he said, ''I am not aware of every bit of information that passes through the halls of justice, nor am I aware of all decisions.'' Now that seems an odd assertion, considering that he is, in fact—if you will allow me to use the President's terminology—the top ''decider'' at the U.S. Department of Justice.

When the Attorney General testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 19, 2007, he continued to argue that he was simply out of touch—an assertion that has been disputed by the two employees he had charged with filling the U.S. attorney positions with party loyalists, D. Kyle Sampson and Monica Goodling.

On May 15, 2007, speaking before the National Press Club, Mr. Gonzales made yet another effort to shift the blame for any wrongdoing. But this time he chose a new victim. He said, ''You have to remember, at the end of the day, the recommendations [to fire the U.S. Attorneys] reflected the views of the deputy attorney general,'' meaning Paul McNulty. But the Associated Press reported immediately thereafter that documents released from the Justice Department showed that McNulty was not closely involved in picking all of the U.S. attorneys who were put on the list. Instead, it was a job mostly driven by the Attorney General's own, two hand-picked subordinates, Sampson and Goodling.

I would invite those who believe that Alberto Gonzales did not know what was happening in his own Department to join me on a quick trip down memory lane. Let me recount a section of the speech that I delivered on the Senate floor just prior to voting against his confirmation to be Attorney General. I reminded my colleagues at that time that Judge Gonzales had admitted being physically present at meetings in his office to determine which acts against enemy combatants should be outlawed as torture.

But at his confirmation hearing, he disavowed having any role in the administration's initial decision to define torture extremely narrowly. On January 6, 2005, he was asked by a member of the Judiciary Committee whether he had ever chaired a meeting in which he discussed with Justice Department attorneys the legitimacy of such interrogation techniques. He was asked if, in the meetings he attended, there was discussion of strapping detainees to boards and holding them under water as if to drown them. He testified that there were such meetings, and while he did remember having had some ''discussions'' with Justice Department attorneys, he simply could not recall what he told them in those meetings. He stated that, as White House counsel, he might have attended those meetings, but it was not his role but that of the Justice Department to determine which interrogation techniques were lawful.

In other words, he was saying then, just as he is saying today: Don't hold me accountable! Don't blame me if mistakes were made! And, then, just like today, he didn't point the finger of blame at just one other victim. He spread the blame around. While he admitted he'd made some mistakes as White House counsel, he attempted to further deflect responsibility for his actions by saying that a number of what he called other ''operational agencies'' also took responsibility for making flawed decisions on prisoner interrogation techniques.

At his confirmation hearing, he said:

> I have a recollection that we had some discussions in my office, but let me be very clear with the Committee. It is not my job to decide which types of methods of obtaining information from terrorists would be the most effective. That job responsibility falls to folks within the agencies. It is also not my job to make the ultimate decision about whether or not those methods would, in fact, meet the requirements of the anti-torture statute. That would be the job for the agencies . . . I viewed it as their responsibility to make a decision as to whether or not a procedure or method would, in fact, be lawful.

Whether on the issue of torture or of firing U.S. attorneys, when it comes to Alberto Gonzales taking responsibility for his actions—as Yogi Berra would say—it's deja vu all over again. One wishes that Judge Gonzales could tell us, just once, what his job is, rather than always telling us only what it is not.

Article II, section 3 of the United States Constitution, as head of the Executive Branch, the President has a legal duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed. The Constitution does not say that the President or his officers ''should'' or ''may'' undertake that responsibility: it clearly states that the President ''shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.'' The President and his Chief Law Enforcement Officer at the Justice Department must be held accountable not only when they fail to faithfully execute the law, but also when they or their subordinates attempt to undermine, ignore, or gut the law.

The Attorney General has a credibility problem, and the American people know it. Despite his assertions to the contrary, he continues to contribute in large measure to the flawed policies and decision making that have

flowed from this administration over the past seven years. For all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support S.J. Res. 14.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise in support of S.J. Res. 14, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Attorney General Gonzales has lost the confidence of Congress and the American people. This is a sense-of-the-Senate resolution.

Now, Madam President, let me initially say that I was doing other things and was unable to listen to the remarks of some of my Republican colleagues. I apologize for that. I have had a briefing as to what they said. They have chosen to impugn the motives of the sponsor of this resolution, the senior Senator from New York, Mr. SCHUMER. I work very closely with this man. I have worked in government most all of my adult life. Rarely have I seen anybody—in fact, I have never seen anyone with the intellectual capacity of CHUCK SCHUMER from New York and his ability to understand what is going on in the State of New York and in our country. Any suggestions that were made to impugn his integrity are unwarranted, out of line, and unfair.

Senator SCHUMER is a member of the Judiciary Committee. He is a lawyer. As a member of that Judiciary Committee and as a lawyer who cares deeply about the rule of law and the reputation of the Justice Department, he had an obligation to do what he did. There are others who joined with him. Senator FEINSTEIN was out front on this issue with Senator SCHUMER, as were others. The chairman of the committee, Senator LEAHY, has been with them every step of the way.

In my opinion, his work in this investigation has been commendable.

Mr. LEAHY. Will the majority leader yield for a comment?

Mr. REID. Yes, I am happy to.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I tell the leader and the senior Senator from New York, I know he has worked hard on this. Nobody has had more roadblocks thrown in front of him than the Senator from New York. He has asked legitimate questions. Many times, his legitimate questions were not answered by the Department of Justice. They refused to answer. We had to actually subpoena them to get answers that should have been sent to him by return courier. He has acted in the best sense of oversight. He has done what one should do in oversight. He should not be criticized for that.

Maybe those who do the criticizing should ask why they allowed a rubberstamp Senate under their watch to continue for 6 years, with conduct that certainly borders on the criminal and certainly reflects the unethical goings-on at the Department of Justice, and they didn't say one word about it.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I appreciate very much the Senator from Vermont, the chairman of our committee, for standing up for what is right. That is what he is doing.

The Senate has a responsibility to express its displeasure with a Cabinet officer who has grossly mismanaged his responsibilities and failed the American people in the process. This is the one and only mechanism we have, short of impeachment, to address malfeasance of a high-ranking Federal official.

Along with the Department of Defense and State, the Department of Justice is the most important Cabinet agency we have. The Attorney General is responsible for enforcing Federal law, protecting civil rights, and, most importantly, ensuring fidelity to the Constitution of the United States.

Madam President, in my young days as a lawyer and public official in Nevada, during the 1960s, I saw the critical role the Justice Department can play in what is going on in a State. In those days—the early sixties—a person of color, a Black man or woman, could not work in a Strip hotel and could not work in downtown hotels. They weren't there unless they were a porter, a janitor—someplace where they could not be seen. Thousands of people, Black and White, protested that discrimination, but it didn't matter until the Justice Department stepped in. They stepped in and forced it. There was a consent decree entered into between the State of Nevada—I was there. I was Lieutenant Governor, and I helped negotiate that along with Governor O'Callaghan and the attorney assigned to do that. We worked on that for weeks and weeks. But for the Justice Department, that integration of those large hotels in Nevada would have taken place much later. That is what the Justice Department is all about. Major civil rights battles in Las Vegas over integrating the strip would never have been determined in favor of the people of color but for the Justice Department.

You see, the Justice Department is color blind, and that is the way it is supposed to be. It wasn't a Democratic Department of Justice or Republican Department of Justice. It was an American, a U.S. Department of Justice. Its lawyers were fighting for the most American ideal—the right of all Americans to participate in our democracy.

What a proud history this is. What a source of pride it is for our country what the Justice Department in decades past has done. But today under this President, President Bush, and under this Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales, the Department of Justice has lost its way.

Now the Justice Department is just another arm of the Karl Rove political machine, where partisanship earns patronage and independence earns contempt.

Today's Justice Department is dysfunctional. I so appreciate the statement made by the former attorney general of the State of Rhode Island, Senator WHITEHOUSE. He laid it out. He has a feeling of what the Justice Department is all about. He spoke from his heart. The Department of Justice's credibility is shredded. Its morale is at an all-time low, and the blame for that tragic deterioration lies squarely on the shoulders of two people: the President of the United States and the Attorney General of the United States, Alberto Gonzales.

We are here today to discuss Alberto Gonzales. Over the past 6 months, congressional oversight has revealed the many ways the crass political calculations in that White House have pervaded the personnel and prosecutorial decisions of the Bush-Gonzales Justice Department. Remember, for 4 years, this was a big rubberstamp, this thing called Congress.

The careers of many fine men and women, lawyers, have been destroyed. One of those is a man from Nevada by the name of Daniel Bogden, a career prosecutor. He worked his way up as a line prosecutor in Washoe County, Reno, NV, and became an assistant U.S. attorney. He—I have spoken with him—wanted to spend his life being a prosecutor, going after people who violate the law. That is over with. Once you are removed from being a U.S. attorney, you can no longer work as a deputy U.S. attorney.

He, I repeat, was a career prosecutor. When my Republican friend and colleague, JOHN ENSIGN, recommended him to be U.S. attorney for Nevada, he reached what he thought was the pinnacle of his career. Oh, was he mistaken. He has been humiliated, embarrassed, denigrated by this Justice Department for no reason. He worked hard. No one questioned his work ethic.

My son was a deputy U.S. attorney with Daniel Bogden. They worked together. A fine lawyer is Daniel Bogden. He worked hard as our U.S. attorney to protect Nevadans from crimes, drugs and white-collar crimes and earned a wide respect from law enforcement agencies throughout the State.

I repeat, he was fired. To this day, no satisfactory explanation has been provided to Dan Bogden and the people of Nevada.

In light of this evidence, we learned that other U.S. attorneys had been fired at the same time because they failed to pursue partisan political cases. So without any question, there is every reason to believe Dan Bogden suffered the same fate. He was fired for administering justice in Nevada in an evenhanded, nonpolitical way, as he thought as a prosecutor he was supposed to do.

I can remember as a young lawyer, I had a part-time job as a city attorney in Henderson, NV. It is now the second largest city in the State. It wasn't then. I prosecuted criminal cases. I came back to my law firm and I was bragging. That is the wrong word. I was saying: Man, that case, I can't imagine why that judge did that. That wasn't a very good case at all. One of the people

I worked with said: HARRY, that is not your responsibility.

I will use leader time now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, he said: Your job is not to convict people. It is to do the right thing for the people of the State of Nevada, the city of Henderson, NV.

That is a lesson somebody should have given Alberto Gonzales before he took the job as Attorney General. Dan Bogden was fired for doing his job exactly the way it is supposed to be done.

When he testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Attorney General Gonzales couldn't even say why Bogden was included on the list to be fired. Think about that: A man's career ruined, and the man who fired him or had him fired didn't even know why he was fired.

His lack of memory was astounding. He couldn't recall basic facts, even meetings with the President. Writing in the New York Times, Professor Frank Bowman, a former Federal prosecutor, said, talking about Gonzales:

The truth is almost surely that Mr. Gonzales's forgetfulness is feigned—a calculated ploy to block legitimate congressional inquiry into questionable decisions made by the Department of Justice, White House officials, and, quite possibly, the President himself.

If Albert Gonzales was not truthful with the Congress, he deserves to be fired—not Bogden but Gonzales.

On the other hand, if the Attorney General was not involved in the decision to fire Bogden and others, he is guilty of gross negligence and deserves to be fired. He turned over the awesome power of his office to a handful of young, inexperienced ideologues and allowed them to carry out a political campaign from the once-hallowed halls of the Justice Department.

But the Attorney General's misdeeds extend well beyond politically driven personnel decisions. As White House counsel, he presided over the development of antiterror tactics that have undermined the rule of law and made Americans less safe. We know now from former Deputy Attorney General Jim Comey the Attorney General tried to take advantage of John Ashcroft's serious illness—was sick in a hospital bed—to obtain Justice Department approval for an illegal surveillance program. He took papers there for him to sign.

Time and time again, Alberto Gonzales has proven beyond a doubt his utter lack of judgment and independence is foremost in his mind. Whether it is tortured reasoning allowing torture or his support of domestic surveillance, firing unfairly U.S. attorneys, hiring immigration judges based on their political affiliation—there is a long list. But let's talk about his being one of the masters of torture in our country.

I have a law review article from Columbia Law Journal, one of the finest law schools in America, the name of which is ''Drop by Drop: Forgetting the History of Water Torture in U.S. Courts.'' This is an article written by Judge Evan Wallach, one of the foremost experts in the world on the law of the war. I am only going to read the last paragraph of this article. He goes into some detail in the article, talking about how this Attorney General's office, this White House counsel, this administration has allowed torture to be part of what Americans do with detainees and others.

Here is what Judge Wallach said:

If we remember what we said and did when our military personnel were victims, if we remember our response when they were perpetrators, how can our government possibly opine that the use of water torture is within the bounds of law? To do so is beneath contempt; it is beyond redemption; and it is a repudiation of the rule of law that in our origins was the core principle of governance which distinguished our nation from the crowned dictatorships of the European continent.

That is the legacy of this administration and this Attorney General, that law review articles are being written to talk about how awful this Attorney General is and what he has allowed to happen.

To do so is beneath contempt; it is beyond redemption; and it is a repudiation of the rule of law that in our origins was the core principle of governance which distinguished our nation from the crowned dictatorships of the European continent.

Alberto Gonzales is profoundly unworthy to hold one of the highest and most important offices of our great country. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution reflecting the facts before us. I urge Attorney General Gonzales to resign his office, to give the Department of Justice a chance it needs to recover from his catastrophic tenure. If he does not, I urge President Bush to finally remove him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Mr. REID. Have the yeas and nays been ordered?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays are mandatory.

CLOTURE MOTION

Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 179, S.J. Res. 14, relating to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

Harry Reid, Richard J. Durbin, Kent Conrad, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Bingaman, Dan Inouye, Jon Tester, S. Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Byron L. Dorgan, Amy Klobuchar, Sherrod Brown, Carl Levin, Chuck Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Jack Reed, H.R. Clinton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 14, a joint resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Attorney General Alberto Gonzales no longer holds the confidence of the Senate and of the American people, shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. STEVENS (when his name was called). Present.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) would vote ''yea.''

Mr. LOTT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 207 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Akaka	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Hagel	Pryor
Bayh	Harkin	Reed
Bingaman	Inouye	Reid
Boxer	Kennedy	Rockefeller
Brown	Kerry	Salazar
Byrd	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cantwell	Kohl	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Smith
Carper	Lautenberg	Snowe
Casey	Leahy	Specter
Clinton	Levin	Stabenow
Coleman	Lincoln	Sununu
Collins	McCaskill	Tester
Conrad	Menendez	Webb
Dorgan	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Feingold	Nelson (FL)	

NAYS—38

Alexander	Dole	Lott
Allard	Domenici	Lugar
Bennett	Ensign	Martinez
Bond	Enzi	McConnell
Bunning	Graham	Murkowski
Burr	Grassley	Roberts
Chambliss	Gregg	Sessions
Cochran	Hatch	Shelby
Corker	Hutchison	Thune
Cornyn	Inhofe	Vitter
Craig	Isakson	Voinovich
Crapo	Kyl	Warner
DeMint	Lieberman	

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Stevens

NOT VOTING—7

Biden	Dodd	Obama
Brownback	Johnson	
Coburn	McCain	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays 38, and one Senator responded ''present.'' Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

CREATING LONG-TERM ENERGY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE NATION ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion. The clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 9, H.R. 6, Comprehensive Energy legislation.

Jeff Bingaman, Dick Durbin, S. Whitehouse, Blanche L. Lincoln, Jon Tester, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Patty Murray, Daniel K. Akaka, Jack Reed, Mary Landrieu, Max Baucus, Mark Pryor, Ron Wyden, Joe Biden, Pat Leahy, Claire McCaskill, Amy Klobuchar, Ken Salazar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6, an act to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. LOTT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 91, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 208 Leg.]

YEAS—91

Akaka	Burr	Collins
Alexander	Byrd	Conrad
Allard	Cantwell	Corker
Baucus	Cardin	Cornyn
Bennett	Carper	Craig
Bingaman	Casey	Crapo
Bond	Chambliss	DeMint
Boxer	Clinton	Dole
Brown	Cochran	Domenici
Bunning	Coleman	Dorgan
Durbin	Lautenberg	Salazar
Ensign	Leahy	Sanders
Enzi	Levin	Schumer
Feingold	Lieberman	Sessions
Feinstein	Lincoln	Shelby
Graham	Lott	Smith
Grassley	Lugar	Snowe
Gregg	Martinez	Specter
Hagel	McCaskill	Stabenow
Harkin	McConnell	Stevens
Hatch	Menendez	Sununu
Hutchison	Mikulski	Tester
Inhofe	Murkowski	Thune
Inouye	Murray	Vitter
Isakson	Nelson (FL)	Voinovich
Kennedy	Nelson (NE)	Warner
Kerry	Pryor	Webb
Klobuchar	Reed	Whitehouse
Kohl	Reid	Wyden
Kyl	Roberts	
Landrieu	Rockefeller	

NOT VOTING—8

Bayh	Coburn	McCain
Biden	Dodd	Obama
Brownback	Johnson	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 91, the nays are zero. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I honor a colleague, a friend, and a great Senator, Senator Craig Thomas.

No words that I can speak will ease the sadness of this loss. Nothing my colleagues and I say can fill the emptiness that his passing has left or lessen the pain that so many feel.

I feel compelled to speak of Senator Thomas not for the effect of my words. Instead, I speak to recognize the effect of his words, his actions, and his service.

His were words, actions, and service that have improved the lives and futures of Americans. His words and actions will leave a legacy long after our sadness passes.

Senator Thomas represented Wyoming effectively and with dignity. I was proud to work with him.

We both loved the open beautiful spaces of our home States, and we worked to keep them clean, safe, and sustainable. We collaborated to improve the Endangered Species Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

We also worked to safeguard our constituents' livelihoods—establishing the wool trust fund, keeping open global beef markets, and making sure that our trading partners played by the rules.

We worked together to safeguard our natural resources, improve rural energy infrastructure, and plan for a sustainable energy future with clean coal technologies.

These and many other accomplishments will be Senator Thomas's legacy. It is a legacy for which he deserves recognition, remembrance, and honor. It is a legacy for which our Nation is grateful.

But many will remember Senator Thomas more for who he was than for what he did. They will remember someone with a quick wit, an easy smile, and a generous helping hand.

I will remember Senator Thomas as I met him when he first joined the Senate in 1989. Back then, I recognized in him something very familiar. Senator Thomas was a man of the American West. He embodied the values and the character of the people whom he represented.

You always knew where Senator Thomas stood. Like many in the West, Senator Thomas was quiet, unassuming, and unpretentious—but he was never intimidated.

He was gentle and decent. When he gave you his word, he kept it. And as we all saw in these final months of his life, when he had to, he could fight like hell.

That is the man I will miss and it is the man I wish to recognize today—an honorable Senator and a great man of the American West.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, this last Saturday, I traveled with my wife Nancy and many of our colleagues in the Senate to Casper, WY, for the funeral service of my friend Senator Craig Thomas.

During the service I was particularly impressed by the words of Minority Leader MCCONNELL and I would like to thank him for so eloquently eulogizing Senator Thomas. So appropriately did his words honor Senator Thomas that I hope all our colleges in the Senate will take the time to read them.

I ask unanimous consent that this transcript of Senator MCCONNELL's comments be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SERVICE IN HONOR OF CRAIG THOMAS, JUNE 9, 2007

Reverend [Moore], Susan, Lexie, Patrick, Greg, Peter; distinguished guests, colleagues and friends of Craig Lyle Thomas.

There are people that we can't ever imagine dying because they're so alive, and there are people we can't imagine dying because they seem so healthy and so strong. Craig Thomas's death is doubly hard because he was both of these people. But death has done its work, and so we come back to the place that he was always so eager to return to, to accompany him on one last trip back.

It was here that he first heard his calling to serve in public life, and here that he first

tasted the bitterness of loss. But Susan always told him, ''If you sign up to be a cowboy, you can't complain when you draw a raw, bucking bronco.'' He couldn't have imagined in those early years that one day he'd be known to America as the Senior Senator from Wyoming. But he was never one to dwell on his achievements. So it falls to us, his friends, to speak well of this good man.

One of the great things about this country is that so many of its leaders come from such surprising places: a candle shop in Boston, a cabin in Kentucky—and a one room-school house in Wapiti, Wyoming. Senator Enzi tells me that The Wapiti School is still standing, but that it's surrounded now by 10-foot fences and a ring of barbed wire—not to keep the kids in, but to keep the grizzlies out. That fence wasn't there when Craig was in school. They were tougher then.

Craig Thomas was always the tough guy—not tough to deal with, not tough on others, just tough. When his family moved to Cody, he signed up for two sports: wrestling and football. One of his teammates on the football team, Al Simpson, was also his neighbor. It may be the only time in American history that two U.S. senators grew up a block and half from each other.

There was a time when it was normal for tough guys to be studious too. And if you went back to Cody in the 1940s, you'd find the son of Craig and Marjorie Thomas as attentive to his football plays as he was to Mrs. Thompson's English lessons. He'd remember and benefit from both many years later during hundreds of legislative battles or on countless nights by the campfire along the North Laramie River, reciting the ''Cremation of Sam McGee.''

As a young man, Craig would have heard about the days when an unwritten code of honesty, bravery, and chivalry governed daily life in Cody. And he was inspired by stories of another code of bravery that guided young Americans of his own day in exotic places like Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Tarawa, and Guam. World War II cost the Marines nearly 87,000 dead and wounded. But as a young man fresh out of college with his whole life ahead of him, Craig Thomas wanted in. Fifty years later, he still proudly wore the anchor and the globe on his lapel.

He was happiest when he was here, but 18 years ago history called him to Washington and he responded dutifully. It was anything but inevitable. His opponent in the campaign to replace an outgoing congressman who's done pretty well himself over the last 18 years had about 99 percent name recognition and had just lost an election for U.S. Senate by about 1,200 votes. The lowest point in the race was the early polling, which suggested that Craig didn't have a chance. But over the next 40 days, the Marine and his staff pulled it off. Craig set the tone, he led the way, and he let others take the credit. That was his way.

Four days after the election, Craig and Susan packed their bags, headed east, and two days after that Craig was sworn in as a member of the U.S Congress. It wasn't the easiest transition. As soon as Craig got to Washington, he froze with a sudden realization—he didn't have any suits. So he did what anybody from Wyoming would do. He called Al Simpson, who told him where to find one.

A few months later, he had a similar predicament. He and Susan got an invite to the White House and Craig didn't have a tuxedo. So he told one of his staffers to go to a dry cleaning store up the street and rent one—but not to worry about the shirt. When the staffer came back, she found Craig in his office with a buck knife. He was cutting holes into his cuffs for where the cufflinks would go. Craig just laughed that big laugh of his, that full body laugh, and then went to the White House with a tuxedo shirt of his own making.

The Gentleman from Wyoming took an office on the top floor of the Longworth Office Building, but he didn't get too comfortable. Some members of the Senate boast about visiting every county in their state over the course of a year. Craig visited all 23 counties in Wyoming—the ninth largest state in America in just two weeks during that first August recess. He enjoyed every minute of it: driving west from Casper, looking out at the Wind River Range, and thinking about what an honor it was to serve this big, beautiful place he loved.

This was his home, and he loved it. He loved the land, he loved the people. But anyone who knew him knew what his greatest love was.

Craig met Susan in 1978. She was working on a statewide campaign, he was working for the state Republican Party, and she invited him over to talk about the race. When she looked out the window and saw a man riding toward her office on his bicycle, she turned to the woman next to her and said, ''Now who would that be?'' She soon found out, and thanks to her loving support, so did the rest of the country. Everything they did, they did together. She was with him for every race he won. Craig always said Susan was the one who liked campaigning.

They were like children, but they were deadly serious about their work. Craig viewed politics as a high calling, and he viewed Susan's work the same way. He admired her deeply. He never failed to mention her. I remember my wife Elaine telling me after giving the commencement speech one year at Susan's high school, how devoted to her the students there were.

We honor Susan today for her devotion to Craig. We'll miss seeing her outside the Senate chamber waiting for him to finish up his votes. The Senate's a lonelier, less joyful place without Craig. It's already a lonelier, less joyful place without her too.

The people of Wyoming sent Craig to the Senate in 1994, and those of us who've served with him there are grateful they did. It was the first time since 1906 that every statewide office in Wyoming was held by a Republican, and the credit, of course, goes to Craig. He led the ticket, and he worked tirelessly to bring everyone else along with him.

But again, he didn't take the credit. And the victory and the higher office did nothing to change the man. If there was any chance of that, Susan made sure to nip it in the bud. She made him hang a photo of himself falling off a horse. She knew the Scripture that ''pride cometh before a fail'' But Craig knew it too, and he wouldn't disappoint. He was a simple, humble son of Wyoming and he remained one to the end.

He was always eager to get home. So eager, in fact, that one time when his Mustang broke down on the way to the airport, he left it on the side of the highway and hitchhiked the rest of the way. They let him on the plane to Cheyenne without a ticket or anything. He called his staff from the airport to see if someone could get the car. When they found it, the keys were still in the ignition. They sent his clothes on the next plane.

We'll never forget his toughness, his goodness, his humor, his steady reassuring hand. Nor his kindness, which he always showed toward everyone—from presidents to doormen. He was straightforward and honest. In a phrase that Craig might have recalled from Mrs. Thompson's Shakespeare lessons, he was not a man ''to double business bound.'' His only business was his duty—to God, country, family, and friends. And he fulfilled them beautifully.

He was strong, humble, and full of faith. And here is why. As a boy Craig Thomas looked out at the majesty of the canyons and the falls of Yellowstone and knew there is a God. As a teenager he saw the hard work and dedication of his parents and learned that giving is more admirable than taking. And as a man he could hear the rumble of the herd even from his desk in Washington, and know that the movements of men were nothing compared to the power of the wild.

I am not a cowboy. But I've come to know and admire a few of them in my 22 years in the Senate. And I've come to know a little bit about their pastimes. I've heard that holding down a steer takes two kinds of ropers—a header and a heeler, and that there's an old saying that the header may be the quarterback, but that the heeler makes the money. The idea is that there may be more glory in roping the head, but that the heeler has the harder, more important, and less glamorous job. No one who knew Craig Thomas is surprised to know that he preferred to be a heeler.

The most impressive thing in Washington is also the rarest: and that's a man whose position and power has no effect on the person he was when he got there. I've never met a man who was changed less by what the world calls riches or power than Craig Lyle Thomas.

Now this great American life has come to an end. Yet we know it continues: This husband, father, lawmaker, mentor, and friend goes to the Father's house. We take comfort entrusting him to the Lord of Mercy, who tells us that in the life to come, every question will be answered, every tear wiped away. And we are confident in the hope that he will ride again, healthy and strong, along a wider, more majestic plain in a land that's everlasting.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

TECHNICAL SERGEANT RYAN A. BALMER

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave airman from Mishawaka. Ryan Balmer, 33 years old, was killed on June 5 while deployed near Kirkuk, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device struck his vehicle. With an optimistic future before him, Ryan risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Ryan has served in the Air Force since enlisting shortly after graduating Mishawaka High School in 1993. He was extremely proud of his military service and was nearing the end of his 6-month tour in Iraq when he was killed by the improvised explosive device. In addition to his military service, Ryan, the youngest of nine children, was the devoted husband of Danielle Balmer and the father of two sons and one daughter.

Ryan was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to Detachment 113, 1st Field Investigations Region, stationed at Hill Air Force Base, UT. A good high school friend of Ryan's, Dave Falkenau, told local media that, ''[Ryan] would go out of his way for anyone; I wouldn't be surprised if he died trying to save someone else from dying.''

Today, I join Ryan's family and friends in mourning his death. While

we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Ryan, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Ryan was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Ryan will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Ryan's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: ''We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.'' This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Ryan's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Ryan A. Balmer in the official record of the Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Ryan's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, ''He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.''

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Ryan.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, over the last few weeks, the Senate has considered an issue that inspires strong feelings all around—the need for immigration reform. While the bill we were considering has many flaws, I am disappointed that some Members of this body decided to talk it to death. I voted to move this bill forward because Congress should act on this issue, and because I am hopeful that the bill's flaws can be cured during the next stages of the legislative process.

Despite our differences in approach, all of us in this Chamber agree on three core principles that form the bedrock of any comprehensive immigration reform. First, we must do something about the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants who live and work in the shadows. The status quo is simply unacceptable. It harms citizens and noncitizens alike and makes us less safe as a nation. Second, we must take the necessary steps to prevent illegal immigration in the future so that we do not find ourselves back here in the same position 20 years from now. And, third, we must establish a system that allows people who can make valuable contributions to our society—by, for example, strengthening families or performing jobs that cannot be filled by Americans—to enter the country legally. These goals must be accomplished in a way that is consistent with our values as a nation. The fundamental problem with this bill, as it now stands, is that it fails to accomplish these objectives; in fact, it contains several provisions that go directly against these objectives.

With respect to the 12 million undocumented immigrants, the bill held genuine promise when it came to the floor. As both the President and the Secretary of Homeland Security have said, mass deportation is not a viable option, nor is amnesty for those who have broken the law. As introduced on the Senate floor, this legislation would have required those who are here illegally to come forward, pay hefty fines, pay taxes, learn English and civics, work, and wait in the back of the line—before earning the privilege of permanent resident status. That would have been a workable solution.

Unfortunately, this linchpin of the bill was undercut by the Senate's adoption of an amendment offered by Senator CORNYN. The amendment removed critical confidentiality provisions that would have protected applicants for legalization from being deported if their applications were denied. The problem with this approach is that few undocumented immigrants will even apply for legalization without this protection. They will stay in the shadows, and we will be exactly where we are now. If this bill ultimately moves forward, it is vitally important that these confidentiality provisions be included in the House bill and retained in conference; otherwise, the bill will defeat its own main purpose.

I also hope to see progress on other provisions that threaten to undermine the very purpose of the earned legalization program. I am particularly concerned about requiring undocumented immigrants to leave the United States in order to apply for permanent residence. Although the bill guarantees their reentry, this ''touch-back'' requirement creates a major practical obstacle for many immigrants, especially those who come from far-flung regions of the globe. Moreover, many undocumented immigrants—who may be receiving their information about the legislation from unreliable sources, or who may face language barriers in understanding its provisions—will be unwilling to leave the U.S. for fear that they will not be allowed to return. Again, a bill that creates a legalization program but discourages immigrants from applying for legalization gets us nowhere.

Another vital component of comprehensive immigration reform is a system that allows employers to turn to foreign labor as a last resort when they genuinely cannot find American workers to do the job. Permitting these workers to enter the country legally furthers the second core principle of comprehensive reform: avoiding a future flow of undocumented workers who would otherwise create a new underground economy. Unlike the bill we passed last year, however, the bill the Senate considered this year has no meaningful path to permanent residence for immigrants in the temporary worker program. It requires workers in that program to interrupt their employment every 2 years and leave the U.S. for a period of 1 year, and it prohibits most of these workers from bringing their families to the U.S. Taken together, these provisions are a recipe for a massive new flow of illegal immigration—once again defeating the very purpose the program was meant to serve.

I am also concerned that the temporary worker program contains insufficient protections for U.S. and foreign workers. I was pleased at the success of the Durbin-Grassley amendment, which strengthened the bill's requirement that employers recruit and hire U.S. workers before hiring temporary foreign workers. But that protection is simply not sufficient. The single best mechanism for enforcement of labor protections is a path to permanent residence. Knowing that foreign workers cannot simply be used up and thrown away prevents employers from exploiting them. That, in turn, takes away the incentive to hire foreign workers over U.S. citizens and ensures that working conditions for all workers don't sink to a lowest common denominator. It is a critical protection that is lacking from this bill.

Because I believe the temporary worker program as currently drafted will foster illegal immigration and will not sufficiently protect U.S. and foreign workers, I voted for Senator BINGAMAN's amendment to limit the scope of the program and Senator DORGAN's amendment to sunset the program in 5 years. Unless and until the structural problems with the program are fixed—and I hope they will be—we should not be putting in place a permanent program of the magnitude contemplated by the original bill.

Another serious flaw in the bill is its inclusion of multiple ''triggers''—enforcement requirements that must be fulfilled before other critical reforms could begin. While these provisions are designed to further the second core goal of immigration reform—preventing a future flow of illegal immigration—they will have exactly the opposite effect. History tells us that an ''enforcement-only'' approach simply doesn't work: the probability of catching an illegal immigrant has fallen over the past two decades from 33 percent to 5 percent, despite the fact that

we have tripled the number of border agents and increased the enforcement budget tenfold. True border security requires both increased enforcement measures and the creation of adequate legal channels for immigration, including programs to bring needed foreign workers into the U.S. and to allow undocumented immigrants who pass background checks to earn legal status. These measures allow us to separate those who are here to work and contribute to our communities from terrorists and others who pose a serious threat to this Nation, so that our immigration enforcement agents can focus their efforts in the right place. Postponing these measures—as this bill does—makes us less safe, not more.

The bill's solution to the third challenge of immigration reform—shaping the contours of legal immigration—is a radical shift away from family reunification. That solution is not consistent with the core values of this Nation. In the past, our immigration laws have acknowledged that our country and our communities are stronger when families are united. But under this bill, it will be much harder for U.S. citizens and legal immigrants to be reunited with parents, siblings, and adult children. Some of my colleagues argued that this shift in policy is a necessary step toward embracing a ''merit-based'' system of immigration. But I believe there is a great deal of merit in keeping families together. And I don't believe that bringing people with useful skills to this country can only be accomplished at the expense of family unity.

We had the opportunity to do something about the bill's antifamily provisions. Along with Senators MENENDEZ and OBAMA, I cosponsored two amendments: one that would sunset the so-called ''merit-based'' system in 5 years, and one that would reallocate points within the merit-based system to place more value on family ties. The first amendment failed, while the Senate has not yet had the opportunity to vote on the second. Other amendments would have improved this aspect of the bill, but they fell victim to points of order, and we were prevented from voting on them. So we are left with a system that values 3 years of U.S. employment more than the relationship between a brother and sister.

Beyond these much debated aspects of the bill, I am also deeply concerned by a little-discussed provision that would allow the Department of Homeland Security to detain several different categories of immigrants indefinitely. These immigrants may effectively be given a lifetime jail sentence, even though they have committed no crime for which such a sentence could be imposed by judge or jury. There is already a provision in our existing immigrations laws under which the Government may indefinitely detain any immigrant who is suspected of terrorism or whose release would threaten national security. The bill goes far beyond that, even allowing the Government to detain—forever—immigrants who have never been suspected, let alone convicted, of any crime. That does nothing to make us safer, and it goes against everything this country stands for.

A similar challenge to our core values was presented by an amendment offered by Senator CORNYN. The amendment would have allowed the Government to deny citizenship to legal immigrants based on secret evidence and without any opportunity for review. It would have required the mandatory deportation of several new categories of immigrants without any individualized determination of whether such deportation was appropriate. And it would have doomed the earned legalization program with provisions that would make most applicants ineligible. In short, the amendment put forward a scattershot approach that would have penalized immigrants who pose no threat to us and stripped them of crucial due process rights. Fortunately, Senator KENNEDY offered us an alternative that responsibly and effectively targets the small proportion of immigrants who threaten the safety of our communities. His amendment will ensure that immigrants who have committed serious crimes not fully covered by existing immigration laws, including firearms offenses, domestic violence, child abuse, or felony drunk driving, cannot come to this country. I joined the majority of the Senate in voting for this more sensible and effective approach and against Senator CORNYN's amendment.

Despite my concerns about the bill, it contains several provisions that are important and worthy. For example, this bill contains the DREAM Act, which provides higher education opportunities for children who are long-term U.S. residents and came to this country illegally through no fault of their own. It also contains AgJOBS, a bill long in the making that will provide much needed assistance to agricultural workers. And it contains the Secure and Safe Detention and Asylum Act, to ensure that asylum seekers and other vulnerable populations have a meaningful opportunity to exercise their rights under law, and to provide for humane detention conditions in accordance with the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

I am pleased the Senate approved the addition to the bill of the Wartime Treatment Study Act, legislation Senator GRASSLEY and I have been trying to enact for years to examine the treatment of German Americans, Italian Americans, and other European Americans during World War II, as well as Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany. While there has been study of the internment and relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II, few people know about our Government's failure to protect the basic rights of German and Italian Americans. We also must understand why, as the United States heroically battled fascism, our Government turned away thousands of Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany, delivering many of them to their deaths at the hands of the Nazi regime. I first introduced this legislation in 2001 after hearing from a group of German Americans in Wisconsin who were concerned that this sad chapter in our Nation's history had gone unnoticed for too long. It is only appropriate for a country that prides itself on equality and justice to acknowledge and learn from its mistakes. It is long past time to enact the Wartime Treatment Study Act, and I will continue to push for it to become law.

I hope the Senate will still have the chance to address the need for comprehensive immigration reform. Congress needs to act on this issue, which is why I voted to move forward with this bill despite the serious flaws I have discussed. I will work with my colleagues to try to make sure this happens and to make sure that we end up with a bill that represents true immigration reform—one that encourages the 12 million undocumented immigrants in this country to come forward out of the shadows, takes a comprehensive approach to preventing illegal immigration in the future, and strengthens our society by welcoming immigrants who can make valuable contributions.

VERMONT HOUSING AND CONSERVATION BOARD

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is my pleasure today to bring to the attention of the Senate the important work the members and staff of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board have accomplished during their first 20 years of service to protect Vermont's working landscape and to help ensure that Vermonters have safe and affordable places to call home.

Since 1987, VHCB, its board members and staff have invested in 427 farms, resulting in the conservation of 118,500 acres of farmland; protected 250,000 acres of recreational and natural areas; and constructed or rehabilitated 8500 units of affordable housing. This has been a conscious investment of $200 million in our Green Mountains, leveraging an additional $750 million from public and private sources. Few organizations can boast the stimulus of $1 billion in two short decades.

For centuries, Vermonters have made their livings working the land. As land use patterns drastically change across the country, including in the valleys of Vermont, VHCB has helped many farmers and communities conserve the rural working landscape that has come to define Vermont and the way of life in our State's communities. VHCB has become a national leader in farmland protection practices—educating family farmers how they can make money protecting working farmland and rural landscape for generations to come. The

protections VHCB has been able to offer Vermont's farmers have resulted in hundreds of farms remaining active and contributing members of their communities, allowing them to remain Vermont's ultimate environmental stewards. VHCB's expertise also allowed me to work with them to implement a farm preservation pilot program in Vermont that has since become known as the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program, a national farmland protection program. Today, this program has protected nearly a half million acres of farmland in 42 States nationwide.

For centuries, the very same farmers who have lived off the land have become well known for their love of fishing, hunting, hiking and snowmobiling across Vermont's forests and open spaces. With encroaching urban sprawl and changing demographics, these lands, too, have been dwindling. VHCB has made it a priority to preserve these natural lands and access to these lands, conserving a quarter of a million acres of these green spaces.

As a dual mission organization, VHCB has also led the country in developing and administering steady private, State and Federal funding sources for the preservation, development and rehabilitation of quality affordable housing in all corners of Vermont. These homes, like the great pieces of granite my grandfather once cut out of the mountainsides of Vermont, are the foundations for the future of Vermont. Additionally, many of these homes are designated perpetually affordable, ensuring that generations of Vermonters will have places to call home. Recently the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development named Vermont's federally funded HOME program, administered by VHCB, as the most effective program among 51 participating jurisdictions in the country for the fourth quarter in a row.

Like so many Vermonters, I live in a rather old house in the Green Mountains. At least half of Vermont's housing stock is estimated to be more than 50 years old, and many are more than a century old. With this Yankee character comes a great danger that VHCB has identified and tackled with great skill: lead poisoning. The most common cause of lead poisoning is exposure to dust from deteriorated lead-based paint in a child's home or daycare. The Vermont Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program, administered by VHCB, has provided technical and financial assistance to eligible landlords and homeowners to reduce the risk of lead poisoning in Vermont's buildings and homes.

Since the very beginning, my good friend Gus Seelig has steered this organization through both calm and stormy weather. Like any good leader, I am certain that Gus would say this organization owes a great deal of its success to its many past and present board members and staff. On behalf of the people of Vermont, I thank and applaud everyone who has worked to make the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board a success. Congratulations on 20 great years preserving the character and affordability of Vermont.

RECOMMISSION OF THE USS ''MICHIGAN''

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the recommission of the USS *Michigan*, SSGN–727. A formal return to service ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 12 at 1 p.m. to honor the USS *Michigan* and her officers and crew, which includes captain of the boat CDR Terry Takats and chief of the boat CMDCM Wayne Lassiter.

The USS *Michigan* will return to active duty as the second *Ohio*-class nuclear-powered Trident missile submarine in the U.S. Navy to be refitted from a ballistic missile submarine, SSBN, into a guided missile submarine, SSGN. This conversion has enhanced and transformed the capabilities of the USS *Michigan*, making it a more valuable asset and serving as an example of the Navy's ongoing transformation to face current and future threats around the world.

The USS *Michigan* has had a proud tradition of service, and SSGN–727 will be the third naval vessel to bear the name of our great State. The first ship to carry this name was launched by the Navy in 1843 as its first iron-hulled warship. She operated throughout the Great Lakes for her entire period of service, gaining notoriety when she helped to successfully end the Fenian invasion of Canada by intercepting supplies between Buffalo and Fort Erie, Ontario along the Niagara River.

U.S. Naval vessels bearing the Michigan name have courageously seen action against Mexico, served as convoy escorts during WWI, and most recently completed more than 33 strategic deterrent patrols throughout the world. The newly converted USS *Michigan* SSGN–727 will return to service with a new mission and enhanced capabilities.

The new guided missile submarine conversion program was developed by the Navy to create a more efficient and effective dual-use submarine force. The USS *Michigan*'s successful transformation has maintained all the benefits of its predecessor, while creating a ship that will act as a force multiplier for the Navy. It has an increased payload capacity of 154 cruise missiles and the capability to more effectively house, sustain, and deploy a variety of special operations forces, allowing for a support role, as well as stealth insertion and extraction of operatives. The flexibility of this new submarine will allow it to efficiently function in a variety of multimission scenarios.

The USS *Michigan* is a shining example of the U.S. Navy's transformation, and I know my colleagues will join me in commemorating its return to active service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MONTANA HISTORY

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, the history of Butte, Anaconda, and Walkerville is as bright and intricate as the people who live there. Stories of greed, danger, and power intermingle with values like hard work and loyalty, to weave a tapestry as rich as any city in America. As the Montana Historical Society has so richly shown, the history of Butte is the history of our country.

As America began to slowly mature from a budding nation to an international superpower, the growing pains became evident. Settlers, packing what little belongings they could fit into the legendary prairie schooners, began to gaze at the horizon and seek fame and fortune on the Western frontier. As the trails became longer, and the distance grew greater, the limits of one nation were pressed. Yet the powers of American ingenuity and our Nation's legendary can-do spirit kicked in. Samuel Morse learned how to communicate through code, and Alexander Graham Bell discovered how to talk through wires.

While these men showed great genius, without the sweat of working men and women these inventions would be nothing more than a footnote in history. But as miners extracted mountains of copper from the Earth's belly, telegraph and telephone wires began to crisscross our country. Suddenly, a letter that used to take days would now take minutes. Citizens on the eastern seaboard would know what was happening on the plains, and at last we truly were one Nation.

And at the heart of this was Butte, Anaconda, and Walkerville. Here, the gallow frames and the towering Anaconda Company smokestacks pierce the skyline as a monument to the men and women whose toil became the bedrock of our great Nation. Though faced with danger, and even death, these workers strapped on their boots every morning and from daybreak till night provided the fuel for a growing nation.

Faced with dire circumstance and physical harm, these workers developed a bond that none outside the mines could understand. They stood together through thick and thin, and truly were a family.

This bond took form in two of the Nation's most radical unions, the Western Federation of Miners, and the Industrial Workers of the World. Located in ''the Gibraltar of Unionism'', Butte and Walkerville, these unions waged a class warfare the likes of which is still the fodder for legends. The class war soon came to a raging boil after the Butte Granite/Speculator Mine fire, the worst hard-rock mining disaster in the Nation's history. Unions were busted, agitators dealt with, and the crushing hand of the ''company'' dealt a crippling blow to the workers.

Yet with the New Deal came new life for the unions. As the Federal Government guaranteed the right of workers to unionize, the strength of the men and women who worked the mines began to shine. In 1934, a 4-month strike, lead to the birth of the CIO, an organization that has become synonymous with unions, and workers' rights.

Now, as Butte, Walkerville, and Anaconda usher in the 21st century, these cities' special past will be immortalized forever. In 2006, the National Park Service recognized that this trio of cities' history of mining and labor should be remembered for generations and declared the district a National Historic Landmark. I was proud to work with many people from the area, and showing the determination of their ancestors, was able to make this landmark a reality. The district will be the largest National Historic Landmark in the West, covering the period from 1876 to 1934 and encompassing nearly 10,000 acres with over 6,000 contributing resources. And one woman, whose heart and soul was poured into this district, is Ellen Crain, Director of the Butte Public Archives. With the undeterred tenacity of the miners before her, Ellen worked for 14 long years to make this possible. Because of her hard work, the citizens in the district will also be able to reflect with pride on their past, as they work to uphold the cities' great tradition in the future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NOONAN, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. On June 29–July 1, the residents of Noonan will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Noonan is a thriving rural community in northwest North Dakota that shares a border with the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. Noonan holds an important place in North Dakota's history. Like many of the rural communities in North Dakota, Noonan began its history as a community with the arrival of the Great Northern Railroad. Noonan received its name from Patrick Noonan, the first mayor of Noonan. The first businesses in Noonan included the Golden Rule General Store, an implement store, and a hotel. Noonan officially became a city on September 14, 1928.

Today, the community of Noonan is largely based on agriculture and is home to some of the best waterfowl and upland game hunting in northwest North Dakota. There is also a volunteer fire department and EMT service, two taverns, and many other businesses in this close-knit community where everyone knows everyone. The nearby Noonan trout pond offers camping and fishing. Noonan is also home to a prominent Lions Club chapter, which is the oldest service organization in Noonan and whose main goal is to help the blind.

The community of Noonan is a wonderful place for its residents to live, work, and raise future generations. The people of Noonan take pride in their community and all the opportunities it has to offer. The town has an exciting centennial weekend planned that includes dances, a parade, variety show, a Sunday brunch, and much more.

I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Noonan, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Noonan and all other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Noonan that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Noonan has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRANVILLE, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. On June 29–July 1, the residents of Granville will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Granville is a friendly rural community located in northern North Dakota. William Christianson, along with his wife Minnie, were the first non-native people to settle the soon-to-be prairie town of Granville in 1895. William was an employee of the Great Northern Railway, and the town of Granville was named after Granville M. Dodge, a civil engineer for the railway. Established in 1901, the Granville State bank was one of the first businesses established. Granville was officially declared a city in 1907.

Today, like so many smaller rural communities in North Dakota, Granville is a tight-knit town where everyone knows their neighbor. Granville is known for its welcoming hospitality and conversation and it is easy to witness this local atmosphere at Granville's Memorial Diner. A beautiful city park offers a chance for parents and their children to have fun and play together.

The community of Granville is a wonderful place for its citizens to live and experience life together. The people of Granville take great pride in their community and all it has to offer. To celebrate their centennial anniversary, the town will be holding a barbeque, wagon train, parade, and fireworks.

I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Granville, ND and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Granville and all other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Granville that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Granville has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF COOPERSTOWN, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased today to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 5–8, the residents of Cooperstown will celebrate their community's history and founding.

Cooperstown is a vibrant community located in east-central North Dakota. The town was founded in 1882 by Rollin and Thomas Cooper, who had previously been miners in Colorado. As with many communities in North Dakota, the arrival of the railroad in 1883 contributed greatly to Cooperstown's growth. The town's post office was established on December 28, 1882. The town continued to grow, becoming incorporated as a village in 1892 and as a city in 1906.

Today, Cooperstown plays host to manufacturers, agricultural businesses, and many other local companies. Cooperstown is also proud to boast a strong community, with chapters of 4–H, the American Legion, and the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, in addition to several local community organizations.

Tourism opportunities abound in Cooperstown. Sportsmen seek out hunting and fishing near Lake Ashtabula and the Red River Lake. The Cooper Theater hosts local plays, and the Griggs County Museum provides a window on Cooperstown's past.

I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Cooperstown, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Cooperstown and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great tradition of the pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Cooperstown that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Cooperstown has a proud past and a bright future.●

CANNON AIR FORCE BASE ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, 50 years ago on June 8, 1957, Clovis Air Force Base was renamed Cannon Air Force Base. On this anniversary, I would like to like to pay tribute to the men and women who have and continue to serve at Cannon.

Cannon was named after GEN John Kenneth Cannon who commanded Army Air Corps forces in the Mediterranean and later was commanding general of all Army Air Corps forces in Europe during the Second World War. After the war, General Cannon served

as commander in chief of U.S. Air Forces Europe and commanding general of Tactical Air Command. During his service, General Cannon earned four Distinguished Service Medals, a Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, and the Air Medal. He also received decorations from Great Britain, France, Italy, Poland, Yugoslavia, and Morocco.

For the last 50 years the service men and women who called Cannon home have been deployed numerous times around the world to ensure the national security of our country. They have performed their duty faithfully and in a manner that I am sure would make General Cannon proud.

This year we will see major changes at Cannon as the 27th Fighter Wing is deactivated in preparation for the impending arrival of the 16th Special Operations Wing in October. While we are excited for the arrival of the 16th Special Operations Wing, we are sad to see the men and women of the 27th Fighter Wing go.

In the coming years I am sure the 16th Special Operations Wing will continue the 27th Fighter Wing's long tradition of excellence at Cannon. Again, I would like to thank the men and women, past and present, who have made Cannon a source of national pride.●

RECOGNITION OF JEFFREY S. MERRIFIELD

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, the Honorable Jeffrey S. Merrifield will be leaving the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, NRC, on June 30, 2007. Originally from Antrim, NH, Jeff Merrifield has served as a member of the Commission since October 23, 1998. First appointed by President Clinton, Jeff was reappointed by President Bush and was sworn in for a second term on August 5, 2002. After a distinguished government career at the NRC and on Capitol Hill, Jeff Merrifield has chosen to pursue endeavors in the private sector.

Throughout his tenure at the NRC, Jeff Merrifield has invested considerable time in familiarizing himself with the operations of NRC licensees, visiting all 104 operating power reactors in the United States, as well as numerous nuclear materials facilities and sites undergoing decommissioning. Jeff actively supported initiatives to improve the transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of NRC regulatory programs. He headed an NRC Communications Task Force charged with initiating and implementing many recommendations to improve agency internal and external communications. Jeff also led an interagency task force of fifteen departments and agencies to identify gaps in the control and use of radiation source materials as required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Recommendations of this task force were detailed in a report to the President and Congress.

Jeff Merrifield has advocated a vision of excellence in regulating the safe and secure uses of nuclear material for the public good. A participant in the development of NRC's Strategic Plan, he championed a number of significant regulatory improvements, including efforts to risk-inform regulations, provide discipline in staff review of applications for license renewal, and prepare the agency for potential new power reactor applications. Recently Jeff chaired a Combined License Review Task Force which made a number of recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the review of new reactor applications. He was the leading advocate for the use of the alternate dispute resolution process in agency enforcement actions and has taken a special interest in improving the management of decommissioning funding.

As an NRC Commissioner, Jeff Merrifield was actively involved in the agency's post September 11, 2001, response activities. These actions resulted in a significant improvement in security at NRC licensed facilities. Both before and since the terrible events of 9/11, NRC licensed power reactors are some of the best protected facilities in the civilian community.

Recognizing the NRC's influence in the international regulatory community, Jeff has traveled abroad to discuss policy issues with nuclear regulators and foreign dignitaries in more than 35 countries and has toured more than 140 nuclear reactors overseas. In 2005, he led an NRC delegation to India for the fifth bilateral exchange between the Indian Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and the NRC. This was the first visit to India by a member of the Commission following President Bush's initiative ''Next Steps in the Strategic Partnership'' with India. Jeff was also the major advocate for the establishment of a three-nation agreement with Canada and Mexico on nuclear materials and waste issues through periodic trilateral meetings.

Mr. President, please join me in thanking Jeff Merrifield for his dedicated service to the American people and in wishing him and his family all the best in their future pursuits.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT B. MEHNERT

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to Robert B. Mehnert, who is retiring after 48 years of dedicated service to the Government and people of the United States of America.

Mr. Mehnert began his public service in 1958 with the U.S. Army, continuing in uniform until 1962. In 1963 he reentered Federal service, this time as a management intern with the then-Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He rose quickly through the ranks and, in 1971, Mr. Mehnert became Chief of the Office of Public Information at the National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health. Since 1998 he has directed the Office of Communications and Public Liaison at the library. For more than a quarter century, Mr. Mehnert's keen editorial and literary talents have helped library's director, Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D., and his predecessor, Martin M. Cummings, M.D., to communicate the most current and reliable medical and consumer health information to medical professionals, researchers, patients, families, and the public.

During his tenure at the National Library of Medicine, Mr. Mehnert has been in the vanguard of a revolution in health information. The introduction of the Internet and the Web environment vastly increased the number and extent of NLM services and audiences. In 1997, after more than a century of serving the library and medical communities exclusively, the National Library of Medicine launched Medline freely on the Web and declared that it would seek to serve the general public as well. With Mr. Mehnert's help, other NLM services for the consumer public quickly followed. In 1998, MedlinePlus.gov, a source of authoritative full-text health information written for the consumer was unveiled. In 2000, ClinicalTrials.gov—an NLM Web site that provides consumers with information on medical research studies that are recruiting patients—was launched. Other NLM consumer-oriented databases were introduced in the last decade as bandwidth and the power of personal computers increased. They have included NIHSeniorHealth.gov, a talking Web site with topics and formats tailored to the needs of older persons; Genetics Home Reference, a Web site that makes genetics and its relationship to disease more understandable to the public; the Household Products database that provides easy-to-understand information on the potential health effects of ingredients contained in common household products; and many others.

One of Mr. Mehnert's most tangible legacies has been his recent service on the editorial team responsible for producing a new quarterly NIH magazine, NIHMedlinePlus, which is sent to doctors' offices nationwide for their patients to read. The production of this consumer-oriented magazine fulfills Congress's call to publicize the fruits of NIH-sponsored research to patients, their families, and the public at large.

Mr. Mehnert has been recognized by the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health for his exceptional leadership and achievements. Aside from numerous merit awards, his honors have also included being the recipient of both the NLM Director's Award and the NIH Director's Award on several occasions.

As someone who has worked for many years to support medical research, I am especially grateful to people who have dedicated their lives to this crucial public health mission. Bob Mehnert has done that and is a great testament to what public service is all about. Bob and his wife, Helene, have three daughters, seven grandchildren,

and 1.5 great grandchildren—that is, one is on the way. I thank Bob for his distinguished career in service to the American people, and I wish him many well-deserved years of happiness in retirement.●

RECOGNIZING THE BARABOO NATIONAL BANK

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I would like to take the time to recognize and honor Baraboo National Bank located in Baraboo, WI. This year, the bank celebrates 150 years as Baraboo's first and oldest bank.

On July 15, 1857, Simeon Mills joined with Terrell Thomas to open Sauk County Bank, Wisconsin's 15th chartered bank, in a building just down the street from its present location. They began with $50,000 in operating capital and by the end of that year were well on their way to establishing a successful institution. By the early 1860s, the Sauk County Bank had grown their operating capital to break the $100,000 mark. A fire in their first location caused the bank to move into temporary quarters on the back of a lot purchased on the corner of Oak and Third Avenue. The new building would soon be built on this corner and stand until today.

In 1873 the charter for Sauk County Bank changed and the bank renamed as First National Bank of Baraboo. For a 7-year period after the bank changed its name, banks in Wisconsin were financially stressed and many were closing across the State. However, through the actions taken by the principle officers and stockholders, the bank was able to avoid disaster. Otto Ringling came to the First National Bank of Baraboo and deposited a large sum of money to show his support for the bank. To show their appreciation, the bank would often send the Ringlings money when they needed help.

The 1880s brought more prosperity to Sauk County and the bank grew well beyond its neighboring competitors to over $400,000 in assets. By this time the bank decided it was time for a name change. In doing so, was now called The Bank of Baraboo, which would remain for about 58 years. Baraboo was now the 25th largest city in the State. Industry and small businesses all over the county were helped by the bank to get their start.

This included the Circus Industry. The Bank of Baraboo was a strong supporter of the Ringling and Gollmar Brother's Circus. When the Ringling brothers needed money to expand their circus in the 1900s, they turned to The Bank of Baraboo for help. Through the 1920s this bond grew to the point that a few of the Ringlings were appointed directors and became stock holders who were very loyal customers.

In 1938 a final national bank charter changed the name from The Bank of Baraboo to The Baraboo National Bank. As banking products expanded, the bank was now able to provide more services to the community. They even had a minibank at the local Badger Army Ammunition Plan. The Baraboo National Bank continued to expand the building on the corner, taking in space to the south and to the west.

In 1975, Merlin E. Zitzner became the eleventh president and CEO of The Baraboo National Bank. Zitzner, a Viroqua native, graduated from UW Whitewater and a graduate degree from UW Madison. Under this leadership The Baraboo Bancorporation Inc. was formed as the holding company of The Baraboo National Bank and later the State Bank of Viroqua and Green Lake State Bank.

The Baraboo National Bank continued to grow by adding the Downtown Drive-up Bank branch, West Baraboo branch, East Baraboo branch, Southwest branch and opening the Lake Delton National Bank branch. Later would follow the acquisition of the Rock Springs and Bank of Wonewoc branches. Most recently the Reedsburg National Bank and the Portage National Bank where built as well as the acquisition of the two locations of the Northwoods National Bank in Rhinelander and Elcho.

Today with assets nearing the $800,000,000 mark and a market share in Baraboo averaging 66 percent, The Baraboo National Bank has a lot to be thankful for. Customer loyalty going back for several generations and local businesses enjoying growth are what the bank is really all about.●

RETIREMENT OF DANIEL BERNSTINE

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to one of Oregon's and indeed our Nation's finest higher education leaders, Dr. Daniel O. Bernstine, president of Portland State University. Portland State University is our state's largest university, and is foundational to Oregon's well-earned reputation for educational and technological innovation. Earlier this year, President Bernstine announced he would leave PSU at the end of the academic year and become the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Law School Admissions Council in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania's gain is truly Oregon's loss. As president of Portland State, Dan and his team have truly transformed Oregon's only urban university. Under his leadership the enrollment has grown substantially; research funding has increased from $17 million to more than $40 million; the University completed its first ever comprehensive campaign; and the campus has added a new Urban Center, the University Place hotel, the Native American Student and Community Center, the Simon Benson House, Epler Hall, the Broadway Housing complex, the Peter Stott recreational field, the Northwest Center for Engineering, Science, and Technology, and the Portland Streetcar.

Dan has forged community partnerships that truly reflect the university's motto: Let Knowledge Serve the City. These include many of the nonprofit organizations in the Portland Metropolitan community, the urban and suburban school districts, and the area's community colleges.

I want to highlight a development at Portland State that is especially important to me and to the work I have pursued in the Senate. Shortly after his arrival, Dan said that investment in science, technology, and engineering would be a priority. One area that has emerged as a national research center is in nanometrology. Attracting Dr. Jun Jiao to Portland State set the initiative in motion and today PSU has one of the premier centers for Electron Microscopy and Nanofabrication. This is evidence that President Bernstine understands the importance of nanotechnology and is committed to having PSU make a major contribution in this area.

Under President Bernstine's leadership, Portland State University has received national recognition for its faculty, community and service-learning programs and is listed in the Princeton Review book, Colleges with a Conscience: 81 Great Schools with Outstanding Community Involvement. For its work to revitalize its community, its work in urban development, and support for the local economy, Portland State University is listed on the first President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and was recognized by The New England Board of Higher Education as one of 25 universities considered ''Saviors of Our Cities.'' The Association of American Colleges and Universities also recognized PSU in its report, ''College Learning for the New Global Century,'' as a leader in the area of fostering civic, intercultural, and ethical learning. And for the past 5 years, Portland State University has ranked among the Nation's best colleges in five categories that lead to student success, according to U.S. News & World Report in its America's Best Colleges 2007 edition.

For these reasons and more, I consider President Bernstine's decision to take on this new responsibility to be a loss to Portland State University and to Oregon. I am pleased that he will remain active in the higher education community and I wish him well in his new position in Pennsylvania. Mr. President, Daniel O. Bernstine is an Oregon treasure and has made a positive difference in the lives of students and to our community.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2215. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, the report of proposed legislation entitled ''The Community Development Block Grant Reform Act of 2007''; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2216. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities'' (RIN1902–AD31) received on June 7, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2217. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Qualifying Gasification Project Program'' (Notice 2007–53) received on June 7, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2218. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Guidance Under Guaranteed Payments'' (Notice 2007–40) received on June 7, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2219. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Qualifying Advanced Coal Project Program'' (Notice 2007–52) received on June 7, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2220. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles to support the sale of the Sensor Fused Weapon to the United Arab Emirates; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2221. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles necessary to support the Royal Australian Air Force's Hornet Upgrade Program; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2222. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the transfer of technical data, assistance and manufacturing know-how to Japan for the manufacture of the AN/APX–72 Identification Friend or Foe Transponder; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2223. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of technical data, defense articles and defense services, including manufacturing know-how, to Germany for the manufacture of 120mm tank training ammunition; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2224. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles to support the manufacture of F–15 aircraft major structural components for Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2225. A communication from the Interim Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits'' (29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044) received on June 7, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2226. A communication from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Commission's Inspector General for the period ending March 31, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–112. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to take a proactive role in assisting the communities of New Orleans East in protecting their health and safety and in promoting economic development; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, the health, safety, welfare, and economic recovery of the residents and businesses of New Orleans East are dependent upon the continued assistance and encouragement from our federal partners; and

Whereas, the Legislature of Louisiana created the New Orleans Regional Business Park as a special municipal district for the primary purpose of engaging industrial, manufacturing, processing, assembling, distribution, and wholesale businesses; and

Whereas, as of early May 2006, approximately forty companies out of one hundred four pre-Katrina were back in business and the future of the others is largely uncertain; and

Whereas, New Orleans East has become the illegal burial grounds for homes and businesses washed out by hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

Whereas, illegal dumping makes it extremely hard to attract businesses to New Orleans East and to the business park; and

Whereas, in the business park alone there are twenty-three known illegal dumping sites and thirteen illegal automobile dumping sites; and

Whereas, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the business park $400,000 in grants to catalogue contamination, but none of the federal funds will be used for clean-up; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Enforcement Division, Surveillance Division and Criminal Investigations Section of the Legal Affairs Division have inspected over one hundred seventy-five sites and found potential environmental violations on one hundred fifty of these sites in the Almonaster/Gentilly area alone; and

Whereas, on one of these sites, sixty-five thousand cubic yards of debris or approximately an eleven foot tall mound of debris was found to have been illegally dumped on this one site in New Orleans East; and

Whereas, the illegal piles of debris do not have protective barriers to keep whatever poisons are in the piles contained and from leaking out into the wetlands surrounding this area; and

Whereas, numerous federal agencies have roles and responsibilities in the health, safety, and economic development after hurricanes Katrina and Rita which range from debris removal, oversight of regulations, and recovery funding; and

Whereas, the removal of all dump sites within the New Orleans Regional Business Parks will improve the health, safety, and economic development: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to urge and request the respective executive branch departments to take a proactive role in assisting the communities of New Orleans East in protecting their health and safety and in promoting economic development; Therefore, be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Congress of the United States and the appropriate federal agencies, in coordination with appropriate Louisiana state agencies, to immediately take the following actions: (a) cease funding any waste disposal activities within the New Orleans Regional Business Park; (b) develop and implement procedures for expeditious environmental sampling, analysis, and reporting; (c) resolve the blurring of debris management responsibilities between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Environmental Protection Agency, and state environmental and public health agencies; (d) review and enhance the Environmental Protection Agency's oversight role of illegal and improper debris disposal; and (e) provide guidance and mechanisms for the development of public/private partnerships in restoring and redeveloping the New Orleans Regional Business Park and the New Orleans East community; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM–113. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii urging Congress to create a replacement for the outdated Fast Track Trade Authority system so United States trade agreements are developed and implemented using a more democratic, inclusive mechanism that enshrines the principles of federalism and state sovereignty; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 63

Whereas, in general, democratic accountable governance in the states, and specifically, the authority granted to the legislative branch by the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, is being undermined by international commercial and trade rules enforced by the World Trade Organization and established by the North American Free Trade Agreement, and is further threatened by similar provisions in an array of pending trade agreements; and

Whereas, today's trade agreements have effects that extend significantly beyond the bounds of traditional trade matters such as tariffs and quotas; and

Whereas, the North American Free Trade Agreement and other United States free trade agreements grant foreign firms new rights and privileges regarding acquisition of land and facilities and operating within a state that exceed those granted to American businesses under state and federal laws; and

Whereas, the North American Free Trade Agreement already has generated ''regulatory takings'' cases against state and local land use decisions, state environmental and public health policies, adverse state court rulings, and state and local contracts that would not have been possible in United States courts; and

Whereas, when states are bound to comply with government procurement provisions contained in trade agreements, common economic development and environmental policies such as buy-local laws, prevailing wage laws, policies to prevent offshoring of state jobs, as well as recycled content laws could be subject to challenge as violating the obligations in the trade agreements; and

Whereas, recent trade agreements curtail state regulatory authority by placing constraints on future policy options; and

Whereas, the World Trade Organization General Agreement on Trade in Services could undermine state efforts to expand health care coverage and rein in health care costs and places constraints on state and local land use planning and gambling policy; and

Whereas, new General Agreement on Trade in Services negotiations could impose additional constraints on state regulation of energy, higher education, professional licensing, and other issues; and

Whereas, despite the indisputable fact that international trade agreements have a far-reaching impact on state and local laws, federal government trade negotiators have failed to respect states' rights to prior informed consent before binding states to conform state law and authority to trade agreement requirements and have refused even to send copies of key correspondence to state legislatures; and

Whereas, the current encroachment on state regulatory authority by international commercial and trade agreements has occurred due in no small part to the fact that United States trade policy is being formulated and implemented under the Fast Track Trade Authority procedure; and

Whereas, Fast Track Trade Authority eliminates vital checks and balances established in the United States Constitution by broadly delegating Congress' exclusive Constitutional authority to set the terms of trade to the Executive Branch such that the Executive Branch is empowered to negotiate broad-ranging trade agreements and to sign them before Congress votes on the agreements; and

Whereas, the ability of the Executive Branch to sign trade agreements prior to Congress' vote of approval means Executive Branch negotiators are able to ignore congressional negotiating objectives or states' demands, and neither Congress nor the states have any means to enforce any decision regarding what provisions must be contained in every United States trade agreement and what provisions may not be included in any United States trade agreement; and

Whereas, federal trade negotiators have ignored and disrespected states' demands regarding whether states agree to be bound to certain nontariff trade agreement provisions; and

Whereas, Fast Track Trade Authority also circumvents normal Congressional review and amendment committee procedures, limits debate to twenty hours total, and forbids any floor amendments to the implementing legislation that is presented to Congress to conform hundreds of United States laws to trade agreement obligations and to incorporate the actual trade agreement itself into United States federal law, which preempts state law; and

Whereas, Fast Track Trade Authority is not necessary for negotiating trade agreements, as demonstrated by the existence of scores of trade agreements, including major pacts such as the agreements administered by the World Trade Organization implemented in the past thirty years without use of Fast Track Trade Authority; and

Whereas, Fast Track Trade Authority, which was established in 1974 by President Richard Nixon when trade agreements were limited to traditional matters such as tariffs and quotas, is now woefully outdated and inappropriate given the diverse range of nontrade issues now included in ''trade'' agreements that broadly affect federal and state nontrade regulatory authority; and

Whereas, the current grant of Fast Track Trade Authority expires in July 2007: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, That the United States Congress is respectfully requested to create a replacement for the outdated Fast Track Trade Authority system so that United States trade agreements are developed and implemented using a more democratic, inclusive mechanism that enshrines the principles of federalism and state sovereignty; and be it further

Resolved, That the Congress is requested to include in this new process for developing and implementing trade agreements an explicit mechanism for ensuring the prior informed consent of state legislatures before states are bound to the nontariff terms of any trade agreement that affect state regulatory authority so as to ensure that the United States Trade Representative respects the decisions made by states; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Ambassador Susan Schwab, United States Trade Representative, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 457. A bill to extend the date on which the National Security Personnel System will first apply to certain defense laboratories (Rept . No. 110–79).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 1585. A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the ''Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1586. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in implementing cultural heritage, conservation, and recreational activities in the Connecticut River watershed of the States of New Hampshire and Vermont; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KERRY, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. BAYH):

S. 1587. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow a special depreciation allowance for reuse and recycling property and to provide for tax-exempt financing of recycling equipment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BAYH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 1588. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a minor child's congenital or developmental deformity or disorder due to trauma, infection, tumor, or disease; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 1589. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to reduce the costs of prescription drugs for enrollees of Medicaid managed care organizations by extending the discounts offered under fee-for-service Medicaid to such organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BYRD (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 1590. A bill to provide for the reinstatement of a license for a certain Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ISAKSON:

S. Res. 230. A resolution designating the month of July 2007, as ''National Teen Safe Driver Month''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 185

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to restore habeas corpus for those detained by the United States.

S. 242

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 242, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 311

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 311, a bill to amend the

Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to promote the national security and stability of the United States economy by reducing the dependence of the United States on oil through the use of alternative fuels and new technology, and for other purposes.

S. 376

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 376, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 384

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to provide pay protection for members of the Reserve and the National Guard, and for other purposes.

S. 397

At the request of Mr. MARTINEZ, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 397, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a refundable credit against income tax for the purchase of private health insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 399

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 399, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to include podiatrists as physicians for purposes of covering physicians services under the Medicaid program.

S. 402

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 402, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for qualified timber gains.

S. 406

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 406, a bill to ensure local governments have the flexibility needed to enhance decision-making regarding certain mass transit projects.

S. 450

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 450, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 469

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 469, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 543, a bill to improve Medicare beneficiary access by extending the 60 percent compliance threshold used to determine whether a hospital or unit of a hospital is an inpatient rehabilitation facility under the Medicare program.

S. 584

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 584, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rehabilitation credit and the low-income housing credit.

S. 642

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 642, a bill to codify Executive Order 12898, relating to environmental justice, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to fully implement the recommendations of the Inspector General of the Agency and the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 667

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 667, a bill to expand programs of early childhood home visitation that increase school readiness, child abuse and neglect prevention, and early identification of developmental and health delays, including potential mental health concerns, and for other purposes.

S. 774

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to permit States to determine State residency for higher education purposes and to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

S. 871

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 871, a bill to establish and provide for the treatment of Individual Development Accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 881

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 881, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 881, supra.

S. 897

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 897, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide more help to Alzheimer's disease caregivers.

S. 898

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 898, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to fund breakthroughs in Alzheimer's disease research while providing more help to caregivers and increasing public education about prevention.

S. 969

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 969, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the definition of supervisor.

S. 970

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to impose sanctions on Iran and on other countries for assisting Iran in developing a nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 991

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 991, a bill to establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation under the authorities of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.

S. 1003

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1003, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to emergency medical services and the quality and efficiency of care furnished in emergency departments of hospitals and critical access hospitals by establishing a bipartisan commission to examine factors that affect the effective delivery of such services, by providing for additional payments for certain physician services furnished in such emergency departments, and by establishing a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Working Group, and for other purposes.

S. 1033

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1033, a bill to assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations.

S. 1064

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to provide for the improvement of the physical evaluation processes applicable to members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1117

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1117, a bill to establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, and for other purposes.

S. 1224

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1224, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1226

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1226, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish programs to improve the quality, performance, and delivery of pediatric care.

S. 1242

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1242, a bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act and Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a biofuel pilot program to offer crop insurance to producers of experimental biofuel crops and a program to make loans and loan guarantees to producers of experimental biofuel crops.

S. 1243

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1243, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for nonregular service from 60 years of age to 55 years of age.

S. 1249

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to require the President to close the Department of Defense detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 1257

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1257, a bill to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives.

S. 1267

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1267, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. 1301

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1301, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 1307

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1307, a bill to include Medicare provider payments in the Federal Payment Levy Program, to require the Department of Health and Human Services to offset Medicare provider payments by the amount of the provider's delinquent Federal debt, and for other purposes.

S. 1310

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1310, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of increased payments for ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1334

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1334, a bill to amend section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, to make permanent authority to furnish government headstones and markers for graves of veterans at private cemeteries, and for other purposes.

S. 1338

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1338, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a two-year moratorium on certain Medicare physician payment reductions for imaging services.

S. 1356

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1356, a bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to establish industrial bank holding company regulation, and for other purposes.

S. 1363

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1363, a bill to improve health care for severely injured members and former members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1373

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1373, a bill to provide grants and loan guarantees for the development and construction of science parks to promote the clustering of innovation through high technology activities.

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1382, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1398

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1398, a bill to expand the research and prevention activities of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to inflammatory bowel disease.

S. 1409

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1409, a bill to provide and enhance education, housing, and entrepreneur assistance for veterans who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

S. 1416

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1416, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for mortgage insurance premiums.

S. 1418

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1418, a bill to provide assistance to improve the health of newborns, children, and mothers in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 1487

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California

(Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1487, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require an individual, durable, voter-verified paper record under title III of such Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1502

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1502, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make their land available for access by the public under programs administered by States and tribal governments.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1514, a bill to revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.

S. 1523

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1523, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide from the Capitol power plant.

S. 1557

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1557, a bill to amend part B of title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

S. CON. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 3, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber.

S. RES. 201

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 201, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of ''National Life Insurance Awareness Month''.

S. RES. 203

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 203, a resolution calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to use its unique influence and economic leverage to stop genocide and violence in Darfur, Sudan.

S. RES. 215

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 215, a resolution designating September 25, 2007, as ''National First Responder Appreciation Day''.

S. RES. 224

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 224, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

AMENDMENT NO. 1415

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1415 proposed to S. 1348, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 1585. A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the ''Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today for myself and on the behalf of my colleague, Dr. COBURN, to reintroduce a bill to honor the memory of an American hero and proud son from our great State of Oklahoma. Ernest Childers was the first Native American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. This is our Nation's highest military award and it was awarded to him by Congress ''for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in action.''

Ernest Childers was born in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, on February 1, 1918 as the third of five children. His father died when he was young and he grew up mostly on a farm. His hunting skills in his youth provided much of the food for his family and formed the basis of a great military career.

Ernest Childers enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1937 while attending the Chilocco Indian School in north-central Oklahoma. He then went to Fort Sill in Lawton, Oklahoma, for basic training before being deployed to Africa in World War II. On September 22, 1943, despite a broken instep that forced him to crawl, Second Lieutenant Childers advanced against enemy machine gun nests in Oliveto, Italy, killing two snipers and capturing an enemy mortar observer in the process. His actions were instrumental in helping the Americans win the Battle of Oliveto and won him the Congressional Medal of Honor. He continued his career in the Army earning several other military awards including the Combat Infantry Badge, Europe and Africa Campaign Medals, The Purple Heart, The Bronze Star, and the Oklahoma Distinguished Service Cross. He retired from the Army in August of 1965 as a lieutenant colonel in Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Division.

Ernest Childers passed away on March 17, 2005, and was Oklahoma's last Congressional Medal of Honor winner still living in the State. He was an honored guest of many Presidential inaugurations and as a Creek Indian, was named Oklahoma's Most Outstanding Indian by the Tulsa Chapter of the Council of American Indians in 1966. He once said ''The American Indian has only one country to defend, and when you're picked on, the American Indian never turns his back.'' I am proud and believe it is only appropriate to introduce once again this year a bill to rename the Department of Veterans Affairs' Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic to honor the enduring legacy of a true hero and fine soldier. I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1585

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF ERNEST CHILDERS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, shall be known and designated as the ''Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the ''Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic''.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 1589. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to reduce the costs of prescription drugs for enrollees of Medicaid managed care organizations by extending the discounts offered under fee-for-service Medicaid to such organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to with Senators KERRY, AKAKA, SALAZAR and WHITEHOUSE to introduce the Drug Rebate Equalization Act of 2007.

As you know, the Medicaid drug rebate ensures that State Medicaid programs receive the best price for prescription drugs for their beneficiaries. Unfortunately, health plans that serve over 10 million Medicaid beneficiaries cannot access the same discounts

through the Federal drug rebate program. Plans typically get no rebate on generic drugs and about a third of the rebate on brand drugs as States receive. Therefore, States are paying more for the acquisition of prescription drugs for these health plan enrollees than for beneficiaries in fee-for-service Medicaid, raising costs for Federal and State governments.

Even with this price disadvantage, the total cost of prescription drugs for health plans is less on a per member per month basis because of health plans' greater use of generics and case management. Unfortunately, many States are considering carving prescription drugs out from health plans for the sole purpose of obtaining the rebate, thereby undermining plans' ability to maintain a comprehensive care and disease management program that includes prescription drugs. Not only will this legislation save money, it will eliminate this incentive and ensure that health plans can maintain a comprehensive care coordination system for their patients.

This policy change was passed by the Senate during last year's debate over the Deficit Reduction Act. This year's version of the bill improves on last year's bill in several important ways. First, the bill ensures that health plans can continue their good work by using their own integrated care coordination and disease management protocols. Second, the bill will maintain the fee-for-service prohibition against health plans ''double dipping'' into the Medicaid drug rebate and the 340b discount drug pricing program. Finally, it will ensure that plans can use so-called positive formularies while simultaneously ensuring that enrollees will have access to off-formulary drugs through the regulated prior authorization process. These changes significantly improve the bill and will help improve its chances of passage.

This policy enjoys widespread support. Extending the Medicaid drug rebate to enrollees in health plans is supported by the National Governors Association, the National Association of State Medicaid Directors, the National Medicaid Commission, the National Association of Community Health Centers, the Partnership for Medicaid, the Association for Community Affiliated Plans, and the Medicaid Health Plans of America. I am entering into the record copies of letters provided by these organizations over the last few years memorializing their support for this concept.

Last year, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the Bingaman amendment would have saved Federal taxpayers $1.7 billion over 5 years. Likewise, the CMS Office of the Actuary estimated that extending the drug rebate to health plans would save Federal taxpayers $2.2 billion over 5 years. I think that we can say that this policy will provide significant savings to Americans, whatever the number.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1589

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Drug Rebate Equalization Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNTS TO ENROLLEES OF MEDICAID MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1903(m)(2)(A) (42 U.S.C. 1396b(m)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (xi), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (xii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(xiii) such contract provides that (I) payment for covered outpatient drugs dispensed to individuals eligible for medical assistance who are enrolled with the entity shall be subject to the same rebate required by the agreement entered into under section 1927 as the State is subject to and that the State shall allow the entity to collect such rebates from manufacturers, and (II) capitation rates paid to the entity shall be based on actual cost experience related to rebates and subject to the Federal regulations requiring actuarially sound rates.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1927 (42 U.S.C. 1396r–8) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) Notwithstanding the subparagraphs (A) and (B)—

''(i) a medicaid managed care organization with a contract under section 1903(m) may exclude or otherwise restrict coverage of a covered outpatient drug on the basis of policies or practices of the organization, such as those affecting utilization management, formulary adherence, and cost sharing or dispute resolution, in lieu of any State policies or practices relating to the exclusion or restriction of coverage of such drugs; and

''(ii) nothing in this section or paragraph (2)(A)(xiii) of section 1903(m) shall be construed as requiring a medicaid managed care organization with a contract under such section to maintain the same such polices and practices as those established by the State for purposes of individuals who receive medical assistance for covered outpatient drugs on a fee-for service basis.''; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

''(F) Notwithstanding the preceding subparagraphs of this paragraph, any formulary established by medicaid managed care organization with a contract under section 1903(m) may be based on positive inclusion of drugs selected by a formulary committee consisting of physicians, pharmacists, and other individuals with appropriate clinical experience as long as drugs excluded from the formulary are available through prior authorization, as described in paragraph (5).''; and

(2) in subsection (j), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) Covered outpatients drugs are not subject to the requirements of this section if such drugs are—

''(A) dispensed by a health maintenance organization other than a medicaid managed care organization with a contract under section 1903(m); and

''(B) subject to discounts under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and apply to rebate agreements entered into or renewed under section 1927 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r–8) on or after such date.

CONTROLLING PHARMACEUTICAL COSTS THROUGH GREATER EFFICIENCIES AND BETTER ADMINISTRATION OF THE DRUG REBATE PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

Medicaid fee-for-service and managed care spent an estimated $36.8 billion in FY 2003 on pharmaceuticals. Prescription drugs are one of the fastest growing categories of Medicaid expenditures, having quadrupled between 1992 and 2003. Between 2000 and 2003, spending on drugs increased by 17 percent per year, faster than any other major type of Medicaid service. In 1998, less than 8 percent of Medicaid expenditures were for drugs—by 2003 drugs claimed over 13 percent. After 2006 drugs for Medicare beneficiaries will be paid for by Medicare. These recipients currently account for about half of all Medicaid drug spending. State Medicaid programs will still be responsible for the drug costs of children and families and other non-Medicare eligibles.

Drugs are paid for by Medicaid through 3 separate mechanisms. First, the state pays the pharmacists for the ingredient costs of the drug. Previously, most states paid pharmacists based on the average wholesale price (AWP) less some percentage. AWP is the average list price that a manufacturer suggests wholesalers charge pharmacies. Federal reimbursements to states for state spending on certain outpatient prescription drugs are subject to ceilings called federal upper limits (FULs), also known as the maximum allowable cost (MAC). The effect of the FUL is to provide a financial incentive to pharmacies to substitute lower-cost ''generic'' equivalents for brand-name drugs. The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) expanded the impact of FULs by applying them to multiple source drugs for which the FDA has rated at least 1 other drug (instead of the previous 2) to be therapeutically and pharmaceutically equivalent. The DRA also changed the FUL formula from a percentage of the AWP to a percentage of the Average Manufacturer Price (AMP), which is the average price paid to a manufacturer by wholesalers. For those drugs, the FUL would be equal to 250 percent of the AMP. The result of the AWP-to-AMP change is to make Medicaid pharmaceutical payments closer to actual cost. The DRA also expanded the required reporting of AMP and best price data, allowing states to have access to reported AMP data for the first time, and requiring HHS to make AMP data available to the public.

Second, the states pay the pharmacists a dispensing fee which typically ranges from $3 to $5 per prescription. This fee is expected to cover a wide range of services associated with dispensing drugs to Medicaid patients. The need to adequately reimburse pharmacists for these services was recognized by Congress under the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, which included a provision requiring Medicare Part D drug plans to reimburse pharmacists for ''medication therapy management services'' administered to patients with multiple chronic conditions.

Third, states receive a rebate directly from the manufacturers based on their utilization. The brand name rebate is the greater of a flat rebate amount of 15.1 percent of average manufacturers price (AMP) or the difference between AMP and the best price offered to any nongovernmental buyer. Manufacturers

have to pay an additional rebate if their drug prices have risen faster than the rate of general inflation. The DRA also made limited changes to the Medicaid drug rebate program. In addition, some states have entered into supplemental rebate agreements with manufacturers in return for putting their drugs on a preferred drug list. CBO estimates that the average rebate received by the states equaled 31.4 percent of AMP with the average basic rebate of 19.6 percent and the inflation adjustment rebate equal to 11.7 percent. States also receive a rebate on generic drugs of 11 percent of AMP. In return for the rebates, states must provide access to all FDA-approved drugs, although they may and do have extensive prior authorization programs, step therapy, limited prescriptions per month and co-payments.

Medicaid managed care plans do not receive the statutory rebate levels, and instead must negotiate rebates on their own.

ISSUES TO CONSIDER

Administration of the rebate program is inadequate. The Government Accountability Office has found significant shortcomings in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) administration of the Medicaid drug rebate program, including lack of clear guidance to manufacturers for determining AMP, poor reporting of certain group purchase prices in setting ''best price'' levels, and limited audits of manufacturer price setting methods. Moreover, the Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) recently found that CMS's failure to add qualified new drugs to the Federal upper limit list had resulted in state Medicaid programs paying more than they otherwise would have for these drugs. Changes to the rebate program in the DRA are minimal and are not expected to have a major effect on it.

Reimbursement is not reflective of the true costs of drugs and pharmacy services. The DRA-driven changes in pharmaceutical acquisition prices, by moving to an AMP-based system, may result in some system savings, though how much is not clear. However, the dispensing fee is also considered by many to be inadequate for reimbursing pharmacists for the range of services they provide. These services may include managing inventory, counseling patients on proper medication use, and complying with federal and state regulations in addition to storing, warehousing, and dispensing the drug. Without an adequate dispensing fee, some pharmacies may elect not to participate in Medicaid rather than assume financial loss.

Exemption for managed care plans inefficient. Over 10 million Medicaid beneficiaries receive their drugs through Medicaid managed care plans which do not have access to the Medicaid drug rebate. Under the drug rebate, States receive between 18 and 20 percent discounts on brand name drug prices and between 10 and 11 percent for generic drug prices. According to a recent study, Medicaid-focused managed care organizations (MCOs) typically only receive about a 6 percent discount on brand name drugs and no discount on generics. Because many MCOs (particularly smaller Medicaid-focused MCOs) do not have the capacity to negotiate deeper discounts with drug companies, Medicaid is overpaying for prescription drugs for enrollees in Medicaid health plans. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently estimated that this change would save $2 billion over 5 years.

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Tighten administration of the rebate program. Inconsistent and inaccurate calculations of AMP, best price, and other components of the rebate formula have cost Medicaid millions of dollars. By improving CMS oversight over the program and increasing manufacturer accountability over proper calculation of rebates, Medicaid would reap the full benefits of the Medicaid drug rebate program.

Increase the basic level of rebate. CBO has estimated that setting the basic rebate level at 23 percent would result in savings of $3.2 billion over 5 years. Available information supports setting the rebate at a higher level than it is at today.

Payment for pharmacist services should be realigned to reflect true costs, including medication therapy management services. With the Congress having addressed the issue of pharmaceutical acquisition prices, now is the appropriate time to adjust reimbursement for pharmacists' services to reflect their increased role in managing medication-based therapies, counseling patients, and providing other critical pharmacy services to Medicaid patients.

Encourage evidence-based formularies where appropriate. Development of formularies should provide access to necessary treatments, and encourage and support benefit management best practices that are proven in widespread use today. Effectiveness, not cost, should be the main objective when developing formularies. The goal is for plans to provide high-quality, cost-effective drug benefits by using effective drug utilization management techniques. Although effectiveness data do not exist for all classes of medications, and are not appropriate for certain populations, well-designed evidence-based formularies that take into account comparative effectiveness data have the potential to provide access to high quality, cost-effective medications.

Allow Medicaid managed care plans to have access to the drug rebate for non-340B drugs. All Medicaid beneficiaries should have their drug costs reduced to the maximum extent possible, either by the Medicaid rebate or by the 340B program. While recognizing that managed care plans should have access to the Medicaid drug rebate, it is also important to be mindful of the need to protect 340B-covered entities from the risk of creating a ''duplicate discount'' due to the overlap of the rebate and the 340B program.

Extend the 340B drug discount to Inpatient Pharmaceuticals. The Safety Net Inpatient Drug Affordability Act (S. 1840/H.R. 3547) would require that 340B hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals rebate Medicaid a significant portion of their 340B savings on inpatient drugs administered to Medicaid patients. In addition, to the extent that any Critical Access Hospitals operate outpatient pharmacies, they would be required to pass through to Medicaid their 340B savings for Medicaid patients. These savings to Medicaid also accrue to taxpayers by reducing costs for federal, state and local governments. The proposal allows health care providers to stretch limited resources as they care for America's neediest populations. The Public Hospital Pharmacy Coalition (PHPC) estimates that the Safety Net Inpatient Drug Affordability Act (S. 1840/H.R. 3547) would provide significant savings to the Medicaid program and lower costs for taxpayer-supported safety net institutions that care for low-income and uninsured patients. PHPC estimates that this legislation would reduce Medicaid costs by over $100 million per year.

AMERICAN PUBLIC HUMAN SERVICES ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE MEDICAID DIRECTORS

POLICY STATEMENT: MCO ACCESS TO THE MEDICAID PHARMACY REBATE PROGRAM

Background

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (OBRA '90) established a Medicaid drug rebate program that requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide a rebate to participating state Medicaid agencies. In return, states must cover all prescription drugs manufactured by a company that participates in the rebate program. At the time of this legislation, only a small percentage of Medicaid beneficiaries were enrolled in capitated managed care plans and were primarily served by plans that also had commercial lines of business. These plans requested to be excluded from the drug rebate program as it was assumed that they would be able to secure a better rebate on their own. Though regulations have not yet been promulgated, federal interpretation to date has excluded Medicaid managed care organizations from participating in the federal rebate program.

Today, the situation is quite different. 58% of all Medicaid beneficiaries are enrolled in some type of managed care delivery system, many in capitated health plans. Some managed care plans, especially Medicaid-dominated plans that make up a growing percentage of the Medicaid marketplace, are looking at the feasibility of gaining access to the Medicaid pharmacy rebate. However, a number of commercial plans remain content to negotiate their own pharmacy rates and are not interested in pursuing the Medicaid rebate.

Policy Statement

The National Association of State Medicaid Directors is supportive of Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs), in their capacity as an agent of the state, being able to participate fully in the federal Medicaid rebate program. To do so, the MCO must adhere to all of the federal rebate rules set forth in OBRA '90 and follow essentially the same ingredient cost payment methodology used by the state. The state will have the ability to make a downward adjustment in the MCO's capitation rate based on the assumption that the MCO will collect the full rebate instead of the state. Finally, if a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) is under contract with an MCO to administer the Medicaid pharmacy benefit for them, then the same principal shall apply, but in no way should both the MCO and the PBM be allowed to claim the rebate.—Approved by NASMD June 24, 2002

We oppose the Senate provision that provides for mandatory dispensing fee guidelines. States welcome more research in dispensing fees throughout the US health care system. Currently, there is very little information for states to use when considering appropriate dispensing fees. New reference information would be helpful; but mandatory guidelines should not be imposed on states.

The effective date for any dispensing fee provisions should be the date 6 months after the close of the first regular state legislative session. A state may need extra time to implement a pharmacy reimbursement system to determine appropriate dispensing fees and make changes to separate out the dispensing fee from the reimbursement in their systems.

Governors should maintain flexibility to establish dispensing fees to maintain access to both pharmacies that may provide specialty services as well as those that serve beneficiaries in rural and underserved areas. Limiting such pharmacies by arbitrary federal statutory definitions or regulation will not help states to manage their pharmacy programs. New federal mandates on how to consider dispensing fees for such pharmacists are unnecessary and burdensome.

Preferred Drug List Restriction: NGA opposes House provision

The House provision (SEC.3105) that would limit states' current ability to include mental health drugs on a state's preferred drug

list should be dropped from the final bill. This provision would be very costly—far beyond the $120 million estimated by the Congressional Budget Office—and would undermine states current ability to use commonsense tools that are used throughout the health care system to manage expensive mental health drugs. For example, Texas estimates the provisions federal impact from its state would be a cost of $50 million over five years and California alone estimates $250 million cost to the federal government over the five year budget window.

Tiered Co Pays for Prescription Drugs: NGA supports House provision with modification

The House provision that would allow states to use tiered co-pays to encourage use of more affordable drugs should be maintained in the final package; however, the provision that limits this flexibility and otherwise links Medicaid program administration to TRICARE-approved formularies should be dropped.

Rebates: NGA supports some Senate provisions, one with modification

The Senate provision that would increase minimum rebates on brand name drugs should be maintained in the final bill.

The Senate provision that extends rebates to managed care organizations that care for Medicaid beneficiaries should be maintained in the final bill.

Regarding the requirement in both the House and Senate bill for states to collect rebates on physician administered drugs, the provision in the House bill that provides for a hardship waiver for those states that require additional time to implement the reporting system required to collect these rebates should be maintained in the final bill.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, INC.,
Washington, DC, August 18, 2005.

MARGARET A. MURRAY,
Executive Director, Association for Community Affiliated Plans, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. MURRAY. The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), the national trade organization representing America's 1,100 federally qualified health centers, has reviewed your proposed initiative to provide Medicaid managed care organizations with access to the Medicaid drug rebate found in Section 1927 of the Social Security Act.

ACAP and NACHC share a very special relationship. Many of ACAP's member plans are owned and governed by community health center representatives. This unique relationship often creates a mutual policy interest and this proposal is an example of such an intersection.

Your proposal to allow Medicaid managed care organizations access to the Medicaid drug rebate makes sense given the migration of Medicaid beneficiaries from fee-for-service to managed care since 1990. Increasingly, states have not been able to take advantage of the drug rebate for those enrollees in managed care, thus driving up federal and state Medicaid costs. The savings estimated in the Lewin Group study are significant and may help to mitigate the needs for other cuts in the program. In addition, it demonstrates a proactive effort to offer solutions to improving the Medicaid program. We applaud this effort.

While we are deeply concerned that Congress may engage in budget-driven, rather than policy-driven, efforts to restrain or reduce Medicaid spending, we also recognize that—as providers to a substantial portion of the Medicaid-enrolled population—we have a responsibility to put forth viable, realistic alternatives that can help slow the growth on Medicaid spending without throwing people off the rolls, or cutting benefits or payment rates, Your proposal offers just such a common-sense solution, one that we would be pleased to support in the event that the Congress acts to constrain costs without undermining the fundamental goals of the program.

Sincerely,
DANIEL R. HAWKINS, Jr.,
Vice President for Federal, State, and Public Affairs.

ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY AFFILIATED PLANS,
Washington, DC, June 5, 2007.

HON. JEFF BINGAMAN,
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BINGAMAN: On behalf of the Association of Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP), our 32 member health plans, and over four million Americans they serve, I am writing to express our gratitude and support for your legislation to extend the benefits of the Medicaid drug rebate to the Medicaid beneficiaries enrolled in Medicaid health plans.

Created by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1990, the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program requires a drug manufacturer to have a rebate agreement with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for States to receive federal funding for outpatient drugs dispensed to Medicaid patients. At the time the law was enacted, managed care organizations were excluded from access to the drug rebate program. In 1990, only 2.8 million people were enrolled in Medicaid managed care and so the savings lost by the exemption were relatively small. Today, 18 million people are enrolled in capitated managed care plans. Pharmacy costs in Medicaid Fee-for-Service settings are 18 percent higher on a per-member-per-month basis than in the managed care setting even though plans are at a disadvantage with respect to the federal rebate. With the federal rebate as an additional tool, plans could save the Medicaid program even more.

Extending the Medicaid drug rebate to Medicaid health plans has been championed by ACAP for several years as a common sense approach to reforming the Medicaid program, while ensuring that all Medicaid beneficiaries receive the care they need. The proposal to extend the drug rebate has been endorsed by the National Governors Association, the National Association of State Medicaid Directors, the National Medicaid Commission, the Medicaid Health Plans of America, the Partnership for Medicaid, and the National Association of Community Health Centers. The Congressional Budget Office and the CMS Actuary have said that this policy will save between $1.7 billion and $2.2 billion in Federal tax dollars over 5 years.

Again, thank you for your leadership to help modernize the Medicaid program in a commonsense manner by extending the savings of the drug rebate to Medicaid health plans. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,
MARGARET A. MURRAY,
Executive Director.

MEDICAID HEALTH PLANS OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2005.

Margaret A. Murray,
Executive Director, Association for Community Affiliated Plans, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. MURRAY: The Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPOA) supports your proposed initiative to provide Medicaid managed care organizations with access to the Medicaid drug rebate found in Section 1927 of the Social Security Act. We support this effort and urge Congress to enact this common sense provision.

Medicaid Health Plans of America, formed in 1993 and incorporated in 1995, is a trade association representing health plans and other entities participating in Medicaid managed care throughout the country. It's primary focus is to provide research, advocacy, analysis, and organized forums that support the development of effective policy solutions to promote and enhance the delivery of quality healthcare. The Association initially coalesced around the issue of national health care reform, and as the policy debate changed from national health care reform to national managed care reform, the areas of focus shifted to the changes in Medicaid managed care.

Your proposal to allow Medicaid managed care organizations access to the Medicaid drug rebate makes sense given the migration of Medicaid beneficiaries from fee-for-service to managed care since 1990. Increasingly, states have not been able to take advantage of the drug rebate for those enrollees in managed care, thus driving up federal and state Medicaid costs. The savings estimated in the Lewin Group study are significant and may help to mitigate the needs for other cuts in the program. In addition, it demonstrates a proactive effort to offer solutions to improving the Medicaid program. We applaud this effort.

MHPOA is proud to support this legislative proposal and will endorse any legislation in Congress to enact this proposal.

Sincerely,
THOMAS JOHNSON,
Executive Director.

THE MEDICAID COMMISSION

(Report to the Honorable Secretary Michael O. Leavitt, Department of Health and Human Services and The United States Congress September 1, 2005)

Proposal

The Commission recommends allowing states to establish pharmaceutical prices based on the Average Manufacturer Price (AMP) rather than the published Average Wholesale Price (AWP). Additionally, reforms should be implemented to ensure that manufacturers are appropriately reporting data. Such improvements should include reforms to ensure: (1) clear guidance from CMS on manufacturer price determination methods and the definition of AMP; (2) manufacturer-reported prices are easily auditable so that systematic oversight of the price determination can be done by HHS; (3) manufacturer-reported prices and rebates are provided to states monthly rather than the current quarterly reporting; and (4) new penalties are implemented to discourage manufacturers from reporting inaccurate pricing information.

Estimated savings

$4.3 Billion over 5 years (CMS Office of the Actuary)

EXTENSION OF THE MEDICAID DRUG REBATE PROGRAM TO MEDICAID MANAGED CARE

Current law

Section 1927 of the Social Security Act, effective January 1, 1991 sets forth the requirements of the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program. In order for Federal Medicaid matching funds to be available to States for covered outpatient drugs of a manufacturer, the manufacturer must enter into and have in effect a rebate agreement with the Federal government. Without an agreement in place, States cannot generally receive Federal funding for outpatient drugs dispensed to Medicaid recipients. Rebate amounts received by states are considered a reduction

in the amount expended by States for medical assistance for purposes of Federal matching funds under the Medicaid program.

The basic rebate for brand name drugs is the greater of 15.1 percent of the Average Manufacturer Price (AMP) or AMP minus Best Price (BP). Best Price is the lowest price at which the manufacturer sells the covered outpatient drug to any purchaser, with certain statutory exceptions, in the United States in any pricing structure, in the same quarter for which the AMP is computed.

The rebate for generic drugs is 11 percent of AMP.

Under current law Medicaid states cannot collect rebates from managed care organizations in the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program.

Proposal

The Commission recommends providing Medicaid managed care health plans access to the existing pharmaceutical manufacturer rebate program currently available to other Medicaid health plans. States should have the option of collecting these rebates directly or allowing plans to access them in exchange for lower capitation payments.

Estimated savings

$2 Billion over 5 years (CMS Office of the Actuary)

CHANGE THE START DATE OF PENALTY PERIOD FOR PERSONS TRANSFERRING ASSETS FOR MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY

Current law

States determine financial eligibility for Medicaid coverage of nursing home care using a combination of state and federal statutes and regulations. Personal income and assets must be below specified levels before eligibility can be established. Personal resources are sorted into two categories: those considered countable (those that must be spent down before eligibility criteria is met) and those considered non-countable (those that applicants can keep and still meet the eligibility criteria such as real estate that is the beneficiary's primary residence). Some assets held in trust, annuities, and promissory notes are also not counted. If it is determined that the applicant has excess countable assets, these must spent before they can become eligible. Personal income is applied to the cost of care after a personal needs allowance and a community spouse allowance is deducted.

Federal law requires states to review the assets of Medicaid applicants for a period of 36 months prior to application or 60 months if a trust is involved. This period is known as the ''look back period.'' Financial eligibility screeners look for transfers from personal assets made during the look back period that appear to have been made for the purpose of obtaining Medicaid eligibility. Transfers made before the look back period are not reviewed.

Applicants are prohibited from transferring resources during the look back period for less than fair market value. Some transfers of resources are allowed, such as transfers between spouses. If a state eligibility screener finds a non-allowed transfer, current law (OBRA 1993) requires the state to impose a ''penalty period'' during which Medicaid will not pay for long-term care. The length of the penalty period is calculated by dividing the amount transferred by the monthly private pay rate of nursing homes in the state. The penalty period starts from the date of the transfer. Using the date of the transfer as the start date provides an opportunity for applicants to preserve assets because some or all of the penalty period may occur while the applicant was not paying privately for long-term care.

We oppose the Senate provision that provides for mandatory dispensing fee guidelines. States welcome more research in dispensing fees throughout the U.S. health care system. Currently, there is very little information for states to use when considering appropriate dispensing fees. New reference information would be helpful; but mandatory guidelines should not be imposed on states.

The effective date for any dispensing fee provisions should be the date 6 months after the close of the first regular state legislative session. A state may need extra time to implement a pharmacy reimbursement system to determine appropriate dispensing fees and make changes to separate out the dispensing fee from the reimbursement in their systems.

Governors should maintain flexibility to establish dispensing fees to maintain access to both pharmacies that may provide specialty services as well as those that serve beneficiaries in rural and underserved areas. Limiting such pharmacies by arbitrary federal statutory definitions or regulation will not help states to manage their pharmacy programs. New federal mandates on how to consider dispensing fees for such pharmacists are unnecessary and burdensome.

Preferred drug list restriction

NGA opposes House provision

The House provision (Sec. 3105) that would limit states' current ability to include mental health drugs on a state's preferred drug list should be dropped from the final bill. This provision would be very costly—far beyond the $120 million estimated by the Congressional Budget Office—and would undermine states current ability to use commonsense tools that are used throughout the health care system to manage expensive mental health drugs. For example, Texas estimates the provisions federal impact from its state would be a cost of $50 million over 5-years and California alone estimates $250 million cost to the federal government over the 5-year budget window.

Tiered Co-pays for prescription drugs

NGA supports House provision with modification

The House provision that would allow states to use tiered co-pays to encourage use of more affordable drugs should be maintained in the final package; however, the provision that limits this flexibility and otherwise links Medicaid program administration to TRICARE-approved formularies should be dropped.

Rebates

NGA supports some Senate provisions, one with modification

The Senate provision that would increase minimum rebates on brand name drugs should be maintained in the final bill.

The Senate provision that extends rebates to managed care organizations that care for Medicaid beneficiaries should be maintained in the final bill.

Regarding the requirement in both the House and Senate bill for states to collect rebates on physician administered drugs, the provision in the House bill that provides for a hardship waiver for those states that require additional time to implement the reporting system required to collect these rebates should be maintained in the final bill.

By Mr. BYRD (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 1590. A bill to provide for the reintatement of a license for a certain Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, my colleague from West Virginia, Senator ROCKEFELLER, and I have joined together today to introduce legislation that would allow for the construction of a hydroelectric facility near the the City of Grafton, located in north central West Virginia. A companion measure is being introduced in the U.S.I House of Representatives by Congressman ALAN MOLLOHAN. The proposed hydro facility, to be constructed on an existing dam, would supply power to Grafton and surrounding area while also providing a significant economic benefit to the city.

Our legislation, which was passed by the Senate late last year but did not clear the House of Representatives before the end of the session, would reinstate a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, for a new hydroelectric facility on the Tygart Valley River. The City of Grafton has been considering the hydroelectric facility for many years, and first received a license for the project in 1989. However, that license lapsed in 1999 without the city making progress on the effort. The Byrd-Rockefeller-Mollohan measure would reinstate the license and allow Grafton to move ahead with the 20-megawatt hydroelectric facility.

The City of Grafton is working with a private contractor to develop the hydro project. With a new FERC license, the contractor believes that the project could be in operation as early as 2008. It is expected that the new hydroelectric facility would generate about $300,000 in annual revenues for Grafton, while creating 200 construction jobs in the process.

In 1938, the Tygart dam became the first flood control project to be completed in the Pittsburgh District of the Army Corps of Engineers under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1935. It remains one of the most expensive and extensive construction projects in the history of West Virginia. I recognize that the hydroelectric project has been delayed numerous times, but the Congressional Budget Office found that implementing the project will pose zero negative impact to the Federal budget. In fact, it will generate roughly $200,000 in annual licensing fees for the U.S. Treasury. Approval of our legislation will yield a return on this previous significant investment by the American taxpayer by leveraging new value out of old infrastructure.

Clean, hydroelectric power generation from an expensive dam previously used only for flood control, at no cost to the Federal Government, is the type of cost-effective, progressive action that we should facilitate and applaud at every chance. It is the right thing to do for the communities and public utilities in the rural Appalachian counties where the existing dam and lake are located. It is the right thing to do for the West Virginians all along the Tygart and Monongahela Rivers. And it is the right thing to do for the taxpaying citizens of this Nation. I respectfully request that my colleagues support our

legislation, the bill that makes these positive results possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 230—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JULY 2007, AS ''NATIONAL TEEN SAFE DRIVER MONTH''

Mr. ISAKSON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 230

Whereas automobile accidents involving teenage drivers result in the highest cause of death and injury for adolescents between the ages of 15 and 20 years;

Whereas, each year, 7,460 teenage drivers between the ages of 15 and 20 years are involved in fatal crashes, and 1,700,000 teenage drivers are involved in accidents that are reported to law enforcement officers;

Whereas driver education and training resources have diminished in communities throughout the United States, leaving families underserved and lacking in opportunities for educating the teenage drivers of those families;

Whereas, in addition to costs relating to the long-term care of teenage drivers severely injured in automobile accidents, automobile accidents involving teenage drivers cost the United States more than $40,000,000,000 in lost productivity and other forms of economic loss;

Whereas technology advances have increased the opportunity of the United States to provide more effective training and research to novice teenage drivers; and

Whereas the families of victims of accidents involving teenage drivers are working together to save the lives of other teenage drivers through volunteer efforts in local communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of July 2007 as ''National Teen Safe Driver Month''; and

(2) calls upon the members of Federal, State, and local governments and interested organizations—

(A) to commemorate National Teen Safe Driver Month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs; and

(B) to encourage the development of resources to provide affordable, accessible, and effective driver training for every teenage driver of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1500. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1501. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1502. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1503. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1504. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1500. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 152, strike line 24 and insert the following:

''under subsection (a)(1).

''(g) USE OF ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURES IN FEDERAL BUILDINGS.—

''(1) ENERGY AND WATER EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 3 years thereafter, each Federal agency shall complete a comprehensive energy and water evaluation for—

''(A) each building and other facility of the Federal agency that is larger than a minimum size established by the Secretary; and

''(B) any other building or other facility of the Federal agency that meets any other criteria established by the Secretary.

''(2) IMPLEMENTATION OF IDENTIFIED ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 3 years thereafter, each Federal agency—

''(i) shall fully implement each energy and water-saving measure that the Federal agency identified in the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1) that has a 15-year simple payback period; and

''(ii) may implement any energy or water-saving measure that the Federal agency identified in the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1) that has longer than a 15-year simple payback period.

''(B) PAYBACK PERIOD.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of subparagraph (A), a measure shall be considered to have a 15-year simple payback if the quotient obtained under clause (ii) is less than or equal to 15.

''(ii) QUOTIENT.—The quotient for a measure shall be obtained by dividing—

''(I) the estimated initial implementation cost of the measure (other than financing costs); by

''(II) the annual cost savings from the measure.

''(C) COST SAVINGS.—For the purpose of subparagraph (B), cost savings shall include net savings in estimated—

''(i) energy and water costs;

''(ii) operations, maintenance, repair, replacement, and other direct costs; and

''(iii) external environmental, health, security, and other costs based on a cost adder, as determined in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Secretary under paragraph (4).

''(D) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may modify or make exceptions to the calculation of a 15-year simple payback under this paragraph in the guidelines issued by the Secretary under paragraph (4).

''(3) FOLLOW-UP ON IMPLEMENTED MEASURES.—For each measure implemented under paragraph (2), each Federal agency shall carry out—

''(A) commissioning;

''(B) operations, maintenance, and repair; and

''(C) measurement and verification of energy and water savings.

''(4) GUIDELINES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall issue guidelines and necessary criteria that each Federal agency shall follow for implementation of—

''(i) paragraph (1) not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection; and

''(ii) paragraphs (2) and (3) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection.

''(B) RELATIONSHIP TO FUNDING SOURCE.—The guidelines issued by the Secretary under subparagraph (A) shall be appropriate and uniform for measures funded with each type of funding made available under paragraph (8).

''(5) WEB-BASED CERTIFICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For each building and other facility that meets the criteria established by the Secretary under paragraph (1), each Federal agency shall use a web-based tracking system to certify compliance with the requirements for—

''(i) energy and water evaluations under paragraph (1);

''(ii) implementation of identified energy and water measures under paragraph (2); and

''(iii) follow-up on implemented measures under paragraph (3).

''(B) DEPLOYMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall deploy the web-based tracking system required under this paragraph in a manner that tracks, at a minimum—

''(i) the covered buildings and other facilities;

''(ii) the status of evaluations;

''(iii) the identified measures, with estimated costs and savings;

''(iv) the status of implementing the measures;

''(v) the measured savings; and

''(vi) the persistence of savings.

''(C) AVAILABILITY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Secretary shall make the web-based tracking system required under this paragraph available to Congress, other Federal agencies, and the public through the Internet.

''(ii) EXEMPTIONS.—At the request of a Federal agency, the Secretary may exempt specific data for specific buildings from disclosure under clause (i) for national security purposes.

''(6) BENCHMARKING OF FEDERAL FACILITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal agency shall enter energy use data for each building and other facility of the Federal agency into a building energy use benchmarking system, such as the Energy Star Portfolio Manager.

''(B) SYSTEM AND GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall—

''(i) select or develop the building energy use benchmarking system required under this paragraph for each type of building; and

''(ii) issue guidance for use of the system.

''(7) FEDERAL AGENCY SCORECARDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue quarterly scorecards for energy management activities carried out by each Federal agency that includes—

''(i) summaries of the status of—

''(I) energy and water evaluations under paragraph (1);

''(II) implementation of identified energy and water measures under paragraph (2); and

''(III) follow-up on implemented measures under paragraph (3); and

''(ii) any other means of measuring performance that the Director considers appropriate.

''(B) AVAILABILITY.—The Director shall make the scorecards required under this paragraph available to Congress, other Federal agencies, and the public through the Internet.

''(8) FUNDING.—

''(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection.

''(B) FUNDING OPTIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—To carry out paragraphs (1) through (3), a Federal agency may use any combination of—

''(I) appropriated funds made available under subparagraph (A); and

''(II) private financing, including financing available through energy savings performance contracts or utility energy savings contracts.

''(ii) COMBINED FUNDING FOR SAME MEASURE.—A Federal agency may use any combination of appropriated funds and private financing described in clause (i) to carry out the same measure under this subsection, with proportional allocation for any energy and water savings.

''(iii) LACK OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—Since measures may be carried out using private financing described in clause (i), a lack of available appropriations shall not be considered a sufficient reason for the failure of a Federal agency to comply with paragraphs (1) through (3).''.

SA 1501. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 146, strike line 22 and all that follows through page 151, line 14, and insert the following:

SEC. 263. ENERGY SAVINGS PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS.

Section 801 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8287) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting ''beginning on the date of the delivery order'' after ''25 years''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) PROMOTION OF CONTRACTS.—In carrying out this section, a Federal agency shall not—

''(i) establish a Federal agency policy that limits the maximum contract term under subparagraph (D) to a period shorter than 25 years; or

''(ii) limit the total amount of obligations under energy savings performance contracts or other private financing of energy savings measures.

''(F) MEASUREMENT AND VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATE FINANCING.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The evaluations and savings measurement and verification required under paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 543(f) shall be used by a Federal agency to meet the requirements for—

''(I) in the case of energy savings performance contracts, the need for energy audits, calculation of energy savings, and any other evaluation of costs and savings needed to implement the guarantee of savings under this section; and

''(II) in the case of utility energy service contracts, needs that are similar to the purposes described in subclause (I).

''(ii) MODIFICATION OF EXISTING CONTRACTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, each Federal agency shall, to the maximum extent practicable, modify any indefinite delivery and indefinite quantity energy savings performance contracts, and other indefinite delivery and indefinite quantity contracts using private financing, to conform to the amendments made by the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007.''; and

(2) by striking subsection (c).

SA 1502. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Relationship to other law.
TITLE I—BIOFUELS FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND TRANSPORTATION
Sec. 101. Short title.
Sec. 102. Definitions.
Subtitle A—Renewable Fuel Standard
Sec. 111. Renewable fuel standard.
Sec. 112. Production of renewable fuel using renewable energy.
Subtitle B—Renewable Fuels Infrastructure
Sec. 121. Infrastructure pilot program for renewable fuels.
Sec. 122. Bioenergy research and development.
Sec. 123. Bioresearch centers for systems biology program.
Sec. 124. Loan guarantees for renewable fuel facilities.
Sec. 125. Grants for renewable fuel production research and development in certain States.
Sec. 126. Grants for infrastructure for transportation of biomass to local biorefineries.
Sec. 127. Biorefinery information center.
Sec. 128. Alternative fuel database and materials.
Sec. 129. Fuel tank cap labeling requirement.
Sec. 130. Biodiesel.
Subtitle C—Studies
Sec. 141. Study of advanced biofuels technologies.
Sec. 142. Study of increased consumption of ethanol-blended gasoline with higher levels of ethanol.
Sec. 143. Pipeline feasibility study.
Sec. 144. Study of optimization of flexible fueled vehicles to use E–85 fuel.
Sec. 145. Study of credits for use of renewable electricity in electric vehicles.
Sec. 146. Study of engine durability associated with the use of biodiesel.
Sec. 147. Study of incentives for renewable fuels.
Sec. 148. Study of streamlined lifecycle analysis tools for the evaluation of renewable carbon content of biofuels.
Sec. 149. Study of the adequacy of railroad transportation of domestically-produced renewable fuel.
Sec. 150. Study of effects of ethanol-blended gasoline on off road vehicles.
TITLE II—ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROMOTION
Sec. 201. Short title.
Sec. 202. Definition of Secretary.
Subtitle A—Promoting Advanced Lighting Technologies
Sec. 211. Accelerated procurement of energy efficient lighting.
Sec. 212. Incandescent reflector lamp efficiency standards.
Sec. 213. Bright Tomorrow Lighting Prizes.
Sec. 214. Sense of Senate concerning efficient lighting standards.
Sec. 215. Renewable energy construction grants.
Subtitle B—Expediting New Energy Efficiency Standards
Sec. 221. Definition of energy conservation standard.
Sec. 222. Regional efficiency standards for heating and cooling products.
Sec. 223. Furnace fan rulemaking.
Sec. 224. Expedited rulemakings.
Sec. 225. Periodic reviews.
Sec. 226. Energy efficiency labeling for consumer products.
Sec. 227. Residential boiler efficiency standards.
Sec. 228. Technical corrections.
Sec. 229. Electric motor efficiency standards.
Sec. 230. Energy standards for home appliances.
Sec. 231. Improved energy efficiency for appliances and buildings in cold climates.
Sec. 232. Deployment of new technologies for high-efficiency consumer products.
Sec. 233. Industrial efficiency program.
Subtitle C—Promoting High Efficiency Vehicles, Advanced Batteries, and Energy Storage
Sec. 241. Lightweight materials research and development.
Sec. 242. Loan guarantees for fuel-efficient automobile parts manufacturers.
Sec. 243. Advanced technology vehicles manufacturing incentive program.
Sec. 244. Energy storage competitiveness.
Sec. 245. Advanced transportation technology program.
Subtitle D—Setting Energy Efficiency Goals
Sec. 251. National goals for energy savings in transportation.
Sec. 252. National energy efficiency improvement goals.
Sec. 253. National media campaign.
Sec. 254. Modernization of electricity grid system.
Subtitle E—Promoting Federal Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Sec. 261. Federal fleet conservation requirements.
Sec. 262. Federal requirement to purchase electricity generated by renewable energy.
Sec. 263. Energy savings performance contracts.
Sec. 264. Energy management requirements for Federal buildings.

Sec. 265. Combined heat and power and district energy installations at Federal sites.
Sec. 266. Federal building energy efficiency performance standards.
Sec. 267. Application of International Energy Conservation Code to public and assisted housing.
Sec. 268. Energy efficient commercial buildings initiative.
Subtitle F—Assisting State and Local Governments in Energy Efficiency
Sec. 271. Weatherization assistance for low-income persons.
Sec. 272. State energy conservation plans.
Sec. 273. Utility energy efficiency programs.
Sec. 274. Energy efficiency and demand response program assistance.
Sec. 275. Energy and environmental block grant.
Sec. 276. Energy sustainability and efficiency grants for institutions of higher education.
Sec. 277. Workforce training.
Sec. 278. Assistance to States to reduce school bus idling.
TITLE III—CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION
Sec. 301. Short title.
Sec. 302. Carbon capture and storage research, development, and demonstration program.
Sec. 303. Carbon dioxide storage capacity assessment.
Sec. 304. Carbon capture and storage initiative.
TITLE IV—COST-EFFECTIVE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC BUILDINGS
Subtitle A—Public Buildings Cost Reduction
Sec. 401. Short title.
Sec. 402. Cost-effective technology acceleration program.
Sec. 403. Environmental Protection Agency demonstration grant program for local governments.
Sec. 404. Definitions.
Subtitle B—Installation of Photovoltaic System at Department of Energy Headquarters Building
Sec. 411. Installation of photovoltaic system at Department of Energy headquarters building.
Subtitle C—High-Performance Green Buildings
Sec. 421. Short title.
Sec. 422. Findings and purposes.
Sec. 423. Definitions.
PART I—OFFICE OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE GREEN BUILDINGS
Sec. 431. Oversight.
Sec. 432. Office of High-Performance Green Buildings.
Sec. 433. Green Building Advisory Committee.
Sec. 434. Public outreach.
Sec. 435. Research and development.
Sec. 436. Budget and life-cycle costing and contracting.
Sec. 437. Authorization of appropriations.
PART II—HEALTHY HIGH-PERFORMANCE SCHOOLS
Sec. 441. Definition of high-performance school.
Sec. 442. Grants for healthy school environments.
Sec. 443. Model guidelines for siting of school facilities.
Sec. 444. Public outreach.
Sec. 445. Environmental health program.
Sec. 446. Authorization of appropriations.
PART III—STRENGTHENING FEDERAL LEADERSHIP
Sec. 451. Incentives.
Sec. 452. Federal procurement.
Sec. 453. Federal green building performance.
Sec. 454. Storm water runoff requirements for Federal development projects.
PART IV—DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
Sec. 461. Coordination of goals.
Sec. 462. Authorization of appropriations.
TITLE V—CORPORATE AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS
Sec. 501. Short title.
Sec. 502. Average fuel economy standards for automobiles and certain other vehicles.
Sec. 503. Amending fuel economy standards.
Sec. 504. Definitions.
Sec. 505. Ensuring safety of automobiles.
Sec. 506. Credit trading program.
Sec. 507. Labels for fuel economy and greenhouse gas emissions.
Sec. 508. Continued applicability of existing standards.
Sec. 509. National Academy of Sciences studies.
Sec. 510. Standards for Executive agency automobiles.
Sec. 511. Ensuring availability of flexible fuel automobiles.
Sec. 512. Increasing consumer awareness of flexible fuel automobiles.
Sec. 513. Periodic review of accuracy of fuel economy labeling procedures.
Sec. 514. Tire fuel efficiency consumer information.
Sec. 515. Advanced Battery Initiative.
Sec. 516. Biodiesel standards.
Sec. 517. Use of civil penalties for research and development.
Sec. 518. Energy Security Fund and alternative fuel grant program.
Sec. 519. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 520. Application with Clean Air Act.
TITLE VI—PRICE GOUGING
Sec. 601. Short title.
Sec. 602. Definitions.
Sec. 603. Prohibition on price gouging during energy emergencies.
Sec. 604. Prohibition on market manipulation.
Sec. 605. Prohibition on false information.
Sec. 606. Presidential declaration of energy emergency.
Sec. 607. Enforcement by the Federal Trade Commission.
Sec. 608. Enforcement by State Attorneys General.
Sec. 609. Penalties.
Sec. 610. Effect on other laws.
TITLE VII—ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY
Sec. 701. Short title.
Sec. 702. Definitions.
Sec. 703. Sense of Congress on energy diplomacy and security.
Sec. 704. Strategic energy partnerships.
Sec. 705. International energy crisis response mechanisms.
Sec. 706. Hemisphere energy cooperation forum.
Sec. 707. Appropriate congressional committees defined.

SEC. 2. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.

Except to the extent expressly provided in this Act or an amendment made by this Act, nothing in this Act or an amendment made by this Act supersedes, limits the authority provided or responsibility conferred by, or authorizes any violation of any provision of law (including a regulation), including any energy or environmental law or regulation.

TITLE I—BIOFUELS FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Biofuels for Energy Security and Transportation Act of 2007''.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ADVANCED BIOFUEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''advanced biofuel'' means fuel derived from renewable biomass other than corn starch.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''advanced biofuel'' includes—

(i) ethanol derived from cellulose, hemicellulose, or lignin;

(ii) ethanol derived from sugar or starch, other than ethanol derived from corn starch;

(iii) ethanol derived from waste material, including crop residue, other vegetative waste material, animal waste, and food waste and yard waste;

(iv) diesel-equivalent fuel derived from renewable biomass, including vegetable oil and animal fat;

(v) biogas produced through the conversion of organic matter from renewable biomass; and

(vi) butanol or higher alcohols produced through the conversion of organic matter from renewable biomass.

(2) CELLULOSIC BIOMASS ETHANOL.—The term ''cellulosic biomass ethanol'' means ethanol derived from any cellulose, hemicellulose, or lignin that is derived from renewable biomass.

(3) CONVENTIONAL BIOFUEL.—The term ''conventional biofuel'' means ethanol derived from corn starch.

(4) RENEWABLE BIOMASS.—The term ''renewable biomass'' means—

(A) biomass (as defined by section 210 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15855)) (excluding the bole of old-growth trees of a forest from the late successional state of forest development) that is harvested where permitted by law and in accordance with applicable land management plans from—

(i) National Forest System land; or

(ii) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)); or

(B) any organic matter that is available on a renewable or recurring basis from non-Federal land or from land belonging to an Indian tribe, or an Indian individual, that is held in trust by the United States or subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States, including—

(i) renewable plant material, including—

(I) feed grains;

(II) other agricultural commodities;

(III) other plants and trees; and

(IV) algae; and

(ii) waste material, including—

(I) crop residue;

(II) other vegetative waste material (including wood waste and wood residues);

(III) animal waste and byproducts (including fats, oils, greases, and manure); and

(IV) food waste and yard waste.

(5) RENEWABLE FUEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''renewable fuel'' means motor vehicle fuel, boiler fuel, or home heating fuel that is—

(i) produced from renewable biomass; and

(ii) used to replace or reduce the quantity of fossil fuel present in a fuel or fuel mixture used to operate a motor vehicle, boiler, or furnace.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''renewable fuel'' includes—

(i) conventional biofuel; and

(ii) advanced biofuel.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy

(7) SMALL REFINERY.—The term ''small refinery'' means a refinery for which the average aggregate daily crude oil throughput for a calendar year (as determined by dividing the aggregate throughput for the calendar year by the number of days in the calendar year) does not exceed 75,000 barrels.

Subtitle A—Renewable Fuel Standard

SEC. 111. RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD.

(a) RENEWABLE FUEL PROGRAM.—

(1) REGULATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall promulgate regulations to ensure that motor vehicle fuel, home heating oil, and boiler fuel sold or introduced into commerce in the United States (except in noncontiguous States or territories), on an annual average basis, contains the applicable volume of renewable fuel determined in accordance with paragraph (2).

(B) PROVISIONS OF REGULATIONS.—Regardless of the date of promulgation, the regulations promulgated under subparagraph (A)—

(i) shall contain compliance provisions applicable to refineries, blenders, distributors, and importers, as appropriate, to ensure that—

(I) the requirements of this subsection are met; and

(II) renewable fuels produced from facilities built after the date of enactment of this Act achieve at least a 20 percent reduction in life cycle greenhouse gas emissions compared to gasoline; but

(ii) shall not—

(I) restrict geographic areas in the contiguous United States in which renewable fuel may be used; or

(II) impose any per-gallon obligation for the use of renewable fuel.

(C) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER REGULATIONS.—Regulations promulgated under this paragraph shall, to the maximum extent practicable, incorporate the program structure, compliance, and reporting requirements established under the final regulations promulgated to implement the renewable fuel program established by the amendment made by section 1501(a)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58; 119 Stat. 1067).

(2) APPLICABLE VOLUME.—

(A) CALENDAR YEARS 2008 THROUGH 2022.—

(i) RENEWABLE FUEL.—For the purpose of paragraph (1), subject to clause (ii), the applicable volume for any of calendar years 2008 through 2022 shall be determined in accordance with the following table:

Calendar year:	Applicable volume of renewable fuel (in billions of gallons):
2008	8.5
2009	10.5
2010	12.0
2011	12.6
2012	13.2
2013	13.8
2014	14.4
2015	15.0
2016	18.0
2017	21.0
2018	24.0
2019	27.0
2020	30.0
2021	33.0
2022	36.0.

(ii) ADVANCED BIOFUELS.—For the purpose of paragraph (1), of the volume of renewable fuel required under clause (i), the applicable volume for any of calendar years 2016 through 2022 for advanced biofuels shall be determined in accordance with the following table:

Calendar year:	Applicable volume of advanced biofuels (in billions of gallons):
2016	3.0
2017	6.0
2018	9.0
2019	12.0
2020	15.0
2021	18.0
2022	21.0.

(B) CALENDAR YEAR 2023 AND THEREAFTER.—Subject to subparagraph (C), for the purposes of paragraph (1), the applicable volume for calendar year 2023 and each calendar year thereafter shall be determined by the President, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, based on a review of the implementation of the program during calendar years 2007 through 2022, including a review of—

(i) the impact of renewable fuels on the energy security of the United States;

(ii) the expected annual rate of future production of renewable fuels, including advanced biofuels;

(iii) the impact of renewable fuels on the infrastructure of the United States, including deliverability of materials, goods, and products other than renewable fuel, and the sufficiency of infrastructure to deliver renewable fuel; and

(iv) the impact of the use of renewable fuels on other factors, including job creation, the price and supply of agricultural commodities, rural economic development, and the environment.

(C) MINIMUM APPLICABLE VOLUME.—Subject to subparagraph (D), for the purpose of paragraph (1), the applicable volume for calendar year 2023 and each calendar year thereafter shall be equal to the product obtained by multiplying—

(i) the number of gallons of gasoline that the President estimates will be sold or introduced into commerce in the calendar year; and

(ii) the ratio that—

(I) 36,000,000,000 gallons of renewable fuel; bears to

(II) the number of gallons of gasoline sold or introduced into commerce in calendar year 2022.

(D) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE OF ADVANCED BIOFUEL.—For the purpose of paragraph (1) and subparagraph (C), at least 60 percent of the minimum applicable volume for calendar year 2023 and each calendar year thereafter shall be advanced biofuel.

(b) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGES.—

(1) PROVISION OF ESTIMATE OF VOLUMES OF GASOLINE SALES.—Not later than October 31 of each of calendar years 2008 through 2021, the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration shall provide to the President an estimate, with respect to the following calendar year, of the volumes of gasoline projected to be sold or introduced into commerce in the United States.

(2) DETERMINATION OF APPLICABLE PERCENTAGES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than November 30 of each of calendar years 2008 through 2022, based on the estimate provided under paragraph (1), the President shall determine and publish in the Federal Register, with respect to the following calendar year, the renewable fuel obligation that ensures that the requirements of subsection (a) are met.

(B) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—The renewable fuel obligation determined for a calendar year under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) be applicable to refineries, blenders, and importers, as appropriate;

(ii) be expressed in terms of a volume percentage of gasoline sold or introduced into commerce in the United States; and

(iii) subject to paragraph (3)(A), consist of a single applicable percentage that applies to all categories of persons specified in clause (i).

(3) ADJUSTMENTS.—In determining the applicable percentage for a calendar year, the President shall make adjustments—

(A) to prevent the imposition of redundant obligations on any person specified in paragraph (2)(B)(i); and

(B) to account for the use of renewable fuel during the previous calendar year by small refineries that are exempt under subsection (g).

(c) VOLUME CONVERSION FACTORS FOR RENEWABLE FUELS BASED ON ENERGY CONTENT OR REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of subsection (a), the President shall assign values to specific types of advanced biofuels for the purpose of satisfying the fuel volume requirements of subsection (a)(2) in accordance with this subsection.

(2) ENERGY CONTENT RELATIVE TO ETHANOL.—For advanced biofuel, 1 gallon of the advanced biofuel shall be considered to be the equivalent of 1 gallon of renewable fuel multiplied by the ratio that—

(A) the number of British thermal units of energy produced by the combustion of 1 gallon of the advanced biofuel (as measured under conditions determined by the Secretary); bears to

(B) the number of British thermal units of energy produced by the combustion of 1 gallon of pure ethanol (as measured under conditions determined by the Secretary to be comparable to conditions described in subparagraph (A)).

(3) TRANSITIONAL ENERGY-RELATED CONVERSION FACTORS FOR CELLULOSIC BIOMASS ETHANOL.—For any of calendar years 2008 through 2015, 1 gallon of cellulosic biomass ethanol shall be considered to be the equivalent of 2.5 gallons of renewable fuel.

(d) CREDIT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President, in consultation with the Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall implement a credit program to manage the renewable fuel requirement of this section in a manner consistent with the credit program established by the amendment made by section 1501(a)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58; 119 Stat. 1067).

(2) MARKET TRANSPARENCY.—In carrying out the credit program under this subsection, the President shall facilitate price transparency in markets for the sale and trade of credits, with due regard for the public interest, the integrity of those markets, fair competition, and the protection of consumers and agricultural producers.

(e) SEASONAL VARIATIONS IN RENEWABLE FUEL USE.—

(1) STUDY.—For each of calendar years 2008 through 2022, the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration shall conduct a study of renewable fuel blending to determine whether there are excessive seasonal variations in the use of renewable fuel.

(2) REGULATION OF EXCESSIVE SEASONAL VARIATIONS.—If, for any calendar year, the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, based on the study under paragraph (1), makes the determinations specified in paragraph (3), the President shall promulgate regulations to ensure that 25 percent or more of the quantity of renewable fuel necessary to meet the requirements of subsection (a) is used during each of the 2 periods specified in paragraph (4) of each subsequent calendar year.

(3) DETERMINATIONS.—The determinations referred to in paragraph (2) are that—

(A) less than 25 percent of the quantity of renewable fuel necessary to meet the requirements of subsection (a) has been used during 1 of the 2 periods specified in paragraph (4) of the calendar year;

(B) a pattern of excessive seasonal variation described in subparagraph (A) will continue in subsequent calendar years; and

(C) promulgating regulations or other requirements to impose a 25 percent or more seasonal use of renewable fuels will not significantly—

(i) increase the price of motor fuels to the consumer; or

(ii) prevent or interfere with the attainment of national ambient air quality standards.

(4) PERIODS.—The 2 periods referred to in this subsection are—

(A) April through September; and

(B) January through March and October through December.

(f) WAIVERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, may waive the requirements of subsection (a) in whole or in part on petition by one or more States by reducing the national quantity of renewable fuel required under subsection (a), based on a determination by the President (after public notice and opportunity for comment), that—

(A) implementation of the requirement would severely harm the economy or environment of a State, a region, or the United States; or

(B) extreme and unusual circumstances exist that prevent distribution of an adequate supply of domestically-produced renewable fuel to consumers in the United States.

(2) PETITIONS FOR WAIVERS.—The President, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall approve or disapprove a State petition for a waiver of the requirements of subsection (a) within 90 days after the date on which the petition is received by the President.

(3) TERMINATION OF WAIVERS.—A waiver granted under paragraph (1) shall terminate after 1 year, but may be renewed by the President after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—If the Secretary makes a determination under paragraph (1)(B) that railroad transportation of domestically-produced renewable fuel is inadequate, based on either the service provided by, or the price of, the railroad transportation, the President shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(A) the actions the Federal Government is taking, or will take, to address the inadequacy, including a description of the specific powers of the applicable Federal agencies; and

(B) if the President finds that there are inadequate Federal powers to address the railroad service or pricing inadequacies, recommendations for legislation to provide appropriate powers to Federal agencies to address the inadequacies.

(g) SMALL REFINERIES.—

(1) TEMPORARY EXEMPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of subsection (a) shall not apply to—

(i) small refineries (other than a small refinery described in clause (ii)) until calendar year 2013; and

(ii) small refineries owned by a small business refiner (as defined in section 45H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) until calendar year 2015.

(B) EXTENSION OF EXEMPTION.—

(i) STUDY BY SECRETARY.—Not later than December 31, 2008, the Secretary shall submit to the President and Congress a report describing the results of a study to determine whether compliance with the requirements of subsection (a) would impose a disproportionate economic hardship on small refineries.

(ii) EXTENSION OF EXEMPTION.—In the case of a small refinery that the Secretary determines under clause (i) would be subject to a disproportionate economic hardship if required to comply with subsection (a), the President shall extend the exemption under subparagraph (A) for the small refinery for a period of not less than 2 additional years.

(2) PETITIONS BASED ON DISPROPORTIONATE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP.—

(A) EXTENSION OF EXEMPTION.—A small refinery may at any time petition the President for an extension of the exemption under paragraph (1) for the reason of disproportionate economic hardship.

(B) EVALUATION OF PETITIONS.—In evaluating a petition under subparagraph (A), the President, in consultation with the Secretary, shall consider the findings of the study under paragraph (1)(B) and other economic factors.

(C) DEADLINE FOR ACTION ON PETITIONS.—The President shall act on any petition submitted by a small refinery for a hardship exemption not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the petition.

(3) OPT-IN FOR SMALL REFINERIES.—A small refinery shall be subject to the requirements of subsection (a) if the small refinery notifies the President that the small refinery waives the exemption under paragraph (1).

(h) PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person that violates a regulation promulgated under subsection (a), or that fails to furnish any information required under such a regulation, shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty of not more than the total of—

(i) $25,000 for each day of the violation; and

(ii) the amount of economic benefit or savings received by the person resulting from the violation, as determined by the President.

(B) COLLECTION.—Civil penalties under subparagraph (A) shall be assessed by, and collected in a civil action brought by, the Secretary or such other officer of the United States as is designated by the President.

(2) INJUNCTIVE AUTHORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction to—

(i) restrain a violation of a regulation promulgated under subsection (a);

(ii) award other appropriate relief; and

(iii) compel the furnishing of information required under the regulation.

(B) ACTIONS.—An action to restrain such violations and compel such actions shall be brought by and in the name of the United States.

(C) SUBPOENAS.—In the action, a subpoena for a witness who is required to attend a district court in any district may apply in any other district.

(i) VOLUNTARY LABELING PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish criteria for a system of voluntary labeling of renewable fuels based on life cycle greenhouse gas emissions.

(2) CONSUMER EDUCATION.—The President shall ensure that the labeling system under this subsection provides useful information to consumers making fuel purchases.

(3) FLEXIBILITY.—In carrying out this subsection, the President may establish more than 1 label, as appropriate.

(j) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, this section takes effect on January 1, 2008.

SEC. 112. PRODUCTION OF RENEWABLE FUEL USING RENEWABLE ENERGY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FACILITY.—The term ''facility'' means a facility used for the production of renewable fuel.

(2) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''renewable energy'' has the meaning given the term in section 203(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852(b)).

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''renewable energy'' includes biogas produced through the conversion of organic matter from renewable biomass.

(b) ADDITIONAL CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall provide a credit under the program established under section 111(d) to the owner of a facility that uses renewable energy to displace more than 90 percent of the fossil fuel normally used in the production of renewable fuel.

(2) CREDIT AMOUNT.—The President may provide the credit in a quantity that is not more than the equivalent of 1.5 gallons of renewable fuel for each gallon of renewable fuel produced in a facility described in paragraph (1).

Subtitle B—Renewable Fuels Infrastructure

SEC. 121. INFRASTRUCTURE PILOT PROGRAM FOR RENEWABLE FUELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall establish a competitive grant pilot program (referred to in this section as the ''pilot program''), to be administered through the Vehicle Technology Deployment Program of the Department of Energy, to provide not more than 10 geographically-dispersed project grants to State governments, Indian tribal governments, local governments, metropolitan transportation authorities, or partnerships of those entities to carry out 1 or more projects for the purposes described in subsection (b).

(b) GRANT PURPOSES.—A grant under this section shall be used for the establishment of refueling infrastructure corridors, as designated by the Secretary, for gasoline blends that contain not less than 11 percent, and not more than 85 percent, renewable fuel or diesel fuel that contains at least 10 percent renewable fuel, including—

(1) installation of infrastructure and equipment necessary to ensure adequate distribution of renewable fuels within the corridor;

(2) installation of infrastructure and equipment necessary to directly support vehicles powered by renewable fuels; and

(3) operation and maintenance of infrastructure and equipment installed as part of a project funded by the grant.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue requirements for use in applying for grants under the pilot program.

(B) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—At a minimum, the Secretary shall require that an application for a grant under this section—

(i) be submitted by—

(I) the head of a State, tribal, or local government or a metropolitan transportation authority, or any combination of those entities; and

(II) a registered participant in the Vehicle Technology Deployment Program of the Department of Energy; and

(ii) include—

(I) a description of the project proposed in the application, including the ways in which the project meets the requirements of this section;

(II) an estimate of the degree of use of the project, including the estimated size of fleet of vehicles operated with renewable fuel available within the geographic region of the corridor, measured as a total quantity and a percentage;

(III) an estimate of the potential petroleum displaced as a result of the project (measured as a total quantity and a percentage), and a plan to collect and disseminate

petroleum displacement and other relevant data relating to the project to be funded under the grant, over the expected life of the project;

(IV) a description of the means by which the project will be sustainable without Federal assistance after the completion of the term of the grant;

(V) a complete description of the costs of the project, including acquisition, construction, operation, and maintenance costs over the expected life of the project; and

(VI) a description of which costs of the project will be supported by Federal assistance under this subsection.

(2) PARTNERS.—An applicant under paragraph (1) may carry out a project under the pilot program in partnership with public and private entities.

(d) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In evaluating applications under the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

(1) consider the experience of each applicant with previous, similar projects; and

(2) give priority consideration to applications that—

(A) are most likely to maximize displacement of petroleum consumption, measured as a total quantity and a percentage;

(B) are best able to incorporate existing infrastructure while maximizing, to the extent practicable, the use of advanced biofuels;

(C) demonstrate the greatest commitment on the part of the applicant to ensure funding for the proposed project and the greatest likelihood that the project will be maintained or expanded after Federal assistance under this subsection is completed;

(D) represent a partnership of public and private entities; and

(E) exceed the minimum requirements of subsection (c)(1)(B).

(e) PILOT PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall provide not more than $20,000,000 in Federal assistance under the pilot program to any applicant.

(2) COST SHARING.—The non-Federal share of the cost of any activity relating to renewable fuel infrastructure development carried out using funds from a grant under this section shall be not less than 20 percent.

(3) MAXIMUM PERIOD OF GRANTS.—The Secretary shall not provide funds to any applicant under the pilot program for more than 2 years.

(4) DEPLOYMENT AND DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall seek, to the maximum extent practicable, to ensure a broad geographic distribution of project sites funded by grants under this section.

(5) TRANSFER OF INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE.—The Secretary shall establish mechanisms to ensure that the information and knowledge gained by participants in the pilot program are transferred among the pilot program participants and to other interested parties, including other applicants that submitted applications.

(f) SCHEDULE.—

(1) INITIAL GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register, Commerce Business Daily, and such other publications as the Secretary considers to be appropriate, a notice and request for applications to carry out projects under the pilot program.

(B) DEADLINE.—An application described in subparagraph (A) shall be submitted to the Secretary by not later than 180 days after the date of publication of the notice under that subparagraph.

(C) INITIAL SELECTION.—Not later than 90 days after the date by which applications for grants are due under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall select by competitive, peer-reviewed proposal up to 5 applications for projects to be awarded a grant under the pilot program.

(2) ADDITIONAL GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register, Commerce Business Daily, and such other publications as the Secretary considers to be appropriate, a notice and request for additional applications to carry out projects under the pilot program that incorporate the information and knowledge obtained through the implementation of the first round of projects authorized under the pilot program.

(B) DEADLINE.—An application described in subparagraph (A) shall be submitted to the Secretary by not later than 180 days after the date of publication of the notice under that subparagraph.

(C) INITIAL SELECTION.—Not later than 90 days after the date by which applications for grants are due under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall select by competitive, peer-reviewed proposal such additional applications for projects to be awarded a grant under the pilot program as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(g) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which grants are awarded under this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing—

(A) an identification of the grant recipients and a description of the projects to be funded under the pilot program;

(B) an identification of other applicants that submitted applications for the pilot program but to which funding was not provided; and

(C) a description of the mechanisms used by the Secretary to ensure that the information and knowledge gained by participants in the pilot program are transferred among the pilot program participants and to other interested parties, including other applicants that submitted applications.

(2) EVALUATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the termination of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing an evaluation of the effectiveness of the pilot program, including an assessment of the petroleum displacement and benefits to the environment derived from the projects included in the pilot program.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $200,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 122. BIOENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 931(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16231(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''$251,000,000'' and inserting ''$377,000,000''; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking ''$274,000,000'' and inserting ''$398,000,000''.

SEC. 123. BIORESEARCH CENTERS FOR SYSTEMS BIOLOGY PROGRAM.

Section 977(a)(1) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16317(a)(1)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', including the establishment of at least 11 bioresearch centers of varying sizes, as appropriate, that focus on biofuels, of which at least 2 centers shall be located in each of the 4 Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts with no subdistricts and 1 center shall be located in each of the subdistricts of the Petroleum Administration for Defense District with subdistricts''.

SEC. 124. LOAN GUARANTEES FOR RENEWABLE FUEL FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1703 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16513) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) RENEWABLE FUEL FACILITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make guarantees under this title for projects that produce advanced biofuel (as defined in section 102 of the Biofuels for Energy Security and Transportation Act of 2007).

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A project under this subsection shall employ new or significantly improved technologies for the production of renewable fuels as compared to commercial technologies in service in the United States at the time that the guarantee is issued.

''(3) ISSUANCE OF FIRST LOAN GUARANTEES.—The requirement of section 20320(b) of division B of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 109–289, Public Law 110–5), relating to the issuance of final regulations, shall not apply to the first 6 guarantees issued under this subsection.

''(4) PROJECT DESIGN.—A project for which a guarantee is made under this subsection shall have a project design that has been validated through the operation of a continuous process pilot facility with an annual output of at least 50,000 gallons of ethanol or the energy equivalent volume of other advanced biofuels.

''(5) MAXIMUM GUARANTEED PRINCIPAL.—The total principal amount of a loan guaranteed under this subsection may not exceed $250,000,000 for a single facility.

''(6) AMOUNT OF GUARANTEE.—The Secretary shall guarantee 100 percent of the principal and interest due on 1 or more loans made for a facility that is the subject of the guarantee under paragraph (3).

''(7) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall approve or disapprove an application for a guarantee under this subsection not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the application.

''(8) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after approving or disapproving an application under paragraph (7), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the approval or disapproval (including the reasons for the action).''.

(b) IMPROVEMENTS TO UNDERLYING LOAN GUARANTEE AUTHORITY.—

(1) DEFINITION OF COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY.—Section 1701(1) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16511(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'commercial technology' does not include a technology if the sole use of the technology is in connection with—

''(i) a demonstration plant; or

''(ii) a project for which the Secretary approved a loan guarantee.''.

(2) SPECIFIC APPROPRIATION OR CONTRIBUTION.—Section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16512) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) SPECIFIC APPROPRIATION OR CONTRIBUTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—No guarantee shall be made unless—

''(A) an appropriation for the cost has been made; or

''(B) the Secretary has received from the borrower a payment in full for the cost of the obligation and deposited the payment into the Treasury.

''(2) LIMITATION.—The source of payments received from a borrower under paragraph (1)(B) shall not be a loan or other debt obligation that is made or guaranteed by the Federal Government.

''(3) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—Section 504(b) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of

1990 (2 U.S.C. 661c(b)) shall not apply to a loan or loan guarantee made in accordance with paragraph (1)(B).''.

(3) AMOUNT.—Section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16512) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) AMOUNT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall guarantee up to 100 percent of the principal and interest due on 1 or more loans for a facility that are the subject of the guarantee.

''(2) LIMITATION.—The total amount of loans guaranteed for a facility by the Secretary shall not exceed 80 percent of the total cost of the facility, as estimated at the time at which the guarantee is issued.''.

(4) SUBROGATION.—Section 1702(g)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16512(g)(2)) is amended—

(A) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B).

(5) FEES.—Section 1702(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16512(h)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) AVAILABILITY.—Fees collected under this subsection shall—

''(A) be deposited by the Secretary into a special fund in the Treasury to be known as the 'Incentives For Innovative Technologies Fund'; and

''(B) remain available to the Secretary for expenditure, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation, for administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this title.''.

SEC. 125. GRANTS FOR RENEWABLE FUEL PRODUCTION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN CERTAIN STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide grants to eligible entities to conduct research into, and develop and implement, renewable fuel production technologies in States with low rates of ethanol production, including low rates of production of cellulosic biomass ethanol, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under the section, an entity shall—

(1)(A) be an institution of higher education (as defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)) located in a State described in subsection (a);

(B) be an institution—

(i) referred to in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note);

(ii) that is eligible for a grant under the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), including Diné College; or

(iii) that is eligible for a grant under the Navajo Community College Act (25 U.S.C. 640a et seq.); or

(C) be a consortium of such institutions of higher education, industry, State agencies, Indian tribal agencies, or local government agencies located in the State; and

(2) have proven experience and capabilities with relevant technologies.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

SEC. 126. GRANTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TRANSPORTATION OF BIOMASS TO LOCAL BIOREFINERIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a program under which the Secretary shall provide grants to Indian tribal and local governments and other eligible entities (as determined by the Secretary) (referred to in this section as ''eligible entities'') to promote the development of infrastructure to support the separation, production, processing, and transportation of biomass to local biorefineries.

(b) PHASES.—The Secretary shall conduct the program in the following phases:

(1) DEVELOPMENT.—In the first phase of the program, the Secretary shall make grants to eligible entities to assist the eligible entities in the development of local projects to promote the development of infrastructure to support the separation, production, processing, and transportation of biomass to local biorefineries.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—In the second phase of the program, the Secretary shall make competitive grants to eligible entities to implement projects developed under paragraph (1).

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 127. BIOREFINERY INFORMATION CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall establish a biorefinery information center to make available to interested parties information on—

(1) renewable fuel resources, including information on programs and incentives for renewable fuels;

(2) renewable fuel producers;

(3) renewable fuel users; and

(4) potential renewable fuel users.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—In administering the biorefinery information center, the Secretary shall—

(1) continually update information provided by the center;

(2) make information available to interested parties on the process for establishing a biorefinery; and

(3) make information and assistance provided by the center available through a toll-free telephone number and website.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 128. ALTERNATIVE FUEL DATABASE AND MATERIALS.

The Secretary and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall jointly establish and make available to the public—

(1) a database that describes the physical properties of different types of alternative fuel; and

(2) standard reference materials for different types of alternative fuel.

SEC. 129. FUEL TANK CAP LABELING REQUIREMENT.

Section 406(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13232(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Federal Trade Commission'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Trade Commission''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) FUEL TANK CAP LABELING REQUIREMENT.—Beginning with model year 2010, the fuel tank cap of each alternative fueled vehicle manufactured for sale in the United States shall be clearly labeled to inform consumers that such vehicle can operate on alternative fuel.''.

SEC. 130. BIODIESEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on any research and development challenges inherent in increasing to 5 percent the proportion of diesel fuel sold in the United States that is biodiesel (as defined in section 757 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16105)).

(b) REGULATIONS.—The President shall promulgate regulations providing for the uniform labeling of biodiesel blends that are certified to meet applicable standards published by the American Society for Testing and Materials.

(c) NATIONAL BIODIESEL FUEL QUALITY STANDARD.—

(1) QUALITY REGULATIONS.—Within 180 days following the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall promulgate regulations to ensure that only biodiesel that is tested and certified to comply with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) 6751 standard is introduced into interstate commerce.

(2) ENFORCEMENT.—The President shall ensure that all biodiesel entering interstate commerce meets the requirements of paragraph (1).

(3) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry out this section:

(A) $3,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

(B) $3,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.

(C) $3,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.

Subtitle C—Studies

SEC. 141. STUDY OF ADVANCED BIOFUELS TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2012, the Secretary shall offer to enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences under which the Academy shall conduct a study of technologies relating to the production, transportation, and distribution of advanced biofuels.

(b) SCOPE.—In conducting the study, the Academy shall—

(1) include an assessment of the maturity of advanced biofuels technologies;

(2) consider whether the rate of development of those technologies will be sufficient to meet the advanced biofuel standards required under section 111;

(3) consider the effectiveness of the research and development programs and activities of the Department of Energy relating to advanced biofuel technologies; and

(4) make policy recommendations to accelerate the development of those technologies to commercial viability, as appropriate.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than November 30, 2014, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report describing the results of the study conducted under this section.

SEC. 142. STUDY OF INCREASED CONSUMPTION OF ETHANOL-BLENDED GASOLINE WITH HIGHER LEVELS OF ETHANOL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Secretary of Transportation, and after providing notice and an opportunity for public comment, shall conduct a study of the feasibility of increasing consumption in the United States of ethanol-blended gasoline with levels of ethanol that are not less than 10 percent and not more than 40 percent.

(b) STUDY.—The study under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a review of production and infrastructure constraints on increasing consumption of ethanol;

(2) an evaluation of the economic, market, and energy-related impacts of State and regional differences in ethanol blends;

(3) an evaluation of the economic, market, and energy-related impacts on gasoline retailers and consumers of separate and distinctly labeled fuel storage facilities and dispensers;

(4) an evaluation of the environmental impacts of mid-level ethanol blends on evaporative and exhaust emissions from on-road, off-road, and marine engines, recreational boats, vehicles, and equipment;

(5) an evaluation of the impacts of mid-level ethanol blends on the operation, durability, and performance of on-road, off-road, and marine engines, recreational boats, vehicles, and equipment; and

(6) an evaluation of the safety impacts of mid-level ethanol blends on consumers that own and operate off-road and marine engines, recreational boats, vehicles, or equipment.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the results of the study conducted under this section.

SEC. 143. PIPELINE FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Transportation, shall conduct a study of the feasibility of the construction of dedicated ethanol pipelines.

(b) FACTORS.—In conducting the study, the Secretary shall consider—

(1) the quantity of ethanol production that would make dedicated pipelines economically viable;

(2) existing or potential barriers to dedicated ethanol pipelines, including technical, siting, financing, and regulatory barriers;

(3) market risk (including throughput risk) and means of mitigating the risk;

(4) regulatory, financing, and siting options that would mitigate risk in those areas and help ensure the construction of 1 or more dedicated ethanol pipelines;

(5) financial incentives that may be necessary for the construction of dedicated ethanol pipelines, including the return on equity that sponsors of the initial dedicated ethanol pipelines will require to invest in the pipelines;

(6) technical factors that may compromise the safe transportation of ethanol in pipelines, identifying remedial and preventative measures to ensure pipeline integrity; and

(7) such other factors as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the results of the study conducted under this section.

SEC. 144. STUDY OF OPTIMIZATION OF FLEXIBLE FUELED VEHICLES TO USE E–85 FUEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study of methods of increasing the fuel efficiency of flexible fueled vehicles by optimizing flexible fueled vehicles to operate using E–85 fuel.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes the results of the study, including any recommendations of the Secretary.

SEC. 145. STUDY OF CREDITS FOR USE OF RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

(a) DEFINITION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE.—In this section, the term ''electric vehicle'' means an electric motor vehicle (as defined in section 601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13271)) for which the rechargeable storage battery—

(1) receives a charge directly from a source of electric current that is external to the vehicle; and

(2) provides a minimum of 80 percent of the motive power of the vehicle.

(b) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study on the feasibility of issuing credits under the program established under section 111(d) to electric vehicles powered by electricity produced from renewable energy sources.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that describes the results of the study, including a description of—

(1) existing programs and studies on the use of renewable electricity as a means of powering electric vehicles; and

(2) alternatives for—

(A) designing a pilot program to determine the feasibility of using renewable electricity to power electric vehicles as an adjunct to a renewable fuels mandate;

(B) allowing the use, under the pilot program designed under subparagraph (A), of electricity generated from nuclear energy as an additional source of supply;

(C) identifying the source of electricity used to power electric vehicles; and

(D) equating specific quantities of electricity to quantities of renewable fuel under section 111(d).

SEC. 146. STUDY OF ENGINE DURABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF BIODIESEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall initiate a study on the effects of the use of biodiesel on engine durability.

(b) COMPONENTS.—The study under this section shall include—

(1) an assessment of whether the use of biodiesel in conventional diesel engines lessens engine durability; and

(2) an assessment of the effects referred to in subsection (a) with respect to biodiesel blends at varying concentrations, including—

(A) B5;

(B) B10;

(C) B20; and

(D) B30.

SEC. 147. STUDY OF INCENTIVES FOR RENEWABLE FUELS.

(a) STUDY.—The President shall conduct a study of the renewable fuels industry and markets in the United States, including—

(1) the costs to produce conventional and advanced biofuels;

(2) the factors affecting the future market prices for those biofuels, including world oil prices; and

(3) the financial incentives necessary to enhance, to the maximum extent practicable, the biofuels industry of the United States to reduce the dependence of the United States on foreign oil during calendar years 2011 through 2030.

(b) GOALS.—The study shall include an analysis of the options for financial incentives and the advantage and disadvantages of each option.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report that describes the results of the study.

SEC. 148. STUDY OF STREAMLINED LIFECYCLE ANALYSIS TOOLS FOR THE EVALUATION OF RENEWABLE CARBON CONTENT OF BIOFUELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall conduct a study of—

(1) published methods for evaluating the lifecycle fossil and renewable carbon content of fuels, including conventional and advanced biofuels; and

(2) methods for performing simplified, streamlined lifecycle analyses of the fossil and renewable carbon content of biofuels.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that describes the results of the study under subsection (a), including recommendations for a method for performing a simplified, streamlined lifecycle analysis of the fossil and renewable carbon content of biofuels that includes—

(1) carbon inputs to feedstock production; and

(2) carbon inputs to the biofuel production process, including the carbon associated with electrical and thermal energy inputs.

SEC. 149. STUDY OF THE ADEQUACY OF RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION OF DOMESTICALLY-PRODUCED RENEWABLE FUEL.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall conduct a study of the adequacy of railroad transportation of domestically-produced renewable fuel.

(2) COMPONENTS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider—

(A) the adequacy of, and appropriate location for, tracks that have sufficient capacity, and are in the appropriate condition, to move the necessary quantities of domestically-produced renewable fuel within the timeframes required by section 111;

(B) the adequacy of the supply of railroad tank cars, locomotives, and rail crews to move the necessary quantities of domestically-produced renewable fuel in a timely fashion;

(C)(i) the projected costs of moving the domestically-produced renewable fuel using railroad transportation; and

(ii) the impact of the projected costs on the marketability of the domestically-produced renewable fuel;

(D) whether there is adequate railroad competition to ensure—

(i) a fair price for the railroad transportation of domestically-produced renewable fuel; and

(ii) acceptable levels of service for railroad transportation of domestically-produced renewable fuel;

(E) any rail infrastructure capital costs that the railroads indicate should be paid by the producers or distributors of domestically-produced renewable fuel;

(F) whether Federal agencies have adequate legal authority to ensure a fair and reasonable transportation price and acceptable levels of service in cases in which the domestically-produced renewable fuel source does not have access to competitive rail service;

(G) whether Federal agencies have adequate legal authority to address railroad service problems that may be resulting in inadequate supplies of domestically-produced renewable fuel in any area of the United States; and

(H) any recommendations for any additional legal authorities for Federal agencies to ensure the reliable railroad transportation of adequate supplies of domestically-produced renewable fuel at reasonable prices.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that describes the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 150. STUDY OF EFFECTS OF ETHANOL-BLENDED GASOLINE ON OFF ROAD VEHICLES.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall conduct a study to determine the effects of ethanol-blended gasoline on off-road vehicles and recreational boats.

(2) EVALUATION.—The study shall include an evaluation of the operational, safety, durability, and environmental impacts of ethanol-blended gasoline on off-road and marine engines, recreational boats, and related equipment.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the results of the study.

TITLE II—ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROMOTION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Energy Efficiency Promotion Act of 2007''.

SEC. 202. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.

In this title, the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

Subtitle A—Promoting Advanced Lighting Technologies

SEC. 211. ACCELERATED PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING.

Section 553 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8259b) is amended by adding the following:

''(f) ACCELERATED PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2013, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Secretary, all general purpose lighting in Federal buildings shall be Energy Star products or products designated under the Federal Energy Management Program.

''(2) GUIDELINES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall issue guidelines to carry out this subsection.

''(B) REPLACEMENT COSTS.—The guidelines shall take into consideration the costs of replacing all general service lighting and the reduced cost of operation and maintenance expected to result from such replacement.''.

SEC. 212. INCANDESCENT REFLECTOR LAMP EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 321 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (30)(C)(ii)—

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I)—

(i) by striking ''or similar bulb shapes (excluding ER or BR)'' and inserting ''ER, BR, BPAR, or similar bulb shapes''; and

(ii) by striking ''2.75'' and inserting ''2.25''; and

(B) by striking ''is either—'' and all that follows through subclause (II) and inserting ''has a rated wattage that is 40 watts or higher''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(52) BPAR INCANDESCENT REFLECTOR LAMP.—The term 'BPAR incandescent reflector lamp' means a reflector lamp as shown in figure C78.21–278 on page 32 of ANSI C78.21–2003.

''(53) BR INCANDESCENT REFLECTOR LAMP; BR30; BR40.—

''(A) BR INCANDESCENT REFLECTOR LAMP.—The term 'BR incandescent reflector lamp' means a reflector lamp that has—

''(i) a bulged section below the major diameter of the bulb and above the approximate baseline of the bulb, as shown in figure 1 (RB) on page 7 of ANSI C79.1–1994, incorporated by reference in section 430.22 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph); and

''(ii) a finished size and shape shown in ANSI C78.21–1989, including the referenced reflective characteristics in part 7 of ANSI C78.21–1989, incorporated by reference in section 430.22 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph).

''(B) BR30.—The term 'BR30' means a BR incandescent reflector lamp with a diameter of 30/8ths of an inch.

''(C) BR40.—The term 'BR40' means a BR incandescent reflector lamp with a diameter of 40/8ths of an inch.

''(54) ER INCANDESCENT REFLECTOR LAMP; ER30; ER40.—

''(A) ER INCANDESCENT REFLECTOR LAMP.—The term 'ER incandescent reflector lamp' means a reflector lamp that has—

''(i) an elliptical section below the major diameter of the bulb and above the approximate baseline of the bulb, as shown in figure 1 (RE) on page 7 of ANSI C79.1–1994, incorporated by reference in section 430.22 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph); and

''(ii) a finished size and shape shown in ANSI C78.21–1989, incorporated by reference in section 430.22 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph).

''(B) ER30.—The term 'ER30' means an ER incandescent reflector lamp with a diameter of 30/8ths of an inch.

''(C) ER40.—The term 'ER40' means an ER incandescent reflector lamp with a diameter of 40/8ths of an inch.

''(55) R20 INCANDESCENT REFLECTOR LAMP.—The term 'R20 incandescent reflector lamp' means a reflector lamp that has a face diameter of approximately 2.5 inches, as shown in figure 1(R) on page 7 of ANSI C79.1–1994.''.

(b) STANDARDS FOR FLUORESCENT LAMPS AND INCANDESCENT REFLECTOR LAMPS.—Section 325(i) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6925(i)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) STANDARDS.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF EFFECTIVE DATE.—In this paragraph (other than subparagraph (D)), the term 'effective date' means, with respect to each type of lamp specified in a table contained in subparagraph (B), the last day of the period of months corresponding to that type of lamp (as specified in the table) that follows October 24, 1992.

''(B) MINIMUM STANDARDS.—Each of the following general service fluorescent lamps and incandescent reflector lamps manufactured after the effective date specified in the tables contained in this paragraph shall meet or exceed the following lamp efficacy and CRI standards:

''FLUORESCENT LAMPS

Lamp Type	Nominal Lamp Wattage	Minimum CRI	Minimum Average Lamp Efficacy (LPW)	Effective Date (Period of Months)
4-foot medium bi-pin	>35 W	69	75.0	36
	≤35 W	45	75.0	36
2-foot U-shaped	>35 W	69	68.0	36
	≤35 W	45	64.0	36
8-foot slimline	65 W	69	80.0	18
	≤65 W	45	80.0	18
8-foot high output	>100 W	69	80.0	18
	≤100 W	45	80.0	18

''INCANDESCENT REFLECTOR LAMPS

Nominal Lamp Wattage	Minimum Average Lamp Efficacy (LPW)	Effective Date (Period of Months)
40–50	10.5	36
51–66	11.0	36
67–85	12.5	36
86–115	14.0	36
116–155	14.5	36
156–205	15.0	36

''(C) EXEMPTIONS.—The standards specified in subparagraph (B) shall not apply to the following types of incandescent reflector lamps:

''(i) Lamps rated at 50 watts or less that are ER30, BR30, BR40, or ER40 lamps.

''(ii) Lamps rated at 65 watts that are BR30, BR40, or ER40 lamps.

''(iii) R20 incandescent reflector lamps rated 45 watts or less.

''(D) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

''(i) ER, BR, AND BPAR LAMPS.—The standards specified in subparagraph (B) shall apply with respect to ER incandescent reflector lamps, BR incandescent reflector lamps, BPAR incandescent reflector lamps, and similar bulb shapes on and after January 1, 2008.

''(ii) LAMPS BETWEEN 2.25–2.75 INCHES IN DIAMETER.—The standards specified in subparagraph (B) shall apply with respect to incandescent reflector lamps with a diameter of more than 2.25 inches, but not more than 2.75 inches, on and after January 1, 2008.''.

SEC. 213. BRIGHT TOMORROW LIGHTING PRIZES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, as part of the program carried out under section 1008 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16396), the Secretary shall establish and award Bright Tomorrow Lighting Prizes for solid state lighting in accordance with this section.

(b) PRIZE SPECIFICATIONS.—

(1) 60-WATT INCANDESCENT REPLACEMENT LAMP PRIZE.—The Secretary shall award a 60-Watt Incandescent Replacement Lamp Prize to an entrant that produces a solid-state light package simultaneously capable of—

(A) producing a luminous flux greater than 900 lumens;

(B) consuming less than or equal to 10 watts;

(C) having an efficiency greater than 90 lumens per watt;

(D) having a color rendering index greater than 90;

(E) having a correlated color temperature of not less than 2,750, and not more than 3,000, degrees Kelvin;

(F) having 70 percent of the lumen value under subparagraph (A) exceeding 25,000 hours under typical conditions expected in residential use;

(G) having a light distribution pattern similar to a soft 60-watt incandescent A19 bulb;

(H) having a size and shape that fits within the maximum dimensions of an A19 bulb in accordance with American National Standards Institute standard C78.20–2003, figure C78.20–211;

(I) using a single contact medium screw socket; and

(J) mass production for a competitive sales commercial market satisfied by the submission of 10,000 such units equal to or exceeding the criteria described in subparagraphs (A) through (I).

(2) PAR TYPE 38 HALOGEN REPLACEMENT LAMP PRIZE.—The Secretary shall award a Parabolic Aluminized Reflector Type 38 Halogen Replacement Lamp Prize (referred to in this section as the ''PAR Type 38 Halogen Replacement Lamp Prize'') to an entrant that produces a solid-state-light package simultaneously capable of—

(A) producing a luminous flux greater than or equal to 1,350 lumens;

(B) consuming less than or equal to 11 watts;

(C) having an efficiency greater than 123 lumens per watt;

(D) having a color rendering index greater than or equal to 90;

(E) having a correlated color coordinate temperature of not less than 2,750, and not more than 3,000, degrees Kelvin;

(F) having 70 percent of the lumen value under subparagraph (A) exceeding 25,000 hours under typical conditions expected in residential use;

(G) having a light distribution pattern similar to a PAR 38 halogen lamp;

(H) having a size and shape that fits within the maximum dimensions of a PAR 38 halogen lamp in accordance with American National Standards Institute standard C78–21–2003, figure C78.21–238;

(I) using a single contact medium screw socket; and

(J) mass production for a competitive sales commercial market satisfied by the submission of 10,000 such units equal to or exceeding the criteria described in subparagraphs (A) through (I).

(3) TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY LAMP PRIZE.—The Secretary shall award a Twenty-First Century Lamp Prize to an entrant that produces a solid-state-light-light capable of—

(A) producing a light output greater than 1,200 lumens;

(B) having an efficiency greater than 150 lumens per watt;

(C) having a color rendering index greater than 90;

(D) having a color coordinate temperature between 2,800 and 3,000 degrees Kelvin; and

(E) having a lifetime exceeding 25,000 hours.

(c) PRIVATE FUNDS.—The Secretary may accept and use funding from private sources as part of the prizes awarded under this section.

(d) TECHNICAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall establish a technical review committee composed of non-Federal officers to review entrant data submitted under this section to determine whether the data meets the prize specifications described in subsection (b).

(e) THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary may competitively select a third party to administer awards under this section.

(f) AWARD AMOUNTS.—Subject to the availability of funds to carry out this section, the amount of—

(1) the 60-Watt Incandescent Replacement Lamp Prize described in subsection (b)(1) shall be $10,000,000;

(2) the PAR Type 38 Halogen Replacement Lamp Prize described in subsection (b)(2) shall be $5,000,000; and

(3) the Twenty-First Century Lamp Prize described in subsection (b)(3) shall be $5,000,000.

(g) FEDERAL PROCUREMENT OF SOLID-STATE-LIGHTS.—

(1) 60-WATT INCANDESCENT REPLACEMENT.—Subject to paragraph (3), as soon as practicable after the successful award of the 60-Watt Incandescent Replacement Lamp Prize under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary (in consultation with the Administrator of General Services) shall develop governmentwide Federal purchase guidelines with a goal of replacing the use of 60-watt incandescent lamps in Federal Government buildings with a solid-state-light package described in subsection (b)(1) by not later than the date that is 5 years after the date the award is made.

(2) PAR 38 HALOGEN REPLACEMENT LAMP REPLACEMENT.—Subject to paragraph (3), as soon as practicable after the successful award of the PAR Type 38 Halogen Replacement Lamp Prize under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary (in consultation with the Administrator of General Services) shall develop governmentwide Federal purchase guidelines with the goal of replacing the use of PAR 38 halogen lamps in Federal Government buildings with a solid-state-light package described in subsection (b)(2) by not later than the date that is 5 years after the date the award is made.

(3) WAIVERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary or the Administrator of General Services may waive the application of paragraph (1) or (2) if the Secretary or Administrator determines that the return on investment from the purchase of a solid-state-light package described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b), respectively, is cost prohibitive.

(B) REPORT OF WAIVER.—If the Secretary or Administrator waives the application of paragraph (1) or (2), the Secretary or Administrator, respectively, shall submit to Congress an annual report that describes the waiver and provides a detailed justification for the waiver.

(h) BRIGHT LIGHT TOMORROW AWARD FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the United States Treasury a Bright Light Tomorrow permanent fund without fiscal year limitation to award prizes under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b).

(2) SOURCES OF FUNDING.—The fund established under paragraph (1) shall accept—

(A) fiscal year appropriations; and

(B) private contributions authorized under subsection (c).

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 214. SENSE OF SENATE CONCERNING EFFICIENT LIGHTING STANDARDS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) there are approximately 4,000,000,000 screw-based sockets in the United States that contain traditional, energy-inefficient, incandescent light bulbs;

(2) incandescent light bulbs are based on technology that is more than 125 years old;

(3) there are radically more efficient lighting alternatives in the market, with the promise of even more choices over the next several years;

(4) national policy can support a rapid substitution of new, energy-efficient light bulbs for the less efficient products in widespread use; and,

(5) transforming the United States market to use of more efficient lighting technologies can—

(A) reduce electric costs in the United States by more than $18,000,000,000 annually;

(B) save the equivalent electricity that is produced by 80 base load coal-fired power plants; and

(C) reduce fossil fuel related emissions by approximately 158,000,000 tons each year.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the Senate should—

(1) pass a set of mandatory, technology-neutral standards to establish firm energy efficiency performance targets for lighting products;

(2) ensure that the standards become effective within the next 10 years; and

(3) in developing the standards—

(A) establish the efficiency requirements to ensure that replacement lamps will provide consumers with the same quantity of light while using significantly less energy;

(B) ensure that consumers will continue to have multiple product choices, including energy-saving halogen, incandescent, compact fluorescent, and LED light bulbs; and

(C) work with industry and key stakeholders on measures that can assist consumers and businesses in making the important transition to more efficient lighting.

SEC. 215. RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ALASKA SMALL HYDROELECTRIC POWER.—The term ''Alaska small hydroelectric power'' means power that—

(A) is generated—

(i) in the State of Alaska;

(ii) without the use of a dam or impoundment of water; and

(iii) through the use of—

(I) a lake tap (but not a perched alpine lake); or

(II) a run-of-river screened at the point of diversion; and

(B) has a nameplate capacity rating of a wattage that is not more than 15 megawatts.

(2) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—The term ''eligible applicant'' means any—

(A) governmental entity;

(B) private utility;

(C) public utility;

(D) municipal utility;

(E) cooperative utility;

(F) Indian tribes; and

(G) Regional Corporation (as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)).

(3) OCEAN ENERGY.—

(A) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''ocean energy'' includes current, wave, and tidal energy.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ''ocean energy'' excludes thermal energy.

(4) RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT.—The term ''renewable energy project'' means a project—

(A) for the commercial generation of electricity; and

(B) that generates electricity from—

(i) solar, wind, or geothermal energy or ocean energy;

(ii) biomass (as defined in section 203(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852(b)));

(iii) landfill gas; or

(iv) Alaska small hydroelectric power.

(b) RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use amounts appropriated under this section to

make grants for use in carrying out renewable energy projects.

(2) CRITERIA.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall set forth criteria for use in awarding grants under this section.

(3) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant from the Secretary under paragraph (1), an eligible applicant shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including a written assurance that—

(A) all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors during construction, alteration, or repair that is financed, in whole or in part, by a grant under this section shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with sections 3141–3144, 3146, and 3147 of title 40, United States Code; and

(B) the Secretary of Labor shall, with respect to the labor standards described in this paragraph, have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

(4) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—Each eligible applicant that receives a grant under this subsection shall contribute to the total cost of the renewable energy project constructed by the eligible applicant an amount not less than 50 percent of the total cost of the project.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

Subtitle B—Expediting New Energy Efficiency Standards

SEC. 221. DEFINITION OF ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARD.

Section 321 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291) is amended by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

''(6) ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARD.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'energy conservation standard' means 1 or more performance standards that prescribe a minimum level of energy efficiency or a maximum quantity of energy use and, in the case of a showerhead, faucet, water closet, urinal, clothes washer, and dishwasher, water use, for a covered product, determined in accordance with test procedures prescribed under section 323.

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'energy conservation standard' includes—

''(i) 1 or more design requirements, as part of a consensus agreement under section 325(hh); and

''(ii) any other requirements that the Secretary may prescribe under subsections (o) and (r) of section 325.

''(C) EXCLUSION.—The term 'energy conservation standard' does not include a performance standard for a component of a finished covered product.''.

SEC. 222. REGIONAL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 327 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6297) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) REGIONAL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR HEATING AND COOLING PRODUCTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary may determine, after notice and comment, that more stringent Federal energy conservation standards are appropriate for furnaces, boilers, or central air conditioning equipment than applicable Federal energy conservation standards.

''(B) FINDING.—The Secretary may determine that more stringent standards are appropriate for up to 2 different regions only after finding that the regional standards—

''(i) would contribute to energy savings that are substantially greater than that of a single national energy standard; and

''(ii) are economically justified.

''(C) REGIONS.—On making a determination described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall establish the regions so that the more stringent standards would achieve the maximum level of energy savings that is technologically feasible and economically justified.

''(D) FACTORS.—In determining the appropriateness of 1 or more regional standards for furnaces, boilers, and central and commercial air conditioning equipment, the Secretary shall consider all of the factors described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 325(o).

''(2) STATE PETITION.—After a determination made by the Secretary under paragraph (1), a State may petition the Secretary requesting a rule that a State regulation that establishes a standard for furnaces, boilers, or central air conditioners become effective at a level determined by the Secretary to be appropriate for the region that includes the State.

''(3) RULE.—Subject to paragraphs (4) through (7), the Secretary may issue the rule during the period described in paragraph (4) and after consideration of the petition and the comments of interested persons.

''(4) PROCEDURE.—

''(A) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide notice of any petition filed under paragraph (2) and afford interested persons a reasonable opportunity to make written comments, including rebuttal comments, on the petition.

''(B) DECISION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), during the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the petition is filed, the Secretary shall issue the requested rule or deny the petition.

''(C) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may publish in the Federal Register a notice—

''(i) extending the period to a specified date, but not longer than 1 year after the date on which the petition is filed; and

''(ii) describing the reasons for the delay.

''(D) DENIALS.—If the Secretary denies a petition under this subsection, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice of, and the reasons for, the denial.

''(5) FINDING OF SIGNIFICANT BURDEN ON MANUFACTURING, MARKETING, DISTRIBUTION, SALE, OR SERVICING OF COVERED PRODUCT ON NATIONAL BASIS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not issue a rule under this subsection if the Secretary finds (and publishes the finding) that interested persons have established, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the State regulation will significantly burden manufacturing, marketing, distribution, sale, or servicing of a covered product on a national basis.

''(B) FACTORS.—In determining whether to make a finding described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall evaluate all relevant factors, including—

''(i) the extent to which the State regulation will increase manufacturing or distribution costs of manufacturers, distributors, and others;

''(ii) the extent to which the State regulation will disadvantage smaller manufacturers, distributors, or dealers or lessen competition in the sale of the covered product in the State; and

''(iii) the extent to which the State regulation would cause a burden to manufacturers to redesign and produce the covered product type (or class), taking into consideration the extent to which the regulation would result in a reduction—

''(I) in the current models, or in the projected availability of models, that could be shipped on the effective date of the regulation to the State and within the United States; or

''(II) in the current or projected sales volume of the covered product type (or class) in the State and the United States.

''(6) APPLICATION.—No State regulation shall become effective under this subsection with respect to any covered product manufactured before the date specified in the determination made by the Secretary under paragraph (1).

''(7) PETITION TO WITHDRAW FEDERAL RULE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT OF FEDERAL STANDARD.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a State has issued a rule under paragraph (3) with respect to a covered product and subsequently a Federal energy conservation standard concerning the product is amended pursuant to section 325, any person subject to the State regulation may file a petition with the Secretary requesting the Secretary to withdraw the rule issued under paragraph (3) with respect to the product in the State.

''(B) BURDEN OF PROOF.—The Secretary shall consider the petition in accordance with paragraph (5) and the burden shall be on the petitioner to show by a preponderance of the evidence that the rule received by the State under paragraph (3) should be withdrawn as a result of the amendment to the Federal standard.

''(C) WITHDRAWAL.—If the Secretary determines that the petitioner has shown that the rule issued by the Secretary under paragraph (3) should be withdrawn in accordance with subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall withdraw the rule.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 327 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6297) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking ''subsection (e)'' and inserting ''subsection (f)''; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking ''subsection (f)(1)'' and inserting ''subsection (g)(1)''; and

(II) by striking ''subsection (f)(2)'' and inserting ''subsection (g)(2)''; and

(B) in subsection (c)(3), by striking ''subsection (f)(3)'' and inserting ''subsection (g)(3)''.

(2) Section 345(b)(2) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6316(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(E) RELATIONSHIP TO CERTAIN STATE REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a standard prescribed or established under section 342(a) with respect to the equipment specified in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), (H), (I), and (J) of section 340 shall not supersede a State regulation that is effective under the terms, conditions, criteria, procedures, and other requirements of section 327(e).''.

SEC. 223. FURNACE FAN RULEMAKING.

Section 325(f)(3) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(f)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(E) FINAL RULE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall publish a final rule to carry out this subsection not later than December 31, 2014.

''(ii) CRITERIA.—The standards shall meet the criteria established under subsection (o).''.

SEC. 224. EXPEDITED RULEMAKINGS.

Section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(hh) EXPEDITED RULEMAKING FOR CONSENSUS STANDARDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an expedited rulemaking based on an energy conservation standard or test procedure recommended by interested persons, if—

''(A) the interested persons (demonstrating significant and broad support from manufacturers of a covered product, States, utilities, and environmental, energy efficiency, and consumer advocates) submit a joint comment or petition recommending a consensus energy conservation standard or test procedure; and

''(B) the Secretary determines that the joint comment or petition includes evidence that (assuming no other evidence were considered) provides an adequate basis for determining that the proposed consensus energy conservation standard or test procedure proposed in the joint comment or petition complies with the provisions and criteria of this Act (including subsection (o)) that apply to the type or class of covered products covered by the joint comment or petition.

''(2) PROCEDURE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (p) or section 336(a), if the Secretary receives a joint comment or petition that meets the criteria described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall conduct an expedited rulemaking with respect to the standard or test procedure proposed in the joint comment or petition in accordance with this paragraph.

''(B) ADVANCED NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING.—If no advanced notice of proposed rulemaking has been issued under subsection (p)(1) with respect to the rulemaking covered by the joint comment or petition, the requirements of subsection (p) with respect to the issuance of an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking shall not apply.

''(C) PUBLICATION OF DETERMINATION.—Not later than 60 days after receipt of a joint comment or petition described in paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall publish a description of a determination as to whether the proposed standard or test procedure covered by the joint comment or petition meets the criteria described in paragraph (1).

''(D) PROPOSED RULE.—

''(i) PUBLICATION.—If the Secretary determines that the proposed consensus standard or test procedure covered by the joint comment or petition meets the criteria described in paragraph (1), not later than 30 days after the determination, the Secretary shall publish a proposed rule proposing the consensus standard or test procedure covered by the joint comment or petition.

''(ii) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (p), the public comment period for the proposed rule shall be the 30–day period beginning on the date of the publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register.

''(iii) PUBLIC HEARING.—Notwithstanding section 336(a), the Secretary may waive the holding of a public hearing with respect to the proposed rule.

''(E) FINAL RULE.—Notwithstanding subsection (p)(4), the Secretary—

''(i) may publish a final rule at any time after the 60-day period beginning on the date of publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register; and

''(ii) shall publish a final rule not later than 120 days after the date of publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register.''.

SEC. 225. PERIODIC REVIEWS.

(a) TEST PROCEDURES.—Section 323(b)(1) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6293(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''(1)'' and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting the following:

''(1) TEST PROCEDURES.—

''(A) AMENDMENT.—At least once every 7 years, the Secretary shall review test procedures for all covered products and—

''(i) amend test procedures with respect to any covered product, if the Secretary determines that amended test procedures would more accurately or fully comply with the requirements of paragraph (3); or

''(ii) publish notice in the Federal Register of any determination not to amend a test procedure.''.

(b) ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS.—Section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295) is amended by striking subsection (m) and inserting the following:

''(m) FURTHER RULEMAKING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—After issuance of the last final rules required for a product under this part, the Secretary shall, not later than 5 years after the date of issuance of a final rule establishing or amending a standard or determining not to amend a standard, publish a final rule to determine whether standards for the product should be amended based on the criteria described in subsection (n)(2).

''(2) ANALYSIS.—Prior to publication of the determination, the Secretary shall publish a notice of availability describing the analysis of the Department and provide opportunity for written comment.

''(3) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 3 years after a positive determination under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall publish a final rule amending the standard for the product.

''(4) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT.—An amendment prescribed under this subsection shall apply to a product manufactured after a date that is 5 years after—

''(A) the effective date of the previous amendment made pursuant to this part; or

''(B) if the previous final rule published under this part did not amend the standard, the earliest date by which a previous amendment could have been in effect, except that in no case may an amended standard apply to products manufactured within 3 years after publication of the final rule establishing a standard.''.

(c) STANDARDS.—Section 342(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6313(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

''(6) AMENDED ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.—

''(A) ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL ENERGY SAVINGS.—If ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1 is amended with respect to any small commercial package air conditioning and heating equipment, large commercial package air conditioning and heating equipment, packaged terminal central and commercial air conditioners, packaged terminal heat pumps, warm-air furnaces, packaged boilers, storage water heaters, instantaneous water heaters, or unfired hot water storage tanks, not later than 180 days after the amendment of the standard, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register for public comment an analysis of the energy savings potential of amended energy efficiency standards.

''(B) AMENDED UNIFORM NATIONAL STANDARD FOR PRODUCTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), not later than 18 months after the date of publication of the amendment to the ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1 for a product described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall establish an amended uniform national standard for the product at the minimum level for the applicable effective date specified in the amended ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

''(ii) MORE STRINGENT STANDARD.—Clause (i) shall not apply if the Secretary determines, by rule published in the Federal Register, and supported by clear and convincing evidence, that adoption of a uniform national standard more stringent than the amended ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1 for the product would result in significant additional conservation of energy and is technologically feasible and economically justified.

''(C) RULE.—If the Secretary makes a determination described in subparagraph (B)(ii) for a product described in subparagraph (A), not later than 30 months after the date of publication of the amendment to the ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1 for the product, the Secretary shall issue the rule establishing the amended standard.

''(D) AMENDMENT OF STANDARDS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—After issuance of the most recent final rule for a product under this subsection, not later than 5 years after the date of issuance of a final rule establishing or amending a standard or determining not to amend a standard, the Secretary shall publish a final rule to determine whether standards for the product should be amended based on the criteria described in subparagraph (A).

''(ii) ANALYSIS.—Prior to publication of the determination, the Secretary shall publish a notice of availability describing the analysis of the Department and provide opportunity for written comment.

''(iii) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 3 years after a positive determination under clause (i), the Secretary shall publish a final rule amending the standard for the product.''.

(d) TEST PROCEDURES.—Section 343(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6313(a)) is amended by striking ''(a)'' and all that follows through the end of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(a) PRESCRIPTION BY SECRETARY; REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) TEST PROCEDURES.—

''(A) AMENDMENT.—At least once every 7 years, the Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of each class of covered equipment and—

''(i) if the Secretary determines that amended test procedures would more accurately or fully comply with the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3), shall prescribe test procedures for the class in accordance with this section; or

''(ii) shall publish notice in the Federal Register of any determination not to amend a test procedure.''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (b) and (c) take effect on January 1, 2012.

SEC. 226. ENERGY EFFICIENCY LABELING FOR CONSUMER PRODUCTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act or not later than 18 months after test procedures have been developed for a consumer electronics product category described in subsection (b), whichever is later, the Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall promulgate regulations, in accordance with the Energy Star program and in a manner that minimizes, to the maximum extent practicable, duplication with respect to the requirements of that program and other national and international energy labeling programs, to add the consumer electronics product categories described in subsection (b) to the Energy Guide labeling program of the Commission.

(b) CONSUMER ELECTRONICS PRODUCT CATEGORIES.—The consumer electronics product categories referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) Televisions.

(2) Personal computers.

(3) Cable or satellite set-top boxes.

(4) Stand-alone digital video recorder boxes.

(5) Computer monitors.

(c) LABEL PLACEMENT.—The regulations shall include specific requirements for each product on the placement of Energy Guide labels.

(d) DEADLINE FOR LABELING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of promulgation of regulations under subsection (a), the Commission shall require labeling electronic products described in subsection (b) in accordance with this section (including the regulations).

(e) AUTHORITY TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PRODUCT CATEGORIES.—The Commission may add additional product categories to the Energy Guide labeling program if the product categories include products, as determined by the Commission—

(1) that have an annual energy use in excess of 100 kilowatt hours per year; and

(2) for which there is a significant difference in energy use between the most and least efficient products.

SEC. 227. RESIDENTIAL BOILER EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.

Section 325(f) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(f)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) BOILERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), boilers manufactured on or after September 1, 2012, shall meet the following requirements:

Boiler Type	Minimum Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency	Design Requirements
Gas Hot Water	82%	No Constant Burning Pilot, Automatic Means for Adjusting Water Temperature
Gas Steam	80%	No Constant Burning Pilot
Oil Hot Water	84%	Automatic Means for Adjusting Temperature
Oil Steam	82%	None
Electric Hot Water	None	Automatic Means for Adjusting Temperature
Electric Steam	None	None

''(B) PILOTS.—The manufacturer shall not equip gas hot water or steam boilers with constant-burning pilot lights.

''(C) AUTOMATIC MEANS FOR ADJUSTING WATER TEMPERATURE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The manufacturer shall equip each gas, oil, and electric hot water boiler (other than a boiler equipped with tankless domestic water heating coils) with an automatic means for adjusting the temperature of the water supplied by the boiler to ensure that an incremental change in inferred heat load produces a corresponding incremental change in the temperature of water supplied.

''(ii) CERTAIN BOILERS.—For a boiler that fires at 1 input rate, the requirements of this subparagraph may be satisfied by providing an automatic means that allows the burner or heating element to fire only when the means has determined that the inferred heat load cannot be met by the residual heat of the water in the system.

''(iii) NO INFERRED HEAT LOAD.—When there is no inferred heat load with respect to a hot water boiler, the automatic means described in clauses (i) and (ii) shall limit the temperature of the water in the boiler to not more than 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

''(iv) OPERATION.—A boiler described in clause (i) or (ii) shall be operable only when the automatic means described in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) is installed.''.

SEC. 228. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) DEFINITION OF FLUORESCENT LAMP.—Section 321(30)(B)(viii) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291(30)(B)(viii)) is amended by striking ''82'' and inserting ''87''.

(b) STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL PACKAGE AIR CONDITIONING AND HEATING EQUIPMENT.—Section 342(a)(1) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6313(a)(1)) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking ''but before January 1, 2010,''.

(c) MERCURY VAPOR LAMP BALLASTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 321 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291) (as amended by section 212(a)(2)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (46)(A)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''bulb'' and inserting ''the arc tube''; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking ''has a bulb'' and inserting ''wall loading is'';

(B) in paragraph (47)(A), by striking ''operating at a partial'' and inserting ''typically operating at a partial vapor'';

(C) in paragraph (48), by inserting ''intended for general illumination'' after ''lamps''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(56) The term 'specialty application mercury vapor lamp ballast' means a mercury vapor lamp ballast that—

''(A) is designed and marketed for medical use, optical comparators, quality inspection, industrial processing, or scientific use, including fluorescent microscopy, ultraviolet curing, and the manufacture of microchips, liquid crystal displays, and printed circuit boards; and

''(B) in the case of a specialty application mercury vapor lamp ballast, is labeled as a specialty application mercury vapor lamp ballast.''.

(2) STANDARD SETTING AUTHORITY.—Section 325(ee) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(ee)) is amended by inserting ''(other than specialty application mercury vapor lamp ballasts)'' after ''ballasts''.

SEC. 229. ELECTRIC MOTOR EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 340(13) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6311(13)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A)(i) The term 'electric motor' means—

''(I) a general purpose electric motor—subtype I; and

''(II) a general purpose electric motor—subtype II.

''(ii) The term 'general purpose electric motor—subtype I' means any motor that is considered a general purpose motor under section 431.12 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

''(iii) The term 'general purpose electric motor—subtype II' means a motor that, in addition to the design elements for a general purpose electric motor—subtype I, incorporates the design elements (as established in National Electrical Manufacturers Association MG–1 (2006)) for any of the following:

''(I) A U–Frame Motor.

''(II) A Design C Motor.

''(III) A close-coupled pump motor.

''(IV) A footless motor.

''(V) A vertical solid shaft normal thrust (tested in a horizontal configuration).

''(VI) An 8-pole motor.

''(VII) A poly-phase motor with voltage of not more than 600 volts (other than 230 or 460 volts).''.

(b) STANDARDS.—Section 342(b) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6313(13)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) STANDARDS.—

''(A) GENERAL PURPOSE ELECTRIC MOTORS—SUBTYPE I.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subparagraph, a general purpose electric motor—subtype I with a power rating of not less than 1, and not more than 200, horsepower manufactured (alone or as a component of another piece of equipment) after the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this subparagraph, shall have a nominal full load efficiency established in Table 12–12 of National Electrical Manufacturers Association (referred to in this paragraph as 'NEMA') MG–1 (2006).

''(ii) FIRE PUMP MOTORS.—A fire pump motor shall have a nominal full load efficiency established in Table 12–11 of NEMA MG–1 (2006).

''(B) GENERAL PURPOSE ELECTRIC MOTORS—SUBTYPE II.—A general purpose electric motor—subtype II with a power rating of not less than 1, and not more than 200, horsepower manufactured (alone or as a component of another piece of equipment) after the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this subparagraph, shall have a nominal full load efficiency established in Table 12–11 of NEMA MG–1 (2006).

''(C) DESIGN B, GENERAL PURPOSE ELECTRIC MOTORS.—A NEMA Design B, general purpose electric motor with a power rating of not less than 201, and not more than 500, horsepower manufactured (alone or as a component of another piece of equipment) after the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this subparagraph shall have a

nominal full load efficiency established in Table 12–11 of NEMA MG–1 (2006).''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 230. ENERGY STANDARDS FOR HOME APPLIANCES.

(a) DEFINITION OF ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARD.—Section 321(6)(A) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291(6)(A)) is amended by striking ''or, in the case of'' and inserting ''and, in the case of residential clothes washers, residential dishwashers,''.

(b) REFRIGERATORS, REFRIGERATOR-FREEZERS, AND FREEZERS.—Section 325(b) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) REFRIGERATORS, REFRIGERATOR-FREEZERS, AND FREEZERS MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2014.—Not later than December 31, 2010, the Secretary shall publish a final rule determining whether to amend the standards in effect for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers manufactured on or after January 1, 2014, and including any amended standards.''.

(c) RESIDENTIAL CLOTHES WASHERS AND DISHWASHERS.—Section 325(g)(4) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(g)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) CLOTHES WASHERS.—

''(i) CLOTHES WASHERS MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2011.—A residential clothes washer manufactured on or after January 1, 2011, shall have—

''(I) a modified energy factor of at least 1.26; and

''(II) a water factor of not more than 9.5.

''(ii) CLOTHES WASHERS MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2012.—Not later than January 1, 2012, the Secretary shall publish a final rule determining whether to amend the standards in effect for residential clothes washers manufactured on or after January 1, 2012, and including any amended standards.

''(E) DISHWASHERS.—

''(i) DISHWASHERS MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2010.—A dishwasher manufactured on or after January 1, 2010, shall use not more than—

''(I) in the case of a standard-size dishwasher, 355 kWh per year or 6.5 gallons of water per cycle; and

''(II) in the case of a compact-size dishwasher, 260 kWh per year or 4.5 gallons of water per cycle.

''(ii) DISHWASHERS MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2018.—Not later than January 1, 2015, the Secretary shall publish a final rule determining whether to amend the standards for dishwashers manufactured on or after January 1, 2018, and including any amended standards.''.

(d) DEHUMIDIFIERS.—Section 325(cc) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(cc)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''and before October 1, 2012,'' after ''2007,''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) DEHUMIDIFIERS MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2012.—Dehumidifiers manufactured on or after October 1, 2012, shall have an Energy Factor that meets or exceeds the following values:

Product Capacity (pints/day):	Minimum Energy Factor liters/kWh
Up to 35.00	1.35
35.01–45.00	1.50
45.01–54.00	1.60
54.01–75.00	1.70
Greater than 75.00	2.5.''.

(e) ENERGY STAR PROGRAM.—Section 324A(d)(2) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''2010'' and inserting ''2009''.

SEC. 231. IMPROVED ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR APPLIANCES AND BUILDINGS IN COLD CLIMATES.

(a) RESEARCH.—Section 911(a)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16191(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) technologies to improve the energy efficiency of appliances and mechanical systems for buildings in cold climates, including combined heat and power units and increased use of renewable resources, including fuel.''.

(b) REBATES.—Section 124 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15821) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting '', or products with improved energy efficiency in cold climates,'' after ''residential Energy Star products''; and

(2) in subsection (e), by inserting ''or product with improved energy efficiency in a cold climate'' after ''residential Energy Star product'' each place it appears.

SEC. 232. DEPLOYMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR HIGH-EFFICIENCY CONSUMER PRODUCTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ENERGY SAVINGS.—The term ''energy savings'' means megawatt-hours of electricity or million British thermal units of natural gas saved by a product, in comparison to projected energy consumption under the energy efficiency standard applicable to the product.

(2) HIGH-EFFICIENCY CONSUMER PRODUCT.—The term ''high-efficiency consumer product'' means a product that exceeds the energy efficiency of comparable products available in the market by a percentage determined by the Secretary to be an appropriate benchmark for the consumer product category competing for an award under this section.

(b) FINANCIAL INCENTIVES PROGRAM.—Effective beginning October 1, 2007, the Secretary shall competitively award financial incentives under this section for the manufacture of high-efficiency consumer products.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make awards under this section to manufacturers of high-efficiency consumer products, based on the bid of each manufacturer in terms of dollars per megawatt-hour or million British thermal units saved.

(2) ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS.—In making awards under this section, the Secretary shall—

(A) solicit bids for reverse auction from appropriate manufacturers, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) award financial incentives to the manufacturers that submit the lowest bids that meet the requirements established by the Secretary.

(d) FORMS OF AWARDS.—An award for a high-efficiency consumer product under this section shall be in the form of a lump sum payment in an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying—

(1) the amount of the bid by the manufacturer of the high-efficiency consumer product; and

(2) the energy savings during the projected useful life of the high-efficiency consumer product, not to exceed 10 years, as determined under regulations issued by the Secretary.

SEC. 233. INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term eligible entity means—

(A) an institution of higher education under contract or in partnership with a nonprofit or for-profit private entity acting on behalf of an industrial or commercial sector or subsector;

(B) a nonprofit or for-profit private entity acting on behalf on an industrial or commercial sector or subsector; or

(C) a consortia of entities acting on behalf of an industrial or commercial sector or subsector.

(2) ENERGY-INTENSIVE COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS.—The term ''energy-intensive commercial applications'' means processes and facilities that use significant quantities of energy as part of the primary economic activities of the processes and facilities, including—

(A) information technology data centers;

(B) product manufacturing; and

(C) food processing.

(3) FEEDSTOCK.—The term ''feedstock'' means the raw material supplied for use in manufacturing, chemical, and biological processes.

(4) MATERIALS MANUFACTURERS.—The term ''materials manufacturers'' means the energy-intensive primary manufacturing industries, including the aluminum, chemicals, forest and paper products, glass, metal casting, and steel industries.

(5) PARTNERSHIP.—The term ''partnership'' means an energy efficiency and utilization partnership established under subsection (c)(1)(A).

(6) PROGRAM.—The term ''program'' means the industrial efficiency program established under subsection (b).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a program under which the Secretary, in cooperation with materials manufacturers, companies engaged in energy-intensive commercial applications, and national industry trade associations representing the manufactures and companies, shall support, develop, and promote the use of new materials manufacturing and industrial and commercial processes, technologies, and techniques to optimize energy efficiency and the economic competitiveness of the United States.

(c) PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program, the Secretary shall—

(A) establish energy efficiency and utilization partnerships between the Secretary and eligible entities to conduct research on, develop, and demonstrate new processes, technologies, and operating practices and techniques to significantly improve energy efficiency and utilization by materials manufacturers and in energy-intensive commercial applications, including the conduct of activities to—

(i) increase the energy efficiency of industrial and commercial processes and facilities in energy-intensive commercial application sectors;

(ii) research, develop, and demonstrate advanced technologies capable of energy intensity reductions and increased environmental performance in energy-intensive commercial application sectors; and

(iii) promote the use of the processes, technologies, and techniques described in clauses (i) and (ii); and

(B) pay the Federal share of the cost of any eligible partnership activities for which a

proposal has been submitted and approved in accordance with paragraph (3)(B).

(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Partnership activities eligible for financial assistance under this subsection include—

(A) feedstock and recycling research, development, and demonstration activities to identify and promote—

(i) opportunities for meeting manufacturing feedstock requirements with more energy efficient and flexible sources of feedstock or energy supply;

(ii) strategies to develop and deploy technologies that improve the quality and quantity of feedstocks recovered from process and waste streams; and

(iii) other methods using recycling, reuse, and improved industrial materials;

(B) industrial and commercial energy efficiency and sustainability assessments to—

(i) assist individual industrial and commercial sectors in developing tools, techniques, and methodologies to assess—

(I) the unique processes and facilities of the sectors;

(II) the energy utilization requirements of the sectors; and

(III) the application of new, more energy efficient technologies; and

(ii) conduct energy savings assessments;

(C) the incorporation of technologies and innovations that would significantly improve the energy efficiency and utilization of energy-intensive commercial applications; and

(D) any other activities that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(3) PROPOSALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for financial assistance under this subsection, a partnership shall submit to the Secretary a proposal that describes the proposed research, development, or demonstration activity to be conducted by the partnership.

(B) REVIEW.—After reviewing the scientific, technical, and commercial merit of a proposals submitted under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the proposal.

(C) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—The provision of financial assistance under this subsection shall be on a competitive basis.

(4) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall require cost sharing in accordance with section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section—

(A) $184,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

(B) $190,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

(C) $196,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

(D) $202,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

(E) $208,000,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

(F) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2013 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(2) PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES.—Of the amounts made available under paragraph (1), not less than 50 percent shall be used to pay the Federal share of partnership activities under subsection (c).

Subtitle C—Promoting High Efficiency Vehicles, Advanced Batteries, and Energy Storage

SEC. 241. LIGHTWEIGHT MATERIALS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a research and development program to determine ways in which—

(1) the weight of vehicles may be reduced to improve fuel efficiency without compromising passenger safety; and

(2) the cost of lightweight materials (such as steel alloys, fiberglass, and carbon composites) required for the construction of lighter-weight vehicles may be reduced.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012.

SEC. 242. LOAN GUARANTEES FOR FUEL-EFFICIENT AUTOMOBILE PARTS MANUFACTURERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 712(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16062(a)) is amended in the second sentence by striking ''grants to automobile manufacturers'' and inserting ''grants and loan guarantees under section 1703 to automobile manufacturers and suppliers''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1703(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16513(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the following:

''(8) Production facilities for the manufacture of fuel efficient vehicles or parts of those vehicles, including electric drive transportation technology and advanced diesel vehicles.''.

SEC. 243. ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADJUSTED AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY.—The term ''adjusted average fuel economy'' means the average fuel economy of a manufacturer for all light duty vehicles produced by the manufacturer, adjusted such that the fuel economy of each vehicle that qualifies for an award shall be considered to be equal to the average fuel economy for vehicles of a similar footprint for model year 2005.

(2) ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLE.—The term ''advanced technology vehicle'' means a light duty vehicle that meets—

(A) the Bin 5 Tier II emission standard established in regulations issued by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under section 202(i) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7521(i)), or a lower-numbered Bin emission standard;

(B) any new emission standard for fine particulate matter prescribed by the Administrator under that Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.); and

(C) at least 125 percent of the average base year combined fuel economy, calculated on an energy-equivalent basis, for vehicles of a substantially similar footprint.

(3) COMBINED FUEL ECONOMY.—The term ''combined fuel economy'' means—

(A) the combined city/highway miles per gallon values, as reported in accordance with section 32908 of title 49, United States Code; and

(B) in the case of an electric drive vehicle with the ability to recharge from an off-board source, the reported mileage, as determined in a manner consistent with the Society of Automotive Engineers recommended practice for that configuration or a similar practice recommended by the Secretary, using a petroleum equivalence factor for the off-board electricity (as defined in section 474 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations).

(4) ENGINEERING INTEGRATION COSTS.—The term ''engineering integration costs'' includes the cost of engineering tasks relating to—

(A) incorporating qualifying components into the design of advanced technology vehicles; and

(B) designing new tooling and equipment for production facilities that produce qualifying components or advanced technology vehicles.

(5) QUALIFYING COMPONENTS.—The term ''qualifying components'' means components that the Secretary determines to be—

(A) specially designed for advanced technology vehicles; and

(B) installed for the purpose of meeting the performance requirements of advanced technology vehicles.

(b) ADVANCED VEHICLES MANUFACTURING FACILITY.—The Secretary shall provide facility funding awards under this section to automobile manufacturers and component suppliers to pay not more than 30 percent of the cost of—

(1) reequipping, expanding, or establishing a manufacturing facility in the United States to produce—

(A) qualifying advanced technology vehicles; or

(B) qualifying components; and

(2) engineering integration performed in the United States of qualifying vehicles and qualifying components.

(c) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—An award under subsection (b) shall apply to—

(1) facilities and equipment placed in service before December 30, 2017; and

(2) engineering integration costs incurred during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 30, 2017.

(d) IMPROVEMENT.—The Secretary shall issue regulations that require that, in order for an automobile manufacturer to be eligible for an award under this section during a particular year, the adjusted average fuel economy of the manufacturer for light duty vehicles produced by the manufacturer during the most recent year for which data are available shall be not less than the average fuel economy for all light duty vehicles of the manufacturer for model year 2005.

SEC. 244. ENERGY STORAGE COMPETITIVENESS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''United States Energy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007''.

(b) ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS FOR MOTOR TRANSPORTATION AND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COUNCIL.—The term ''Council'' means the Energy Storage Advisory Council established under paragraph (3).

(B) COMPRESSED AIR ENERGY STORAGE.—The term ''compressed air energy storage'' means, in the case of an electricity grid application, the storage of energy through the compression of air.

(C) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Energy.

(D) FLYWHEEL.—The term ''flywheel'' means, in the case of an electricity grid application, a device used to store rotational kinetic energy.

(E) ULTRACAPACITOR.—The term ''ultracapacitor'' means an energy storage device that has a power density comparable to conventional capacitors but capable of exceeding the energy density of conventional capacitors by several orders of magnitude.

(2) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall carry out a research, development, and demonstration program to support the ability of the United States to remain globally competitive in energy storage systems for motor transportation and electricity transmission and distribution.

(3) ENERGY STORAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish an Energy Storage Advisory Council.

(B) COMPOSITION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Council shall consist of not less than 15 individuals appointed by the Secretary, based on recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences.

(ii) ENERGY STORAGE INDUSTRY.—The Council shall consist primarily of representatives of the energy storage industry of the United States.

(iii) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary shall select a Chairperson for the Council from among the members appointed under clause (i).

(C) MEETINGS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall meet not less than once a year.

(ii) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2) shall apply to a meeting of the Council.

(D) PLANS.—No later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, in conjunction with the Secretary, the Council shall develop 5-year plans for integrating basic and applied research so that the United States retains a globally competitive domestic energy storage industry for motor transportation and electricity transmission and distribution.

(E) REVIEW.—The Council shall—

(i) assess the performance of the Department in meeting the goals of the plans developed under subparagraph (D); and

(ii) make specific recommendations to the Secretary on programs or activities that should be established or terminated to meet those goals.

(4) BASIC RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

(A) BASIC RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall conduct a basic research program on energy storage systems to support motor transportation and electricity transmission and distribution, including—

(i) materials design;

(ii) materials synthesis and characterization;

(iii) electrolytes, including bioelectrolytes;

(iv) surface and interface dynamics; and

(v) modeling and simulation.

(B) NANOSCIENCE CENTERS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the nanoscience centers of the Department—

(i) support research in the areas described in subparagraph (A), as part of the mission of the centers; and

(ii) coordinate activities of the centers with activities of the Council.

(5) APPLIED RESEARCH PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall conduct an applied research program on energy storage systems to support motor transportation and electricity transmission and distribution technologies, including—

(A) ultracapacitors;

(B) flywheels;

(C) batteries;

(D) compressed air energy systems;

(E) power conditioning electronics; and

(F) manufacturing technologies for energy storage systems.

(6) ENERGY STORAGE RESEARCH CENTERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish, through competitive bids, 4 energy storage research centers to translate basic research into applied technologies to advance the capability of the United States to maintain a globally competitive posture in energy storage systems for motor transportation and electricity transmission and distribution.

(B) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.—The centers shall be jointly managed by the Under Secretary for Science and the Under Secretary of Energy of the Department.

(C) PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS.—As a condition of participating in a center, a participant shall enter into a participation agreement with the center that requires that activities conducted by the participant for the center promote the goal of enabling the United States to compete successfully in global energy storage markets.

(D) PLANS.—A center shall conduct activities that promote the achievement of the goals of the plans of the Council under paragraph (3)(D).

(E) COST SHARING.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary shall require cost-sharing in accordance with section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352).

(F) NATIONAL LABORATORIES.—A national laboratory (as defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)) may participate in a center established under this paragraph, including a cooperative research and development agreement (as defined in section 12(d) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a(d))).

(G) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—A participant shall be provided appropriate intellectual property rights commensurate with the nature of the participation agreement of the participant.

(7) REVIEW BY NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall offer to enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to assess the performance of the Department in making the United States globally competitive in energy storage systems for motor transportation and electricity transmission and distribution.

(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out—

(A) the basic research program under paragraph (4) $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2017;

(B) the applied research program under paragraph (5) $80,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2017; and;

(C) the energy storage research center program under paragraph (6) $100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2017.

SEC. 245. ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

(a) ELECTRIC DRIVE VEHICLE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

(1) DEFINITION OF ELECTRIC DRIVE VEHICLE.—In this subsection, the term ''electric drive vehicle'' means a precommercial vehicle that—

(A) draws motive power from a battery with at least 4 kilowatt-hours of electricity;

(B) can be recharged from an external source of electricity for motive power; and

(C) is a light-, medium-, or heavy-duty onroad or nonroad vehicle.

(2) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive program to provide grants for demonstrations of electric drive vehicles.

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—A State government, local government, metropolitan transportation authority, air pollution control district, private entity, and nonprofit entity shall be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection.

(4) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to proposals that—

(A) are likely to contribute to the commercialization and production of electric drive vehicles in the United States; and

(B) reduce petroleum usage.

(5) SCOPE OF DEMONSTRATIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that the program established under this subsection includes a variety of applications, manufacturers, and end-uses.

(6) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall require a grant recipient under this subsection to submit to the Secretary, on an annual basis, data relating to vehicle, performance, life cycle costs, and emissions of vehicles demonstrated under the grant, including emissions of greenhouse gases.

(7) COST SHARING.—Section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352) shall apply to a grant made under this subsection.

(8) AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, of which not less than $20,000,000 shall be available each fiscal year only to make grants local and municipal governments.

(b) NEAR-TERM OIL SAVING TRANSPORTATION DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED TRANSPORTATION PROJECT.—In this subsection, the term ''qualified transportation project'' means—

(A) a project that simultaneously reduces emissions of criteria pollutants, greenhouse gas emissions, and petroleum usage by at least 40 percent as compared to commercially available, petroleum-based technologies used in nonroad vehicles; and

(B) an electrification project involving onroad commercial trucks, rail transportation, or ships, and any associated infrastructure (including any panel upgrades, battery chargers, trenching, and alternative fuel infrastructure).

(2) PROGRAM.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall establish a program to provide grants to eligible entities for the conduct of qualified transportation projects.

(3) PRIORITY.—In providing grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to large-scale projects and large-scale aggregators of projects.

(4) COST SHARING.—Section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352) shall apply to a grant made under this subsection.

(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to carry this subsection $90,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013.

Subtitle D—Setting Energy Efficiency Goals

SEC. 251. NATIONAL GOALS FOR ENERGY SAVINGS IN TRANSPORTATION.

(a) GOALS.—The goals of the United States are to reduce gasoline usage in the United States from the levels projected under subsection (b) by—

(1) 20 percent by calendar year 2017;

(2) 35 percent by calendar year 2025; and

(3) 45 percent by calendar year 2030.

(b) MEASUREMENT.—For purposes of subsection (a), reduction in gasoline usage shall be measured from the estimates for each year in subsection (a) contained in the reference case in the report of the Energy Information Administration entitled ''Annual Energy Outlook 2007''.

(c) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall develop a strategic plan to achieve the national goals for reduction in gasoline usage established under subsection (a).

(2) PUBLIC INPUT AND COMMENT.—The Secretary shall develop the plan in a manner that provides appropriate opportunities for public comment.

(d) PLAN CONTENTS.—The strategic plan shall—

(1) establish future regulatory, funding, and policy priorities to ensure compliance with the national goals;

(2) include energy savings estimates for each sector; and

(3) include data collection methodologies and compilations used to establish baseline and energy savings data.

(e) PLAN UPDATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) update the strategic plan biennially; and

(B) include the updated strategic plan in the national energy policy plan required by section 801 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7321).

(2) CONTENTS.—In updating the plan, the Secretary shall—

(A) report on progress made toward implementing efficiency policies to achieve the national goals established under subsection (a); and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, verify energy savings resulting from the policies.

(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS AND PUBLIC.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make available to the public, the initial strategic plan developed under subsection (c) and each updated plan.

SEC. 252. NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT GOALS.

(a) GOALS.—The goals of the United States are—

(1) to achieve an improvement in the overall energy productivity of the United States (measured in gross domestic product per unit of energy input) of at least 2.5 percent per year by the year 2012; and

(2) to maintain that annual rate of improvement each year through 2030.

(b) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall develop a strategic plan to achieve the national goals for improvement in energy productivity established under subsection (a).

(2) PUBLIC INPUT AND COMMENT.—The Secretary shall develop the plan in a manner that provides appropriate opportunities for public input and comment.

(c) PLAN CONTENTS.—The strategic plan shall—

(1) establish future regulatory, funding, and policy priorities to ensure compliance with the national goals;

(2) include energy savings estimates for each sector; and

(3) include data collection methodologies and compilations used to establish baseline and energy savings data.

(d) PLAN UPDATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) update the strategic plan biennially; and

(B) include the updated strategic plan in the national energy policy plan required by section 801 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7321).

(2) CONTENTS.—In updating the plan, the Secretary shall—

(A) report on progress made toward implementing efficiency policies to achieve the national goals established under subsection (a); and

(B) verify, to the maximum extent practicable, energy savings resulting from the policies.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS AND PUBLIC.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make available to the public, the initial strategic plan developed under subsection (b) and each updated plan.

SEC. 253. NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary''), shall develop and conduct a national media campaign—

(1) to increase energy efficiency throughout the economy of the United States over the next decade;

(2) to promote the national security benefits associated with increased energy efficiency; and

(3) to decrease oil consumption in the United States over the next decade.

(b) CONTRACT WITH ENTITY.—The Secretary shall carry out subsection (a) directly or through—

(1) competitively bid contracts with 1 or more nationally recognized media firms for the development and distribution of monthly television, radio, and newspaper public service announcements; or

(2) collective agreements with 1 or more nationally recognized institutes, businesses, or nonprofit organizations for the funding, development, and distribution of monthly television, radio, and newspaper public service announcements.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts made available to carry out this section shall be used for the following:

(A) ADVERTISING COSTS.—

(i) The purchase of media time and space.

(ii) Creative and talent costs.

(iii) Testing and evaluation of advertising.

(iv) Evaluation of the effectiveness of the media campaign.

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Operational and management expenses.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall allocate not less than 85 percent of funds made available under subsection (e) for each fiscal year for the advertising functions specified under paragraph (1)(A).

(d) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall annually submit to Congress a report that describes—

(1) the strategy of the national media campaign and whether specific objectives of the campaign were accomplished, including—

(A) determinations concerning the rate of change of energy consumption, in both absolute and per capita terms; and

(B) an evaluation that enables consideration whether the media campaign contributed to reduction of energy consumption;

(2) steps taken to ensure that the national media campaign operates in an effective and efficient manner consistent with the overall strategy and focus of the campaign;

(3) plans to purchase advertising time and space;

(4) policies and practices implemented to ensure that Federal funds are used responsibly to purchase advertising time and space and eliminate the potential for waste, fraud, and abuse; and

(5) all contracts or cooperative agreements entered into with a corporation, partnership, or individual working on behalf of the national media campaign.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(2) DECREASED OIL CONSUMPTION.—The Secretary shall use not less than 50 percent of the amount that is made available under this section for each fiscal year to develop and conduct a national media campaign to decrease oil consumption in the United States over the next decade.

SEC. 254. MODERNIZATION OF ELECTRICITY GRID SYSTEM.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States that developing and deploying advanced technology to modernize and increase the efficiency of the electricity grid system of the United States is essential to maintain a reliable and secure electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure that can meet future demand growth.

(b) PROGRAMS.—The Secretary, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and other Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall carry out programs to support the use, development, and demonstration of advanced transmission and distribution technologies, including real-time monitoring and analytical software—

(1) to maximize the capacity and efficiency of electricity networks;

(2) to enhance grid reliability;

(3) to reduce line losses;

(4) to facilitate the transition to real-time electricity pricing;

(5) to allow grid incorporation of more on-site renewable energy generators;

(6) to enable electricity to displace a portion of the petroleum used to power the national transportation system of the United States; and

(7) to enable broad deployment of distributed generation and demand side management technology.

Subtitle E—Promoting Federal Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

SEC. 261. FEDERAL FLEET CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) FEDERAL FLEET CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part J of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6374 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 400FF. FEDERAL FLEET CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS.

''(a) MANDATORY REDUCTION IN PETROLEUM CONSUMPTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall issue regulations (including provisions for waivers from the requirements of this section) for Federal fleets subject to section 400AA requiring that not later than October 1, 2015, each Federal agency achieve at least a 20 percent reduction in petroleum consumption, and that each Federal agency increase alternative fuel consumption by 10 percent annually, as calculated from the baseline established by the Secretary for fiscal year 2005.

''(2) PLAN.—

''(A) REQUIREMENT.—The regulations shall require each Federal agency to develop a plan to meet the required petroleum reduction levels and the alternative fuel consumption increases.

''(B) MEASURES.—The plan may allow an agency to meet the required petroleum reduction level through—

''(i) the use of alternative fuels;

''(ii) the acquisition of vehicles with higher fuel economy, including hybrid vehicles, neighborhood electric vehicles, electric vehicles, and plug–in hybrid vehicles if the vehicles are commercially available;

''(iii) the substitution of cars for light trucks;

''(iv) an increase in vehicle load factors;

''(v) a decrease in vehicle miles traveled;

''(vi) a decrease in fleet size; and

''(vii) other measures.

''(b) FEDERAL EMPLOYEE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS FOR REDUCING PETROLEUM CONSUMPTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal agency shall actively promote incentive programs that encourage Federal employees and contractors to reduce petroleum usage through the use of practices such as—

''(A) telecommuting;

''(B) public transit;

''(C) carpooling; and

''(D) bicycling.

''(2) MONITORING AND SUPPORT FOR INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.—The Administrator of General Services, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the Secretary of Energy shall monitor and provide appropriate support to agency programs described in paragraph (1).

''(3) RECOGNITION.—The Secretary may establish a program under which the Secretary recognizes private sector employers and State and local governments for outstanding programs to reduce petroleum usage through practices described in paragraph (1).

''(c) REPLACEMENT TIRES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the regulations issued under

subsection (a)(1) shall include a requirement that, to the maximum extent practicable, each Federal agency purchase energy-efficient replacement tires for the respective fleet vehicles of the agency.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—This section does not apply to—

''(A) law enforcement motor vehicles;

''(B) emergency motor vehicles; or

''(C) motor vehicles acquired and used for military purposes that the Secretary of Defense has certified to the Secretary must be exempt for national security reasons.

''(d) ANNUAL REPORTS ON COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress an annual report that summarizes actions taken by Federal agencies to comply with this section.''.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. prec. 6201) is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to part J of title III the following:

''Sec. 400FF. Federal fleet conservation requirements.''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the amendment made by this section $10,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2013.

SEC. 262. FEDERAL REQUIREMENT TO PURCHASE ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Section 203 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) REQUIREMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the Secretary, shall require that, to the extent economically feasible and technically practicable, of the total quantity of domestic electric energy the Federal Government consumes during any fiscal year, the following percentages shall be renewable energy from facilities placed in service after January 1, 1999:

''(A) Not less than 10 percent in fiscal year 2010.

''(B) Not less than 15 percent in fiscal year 2015.

''(2) CAPITOL COMPLEX.—The Architect of the Capitol, in consultation with the Secretary, shall ensure that, of the total quantity of electric energy the Capitol complex consumes during any fiscal year, the percentages prescribed in paragraph (1) shall be renewable energy.

''(3) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The President may reduce or waive the requirement under paragraph (1) on a fiscal-year basis if the President determines that complying with paragraph (1) for a fiscal year would result in—

''(A) a negative impact on military training or readiness activities conducted by the Department of Defense;

''(B) a negative impact on domestic preparedness activities conducted by the Department of Homeland Security; or

''(C) a requirement that a Federal agency provide emergency response services in the event of a natural disaster or terrorist attack.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) CONTRACTS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY FROM PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 501(b)(1)(B) of title 40, United States Code, a contract for renewable energy from a public utility service may be made for a period of not more than 50 years.''.

SEC. 263. ENERGY SAVINGS PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS.

(a) RETENTION OF SAVINGS.—Section 546(c) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8256(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (5).

(b) SUNSET AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 801 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8287) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(c) DEFINITION OF ENERGY SAVINGS.—Section 804(2) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8287c(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by striking ''means a reduction'' and inserting ''means—

''(A) a reduction'';

(3) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) the increased efficient use of an existing energy source by cogeneration or heat recovery, and installation of renewable energy systems;

''(C) if otherwise authorized by Federal or State law (including regulations), the sale or transfer of electrical or thermal energy generated on-site from renewable energy sources or cogeneration, but in excess of Federal needs, to utilities or non-Federal energy users; and

''(D) the increased efficient use of existing water sources in interior or exterior applications.''.

(d) NOTIFICATION.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS.—Section 801(a)(2)(D) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8287(a)(2)(D)) is amended—

(A) in clause (ii), by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(B) by striking clause (iii); and

(C) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (iii).

(2) REPORTS.—Section 548(a)(2) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8258(a)(2)) is amended by inserting ''and any termination penalty exposure'' after ''the energy and cost savings that have resulted from such contracts''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2913 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (e).

(e) ENERGY AND COST SAVINGS IN NONBUILDING APPLICATIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) NONBUILDING APPLICATION.—The term ''nonbuilding application'' means—

(i) any class of vehicles, devices, or equipment that is transportable under the power of the applicable vehicle, device, or equipment by land, sea, or air and that consumes energy from any fuel source for the purpose of—

(I) that transportation; or

(II) maintaining a controlled environment within the vehicle, device, or equipment; and

(ii) any federally-owned equipment used to generate electricity or transport water.

(B) SECONDARY SAVINGS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ''secondary savings'' means additional energy or cost savings that are a direct consequence of the energy savings that result from the energy efficiency improvements that were financed and implemented pursuant to an energy savings performance contract.

(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''secondary savings'' includes—

(I) energy and cost savings that result from a reduction in the need for fuel delivery and logistical support;

(II) personnel cost savings and environmental benefits; and

(III) in the case of electric generation equipment, the benefits of increased efficiency in the production of electricity, including revenues received by the Federal Government from the sale of electricity so produced.

(2) STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly conduct, and submit to Congress and the President a report of, a study of the potential for the use of energy savings performance contracts to reduce energy consumption and provide energy and cost savings in nonbuilding applications.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under this subsection shall include—

(i) an estimate of the potential energy and cost savings to the Federal Government, including secondary savings and benefits, from increased efficiency in nonbuilding applications;

(ii) an assessment of the feasibility of extending the use of energy savings performance contracts to nonbuilding applications, including an identification of any regulatory or statutory barriers to such use; and

(iii) such recommendations as the Secretary and Secretary of Defense determine to be appropriate.

SEC. 264. ENERGY MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL BUILDINGS.

Section 543(a)(1) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8253(a)(1)) is amended by striking the table and inserting the following:

''Fiscal Year	Percentage reduction
2006	2
2007	4
2008	9
2009	12
2010	15
2011	18
2012	21
2013	24
2014	27
2015	30.''.

SEC. 265. COMBINED HEAT AND POWER AND DISTRICT ENERGY INSTALLATIONS AT FEDERAL SITES.

Section 543 of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8253) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) COMBINED HEAT AND POWER AND DISTRICT ENERGY INSTALLATIONS AT FEDERAL SITES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services and the Secretary of Defense, shall identify Federal sites that could achieve significant cost-effective energy savings through the use of combined heat and power or district energy installations.

''(2) INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide agencies with information and technical assistance that will enable the agencies to take advantage of the energy savings described in paragraph (1).

''(3) ENERGY PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS.—Any energy savings from the installations described in paragraph (1) may be applied to meet the energy performance requirements for an agency under subsection (a)(1).''.

SEC. 266. FEDERAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

Section 305(a)(3)(A) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834(a)(3)(A)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''this paragraph'' and by inserting ''the Energy Efficiency Promotion Act of 2007''; and

(2) in clause (i)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating subclause (II) as subclause (III); and

(C) by inserting after subclause (I) the following:

''(II) the buildings be designed, to the extent economically feasible and technically practicable, so that the fossil fuel-generated energy consumption of the buildings is reduced, as compared with the fossil fuel-generated energy consumption by a similar Federal building in fiscal year 2003 (as measured by Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey or Residential Energy Consumption Survey data from the Energy Information Agency), by the percentage specified in the following table:

''Fiscal Year	Percentage reduction
2007	50
2010	60
2015	70
2020	80
2025	90
2030	100;

and''.

SEC. 267. APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE TO PUBLIC AND ASSISTED HOUSING.

Section 109 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12709) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)(C), by striking '', where such standards are determined to be cost effective by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development'';

(2) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) by striking ''the Council of American Building Officials Model Energy Code, 1992'' and inserting ''2006 International Energy Conservation Code''; and

(B) by striking '', and, with respect to rehabilitation and new construction of public and assisted housing funded by HOPE VI revitalization grants under section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v), the 2003 International Energy Conservation Code'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''MODEL ENERGY CODE.—'' and inserting ''INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE.—'';

(B) after ''all new construction'' in the first sentence insert ''and rehabilitation''; and

(C) by striking '', and, with respect to rehabilitation and new construction of public and assisted housing funded by HOPE VI revitalization grants under section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v), the 2003 International Energy Conservation Code'';

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''MODEL ENERGY CODE AND''; and

(B) by striking '', or, with respect to rehabilitation and new construction of public and assisted housing funded by HOPE VI revitalization grants under section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v), the 2003 International Energy Conservation Code'';

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) FAILURE TO AMEND THE STANDARDS.—If the Secretaries have not, within 1 year after the requirements of the 2006 IECC or the ASHRAE Standard 90.1–2004 are revised, amended the standards or made a determination under subsection (c) of this section, and if the Secretary of Energy has made a determination under section 304 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6833) that the revised code or standard would improve energy efficiency, all new construction and rehabilitation of housing specified in subsection (a) shall meet the requirements of the revised code or standard.'';

(6) by striking ''CABO Model Energy Code, 1992'' each place it appears and inserting ''the 2006 IECC''; and

(7) by striking ''1989'' each place it appears and inserting ''2004''.

SEC. 268. ENERGY EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS INITIATIVE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONSORTIUM.—The term ''consortium'' means a working group that is comprised of—

(A) individuals representing—

(i) 1 or more businesses engaged in—

(I) commercial building development;

(II) construction; or

(III) real estate;

(ii) financial institutions;

(iii) academic or research institutions;

(iv) State or utility energy efficiency programs;

(v) nongovernmental energy efficiency organizations; and

(vi) the Federal Government;

(B) 1 or more building designers; and

(C) 1 or more individuals who own or operate 1 or more buildings.

(2) ENERGY EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL BUILDING.—The term ''energy efficient commercial building'' means a commercial building that is designed, constructed, and operated—

(A) to require a greatly reduced quantity of energy;

(B) to meet, on an annual basis, the balance of energy needs of the commercial building from renewable sources of energy; and

(C) to be economically viable.

(3) INITIATIVE.—The term ''initiative'' means the Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings Initiative.

(b) INITIATIVE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the consortium to develop and carry out the initiative—

(A) to reduce the quantity of energy consumed by commercial buildings located in the United States; and

(B) to achieve the development of energy efficient commercial buildings in the United States.

(2) GOAL OF INITIATIVE.—The goal of the initiative shall be to develop technologies and practices and implement policies that lead to energy efficient commercial buildings for—

(A) any commercial building newly constructed in the United States by 2030;

(B) 50 percent of the commercial building stock of the United States by 2040; and

(C) all commercial buildings in the United States by 2050.

(3) COMPONENTS.—In carrying out the initiative, the Secretary, in collaboration with the consortium, may—

(A) conduct research and development on building design, materials, equipment and controls, operation and other practices, integration, energy use measurement and benchmarking, and policies;

(B) conduct demonstration projects to evaluate replicable approaches to achieving energy efficient commercial buildings for a variety of building types in a variety of climate zones;

(C) conduct deployment activities to disseminate information on, and encourage widespread adoption of, technologies, practices, and policies to achieve energy efficient commercial buildings; and

(D) conduct any other activity necessary to achieve any goal of the initiative, as determined by the Secretary, in collaboration with the consortium.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated under paragraph (1), the Secretary may allocate funds from other appropriations to the initiative without changing the purpose for which the funds are appropriated.

Subtitle F—Assisting State and Local Governments in Energy Efficiency

SEC. 271. WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME PERSONS.

Section 422 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6872) is amended by striking ''$700,000,000 for fiscal year 2008'' and inserting ''$750,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012''.

SEC. 272. STATE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLANS.

Section 365(f) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6325(f)) is amended by striking ''fiscal year 2008'' and inserting ''each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012''.

SEC. 273. UTILITY ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS.

(a) ELECTRIC UTILITIES.—Section 111(d) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2621(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(16) INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING.—Each electric utility shall—

''(A) integrate energy efficiency resources into utility, State, and regional plans; and

''(B) adopt policies establishing cost-effective energy efficiency as a priority resource.

''(17) RATE DESIGN MODIFICATIONS TO PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY INVESTMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The rates allowed to be charged by any electric utility shall—

''(i) align utility incentives with the delivery of cost-effective energy efficiency; and

''(ii) promote energy efficiency investments.

''(B) POLICY OPTIONS.—In complying with subparagraph (A), each State regulatory authority and each nonregulated utility shall consider—

''(i) removing the throughput incentive and other regulatory and management disincentives to energy efficiency;

''(ii) providing utility incentives for the successful management of energy efficiency programs;

''(iii) including the impact on adoption of energy efficiency as 1 of the goals of retail rate design, recognizing that energy efficiency must be balanced with other objectives;

''(iv) adopting rate designs that encourage energy efficiency for each customer class; and

''(v) allowing timely recovery of energy efficiency-related costs.''.

(b) NATURAL GAS UTILITIES.—Section 303(b) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 3203(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) ENERGY EFFICIENCY.—Each natural gas utility shall—

''(A) integrate energy efficiency resources into the plans and planning processes of the natural gas utility; and

''(B) adopt policies that establish energy efficiency as a priority resource in the plans and planning processes of the natural gas utility.

''(6) RATE DESIGN MODIFICATIONS TO PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY INVESTMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The rates allowed to be charged by a natural gas utility shall align utility incentives with the deployment of cost-effective energy efficiency.

''(B) POLICY OPTIONS.—In complying with subparagraph (A), each State regulatory authority and each nonregulated utility shall consider—

''(i) separating fixed-cost revenue recovery from the volume of transportation or sales service provided to the customer;

''(ii) providing to utilities incentives for the successful management of energy efficiency programs, such as allowing utilities to retain a portion of the cost-reducing benefits accruing from the programs;

''(iii) promoting the impact on adoption of energy efficiency as 1 of the goals of retail

rate design, recognizing that energy efficiency must be balanced with other objectives; and

''(iv) adopting rate designs that encourage energy efficiency for each customer class.''.

SEC. 274. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAM ASSISTANCE.

The Secretary shall provide technical assistance regarding the design and implementation of the energy efficiency and demand response programs established under this title, and the amendments made by this title, to State energy offices, public utility regulatory commissions, and nonregulated utilities through the appropriate national laboratories of the Department of Energy.

SEC. 275. ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BLOCK GRANT.

Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 123. ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BLOCK GRANT.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section

''(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) a State;

''(B) an eligible unit of local government within a State; and

''(C) an Indian tribe.

''(2) ELIGIBLE UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term 'eligible unit of local government' means—

''(A) a city with a population—

''(i) of at least 35,000; or

''(ii) that causes the city to be 1 of the top 10 most populous cities of the State in which the city is located; and

''(B) a county with a population—

''(i) of at least 200,000; or

''(ii) that causes the county to be 1 of the top 10 most populous counties of the State in which the county is located.

''(3) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Energy.

''(4) STATE.—The term 'State' means—

''(A) a State;

''(B) the District of Columbia;

''(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

''(D) any other territory or possession of the United States.

''(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to assist State and local governments in implementing strategies—

''(1) to reduce fossil fuel emissions created as a result of activities within the boundaries of the States or units of local government;

''(2) to reduce the total energy use of the States and units of local government; and

''(3) to improve energy efficiency in the transportation sector, building sector, and any other appropriate sectors.

''(c) PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to eligible entities block grants to carry out eligible activities (as specified under paragraph (2)) relating to the implementation of environmentally beneficial energy strategies.

''(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall establish a list of activities that are eligible for assistance under the grant program.

''(3) ALLOCATION TO STATES AND ELIGIBLE UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available to provide grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall allocate—

''(i) 70 percent to eligible units of local government; and

''(ii) 30 percent to States.

''(B) DISTRIBUTION TO ELIGIBLE UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a formula for the distribution of amounts under subparagraph (A)(i) to eligible units of local government, taking into account any factors that the Secretary determines to be appropriate, including the residential and daytime population of the eligible units of local government.

''(ii) CRITERIA.—Amounts shall be distributed to eligible units of local government under clause (i) only if the eligible units of local government meet the criteria for distribution established by the Secretary for units of local government.

''(C) DISTRIBUTION TO STATES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts provided to States under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary shall distribute—

''(I) at least 1.25 percent to each State; and

''(II) the remainder among the States, based on a formula, to be determined by the Secretary, that takes into account the population of the States and any other criteria that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(ii) CRITERIA.—Amounts shall be distributed to States under clause (i) only if the States meet the criteria for distribution established by the Secretary for States.

''(iii) LIMITATION ON USE OF STATE FUNDS.—At least 40 percent of the amounts distributed to States under this subparagraph shall be used by the States for the conduct of eligible activities in nonentitlement areas in the States, in accordance with any criteria established by the Secretary.

''(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which an eligible entity first receives a grant under this section, and every 2 years thereafter, the eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary a report that describes any eligible activities carried out using assistance provided under this subsection.

''(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

''(d) ENVIRONMENTALLY BENEFICIAL ENERGY STRATEGIES SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to each eligible entity that meets the applicable criteria under subparagraph (B)(ii) or (C)(ii) of subsection (c)(3) a supplemental grant to pay the Federal share of the total costs of carrying out an activity relating to the implementation of an environmentally beneficial energy strategy.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for a grant under paragraph (1), an eligible entity shall—

''(A) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the eligible entity meets the applicable criteria under subparagraph (B)(ii) or (C)(ii) of subsection (c)(3); and

''(B) submit to the Secretary for approval a plan that describes the activities to be funded by the grant.

''(3) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of carrying out any activities under this subsection shall be 75 percent.

''(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(i) FORM.—Not more than 50 percent of the non-Federal share may be in the form of in-kind contributions.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—Amounts provided to an eligible entity under subsection (c) shall not be used toward the non-Federal share.

''(4) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—An eligible entity shall provide assurances to the Secretary that funds provided to the eligible entity under this subsection will be used only to supplement, not to supplant, the amount of Federal, State, and local funds otherwise expended by the eligible entity for eligible activities under this subsection.

''(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

''(e) GRANTS TO OTHER STATES AND COMMUNITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the total amount of funds that are made available each fiscal year to carry out this section, the Secretary shall use 2 percent of the amount to make competitive grants under this section to States and units of local government that are not eligible entities or to consortia of such units of local government.

''(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under this subsection, a State, unit of local government, or consortia described in paragraph (1) shall apply to the Secretary for a grant to carry out an activity that would otherwise be eligible for a grant under subsection (c) or (d).

''(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to—

''(A) States with populations of less than 2,000,000; and

''(B) projects that would result in significant energy efficiency improvements, reductions in fossil fuel use, or capital improvements.''.

SEC. 276. ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY AND EFFICIENCY GRANTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Part G of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by inserting after section 399 (42 U.S.C. 371h) the following:

''SEC. 399A. ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY AND EFFICIENCY GRANTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY.—The term 'energy sustainability' includes using a renewable energy resource and a highly efficient technology for electricity generation, transportation, heating, or cooling.

''(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term 'institution of higher education' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

''(b) GRANTS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award not more than 100 grants to institutions of higher education to carry out projects to improve energy efficiency on the grounds and facilities of the institution of higher education, including not less than 1 grant to an institution of higher education in each State.

''(2) CONDITION.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this subsection, an institution of higher education shall agree to—

''(A) implement a public awareness campaign concerning the project in the community in which the institution of higher education is located; and

''(B) submit to the Secretary, and make available to the public, reports on any efficiency improvements, energy cost savings, and environmental benefits achieved as part of a project carried out under paragraph (1).

''(c) GRANTS FOR INNOVATION IN ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award not more than 250 grants to institutions of higher education to engage in innovative energy sustainability projects, including not less than 2 grants to institutions of higher education in each State.

''(2) INNOVATION PROJECTS.—An innovation project carried out with a grant under this subsection shall—

''(A) involve—

''(i) an innovative technology that is not yet commercially available; or

''(ii) available technology in an innovative application that maximizes energy efficiency and sustainability;

''(B) have the greatest potential for testing or demonstrating new technologies or processes; and

''(C) ensure active student participation in the project, including the planning, implementation, evaluation, and other phases of the project.

''(3) CONDITION.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this subsection, an institution of higher education shall agree to submit to the Secretary, and make available to the public, reports that describe the results of the projects carried out under paragraph (1).

''(d) AWARDING OF GRANTS.—

''(1) APPLICATION.—An institution of higher education that seeks to receive a grant under this section may submit to the Secretary an application for the grant at such time, in such form, and containing such information as the Secretary may prescribe.

''(2) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall establish a committee to assist in the selection of grant recipients under this section.

''(e) ALLOCATION TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITH SMALL ENDOWMENTS.—Of the amount of grants provided for a fiscal year under this section, the Secretary shall provide not less 50 percent of the amount to institutions of higher education that have an endowment of not more than $100,000,000, with 50 percent of the allocation set aside for institutions of higher education that have an endowment of not more than $50,000,000.

''(f) GRANT AMOUNTS.—The maximum amount of grants for a project under this section shall not exceed—

''(1) in the case of grants for energy efficiency improvement under subsection (b), $1,000,000; or

''(2) in the case of grants for innovation in energy sustainability under subsection (c), $500,000.

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.''.

SEC. 277. WORKFORCE TRAINING.

Section 1101 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16411) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) WORKFORCE TRAINING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of Labor, shall promulgate regulations to implement a program to provide workforce training to meet the high demand for workers skilled in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with representatives of the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries concerning skills that are needed in those industries.''.

SEC. 278. ASSISTANCE TO STATES TO REDUCE SCHOOL BUS IDLING.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—Congress encourages each local educational agency (as defined in section 9101(26) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(26))) that receives Federal funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) to develop a policy to reduce the incidence of school bus idling at schools while picking up and unloading students.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, working in coordination with the Secretary of Education, $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 for use in educating States and local education agencies about—

(1) benefits of reducing school bus idling; and

(2) ways in which school bus idling may be reduced.

TITLE III—CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Carbon Capture and Sequestration Act of 2007''.

SEC. 302. CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Section 963 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16293) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**research and development**'' and inserting ''**and storage research, development, and demonstration**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''research and development'' and inserting ''and storage research, development, and demonstration''; and

(B) by striking ''capture technologies on combustion-based systems'' and inserting ''capture and storage technologies related to energy systems'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) to expedite and carry out large-scale testing of carbon sequestration systems in a range of geological formations that will provide information on the cost and feasibility of deployment of sequestration technologies.''; and

(4) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNDERLYING CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES AND CARBON USE ACTIVITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out fundamental science and engineering research (including laboratory-scale experiments, numeric modeling, and simulations) to develop and document the performance of new approaches to capture and store, recycle, or reuse carbon dioxide.

''(B) PROGRAM INTEGRATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that fundamental research carried out under this paragraph is appropriately applied to energy technology development activities, the field testing of carbon sequestration, and carbon use activities, including—

''(i) development of new or improved technologies for the capture of carbon dioxide;

''(ii) development of new or improved technologies that reduce the cost and increase the efficacy of the compression of carbon dioxide required for the storage of carbon dioxide;

''(iii) modeling and simulation of geological sequestration field demonstrations;

''(iv) quantitative assessment of risks relating to specific field sites for testing of sequestration technologies; and

''(v) research and development of new and improved technologies for carbon use, including recycling and reuse of carbon dioxide.

''(2) CARBON CAPTURE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a demonstration of large-scale carbon dioxide capture from an appropriate gasification facility selected by the Secretary.

''(B) LINK TO STORAGE ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary may require the use of carbon dioxide from the project carried out under subparagraph (A) in a field testing validation activity under this section.

''(3) FIELD VALIDATION TESTING ACTIVITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promote, to the maximum extent practicable, regional carbon sequestration partnerships to conduct geologic sequestration tests involving carbon dioxide injection and monitoring, mitigation, and verification operations in a variety of candidate geological settings, including—

''(i) operating oil and gas fields;

''(ii) depleted oil and gas fields;

''(iii) unmineable coal seams;

''(iv) deep saline formations;

''(v) deep geological systems that may be used as engineered reservoirs to extract economical quantities of heat from geothermal resources of low permeability or porosity; and

''(vi) deep geologic systems containing basalt formations.

''(B) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of tests conducted under this paragraph shall be—

''(i) to develop and validate geophysical tools, analysis, and modeling to monitor, predict, and verify carbon dioxide containment;

''(ii) to validate modeling of geological formations;

''(iii) to refine storage capacity estimated for particular geological formations;

''(iv) to determine the fate of carbon dioxide concurrent with and following injection into geological formations;

''(v) to develop and implement best practices for operations relating to, and monitoring of, injection and storage of carbon dioxide in geologic formations;

''(vi) to assess and ensure the safety of operations related to geological storage of carbon dioxide; and

''(vii) to allow the Secretary to promulgate policies, procedures, requirements, and guidance to ensure that the objectives of this subparagraph are met in large-scale testing and deployment activities for carbon capture and storage that are funded by the Department of Energy.

''(4) LARGE-SCALE TESTING AND DEPLOYMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct not less than 7 initial large-volume sequestration tests for geological containment of carbon dioxide (at least 1 of which shall be international in scope) to validate information on the cost and feasibility of commercial deployment of technologies for geological containment of carbon dioxide.

''(B) DIVERSITY OF FORMATIONS TO BE STUDIED.—In selecting formations for study under this paragraph, the Secretary shall consider a variety of geological formations across the United States, and require characterization and modeling of candidate formations, as determined by the Secretary.

''(5) PREFERENCE IN PROJECT SELECTION FROM MERITORIOUS PROPOSALS.—In making competitive awards under this subsection, subject to the requirements of section 989, the Secretary shall give preference to proposals from partnerships among industrial, academic, and government entities.

''(6) COST SHARING.—Activities under this subsection shall be considered research and development activities that are subject to the cost-sharing requirements of section 988(b).

''(7) PROGRAM REVIEW AND REPORT.—During fiscal year 2011, the Secretary shall—

''(A) conduct a review of programmatic activities carried out under this subsection; and

''(B) make recommendations with respect to continuation of the activities.

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

''(1) $150,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

''(2) $200,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

''(3) $200,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

''(4) $180,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

''(5) $165,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.''.

SEC. 303. CARBON DIOXIDE STORAGE CAPACITY ASSESSMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section

(1) ASSESSMENT.—The term ''assessment'' means the national assessment of capacity for carbon dioxide completed under subsection (f).

(2) CAPACITY.—The term ''capacity'' means the portion of a storage formation that can retain carbon dioxide in accordance with the requirements (including physical, geological, and economic requirements) established under the methodology developed under subsection (b).

(3) ENGINEERED HAZARD.—The term ''engineered hazard'' includes the location and completion history of any well that could affect potential storage.

(4) RISK.—The term ''risk'' includes any risk posed by geomechanical, geochemical, hydrogeological, structural, and engineered hazards.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(6) STORAGE FORMATION.—The term ''storage formation'' means a deep saline formation, unmineable coal seam, or oil or gas reservoir that is capable of accommodating a volume of industrial carbon dioxide.

(b) METHODOLOGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a methodology for conducting an assessment under subsection (f), taking into consideration—

(1) the geographical extent of all potential storage formations in all States;

(2) the capacity of the potential storage formations;

(3) the injectivity of the potential storage formations;

(4) an estimate of potential volumes of oil and gas recoverable by injection and storage of industrial carbon dioxide in potential storage formations;

(5) the risk associated with the potential storage formations; and

(6) the Carbon Sequestration Atlas of the United States and Canada that was completed by the Department of Energy in April 2006.

(c) COORDINATION.—

(1) FEDERAL COORDINATION.—

(A) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on issues of data sharing, format, development of the methodology, and content of the assessment required under this title to ensure the maximum usefulness and success of the assessment.

(B) COOPERATION.—The Secretary of Energy and the Administrator shall cooperate with the Secretary to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, the usefulness and success of the assessment.

(2) STATE COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall consult with State geological surveys and other relevant entities to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, the usefulness and success of the assessment.

(d) EXTERNAL REVIEW AND PUBLICATION.—On completion of the methodology under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

(1) publish the methodology and solicit comments from the public and the heads of affected Federal and State agencies;

(2) establish a panel of individuals with expertise in the matters described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (b) composed, as appropriate, of representatives of Federal agencies, institutions of higher education, nongovernmental organizations, State organizations, industry, and international geoscience organizations to review the methodology and comments received under paragraph (1); and

(3) on completion of the review under paragraph (2), publish in the Federal Register the revised final methodology.

(e) PERIODIC UPDATES.—The methodology developed under this section shall be updated periodically (including at least once every 5 years) to incorporate new data as the data becomes available.

(f) NATIONAL ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of publication of the methodology under subsection (d)(1), the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and State geological surveys, shall complete a national assessment of capacity for carbon dioxide in accordance with the methodology.

(2) GEOLOGICAL VERIFICATION.—As part of the assessment under this subsection, the Secretary shall carry out a drilling program to supplement the geological data relevant to determining storage capacity of carbon dioxide in geological storage formations, including—

(A) well log data;

(B) core data; and

(C) fluid sample data.

(3) PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER DRILLING PROGRAMS.—As part of the drilling program under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall enter, as appropriate, into partnerships with other entities to collect and integrate data from other drilling programs relevant to the storage of carbon dioxide in geologic formations.

(4) INCORPORATION INTO NATCARB.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—On completion of the assessment, the Secretary of Energy shall incorporate the results of the assessment using the NatCarb database, to the maximum extent practicable.

(B) RANKING.—The database shall include the data necessary to rank potential storage sites for capacity and risk, across the United States, within each State, by formation, and within each basin.

(5) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the assessment is completed, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives a report describing the findings under the assessment.

(6) PERIODIC UPDATES.—The national assessment developed under this section shall be updated periodically (including at least once every 5 years) to support public and private sector decisionmaking.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $30,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

SEC. 304. CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE INITIATIVE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INDUSTRIAL SOURCES OF CARBON DIOXIDE.—The term ''industrial sources of carbon dioxide'' means one or more facilities to—

(A) generate electric energy from fossil fuels;

(B) refine petroleum;

(C) manufacture iron or steel;

(D) manufacture cement or cement clinker;

(E) manufacture commodity chemicals (including from coal gasification); or

(F) manufacture transportation fuels from coal.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

(b) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a program to demonstrate technologies for the large-scale capture of carbon dioxide from industrial sources of carbon dioxide.

(2) SCOPE OF AWARD.—An award under this section shall be only for the portion of the project that carries out the large-scale capture (including purification and compression) of carbon dioxide, as well as the cost of transportation and injection of carbon dioxide.

(3) QUALIFICATIONS FOR AWARD.—To be eligible for an award under this section, a project proposal must include the following:

(A) CAPACITY.—The capture of not less than eighty-five percent of the produced carbon dioxide at the facility, and not less than 500,000 short tons of carbon dioxide per year.

(B) STORAGE AGREEMENT.—A binding agreement for the storage of all of the captured carbon dioxide in—

(i) a field testing validation activity under section 963 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended by this Act; or

(ii) other geological storage projects approved by the Secretary.

(C) PURITY LEVEL.—A purity level of at least 95 percent for the captured carbon dioxide delivered for storage.

(D) COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED OPERATION OF SUCCESSFUL UNIT.—If the project successfully demonstrates capture and storage of carbon dioxide, a commitment to continued capture and storage of carbon dioxide after the conclusion of the demonstration.

(4) COST-SHARING.—The cost-sharing requirements of section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 shall apply to this section.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $100,000,000 per year for fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

TITLE IV—COST-EFFECTIVE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Subtitle A—Public Buildings Cost Reduction

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Public Buildings Cost Reduction Act of 2007''.

SEC. 402. COST-EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACCELERATION PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of General Services (referred to in this section as the ''Administrator'') shall establish a program to accelerate the use of more cost-effective technologies and practices at GSA facilities.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The program established under this subsection shall—

(A) ensure centralized responsibility for the coordination of cost reduction recommendations, practices, and activities of all relevant Federal agencies;

(B) provide technical assistance and operational guidance to applicable tenants in order to achieve the goals identified in subsection (c)(2)(A); and

(C) establish methods to track the success of departments and agencies with respect to the goals identified in subsection (c)(2)(A).

(b) ACCELERATED USE OF COST-EFFECTIVE LIGHTING TECHNOLOGIES.—

(1) REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program under this subsection, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall conduct a review of—

(i) current use of cost-effective lighting technologies in GSA facilities; and

(ii) the availability to managers of GSA facilities of cost-effective lighting technologies.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The review under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) examine the use of cost-effective lighting technologies and other cost-effective technologies and practices by Federal agencies in GSA facilities; and

(ii) identify, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency, cost-effective lighting technology standards that could be used for all types of GSA facilities.

(2) REPLACEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program under this subsection, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish a cost-effective lighting technology acceleration program to achieve maximum feasible replacement of existing lighting technologies with more cost-effective lighting technologies in each GSA facility using available appropriations.

(B) ACCELERATION PLAN TIMETABLE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—To implement the program established under subparagraph (A), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish a timetable including milestones for specific activities needed to replace existing lighting technologies with more cost-effective lighting technologies, to the maximum extent feasible (including at the maximum rate feasible), at each GSA facility.

(ii) GOAL.—The goal of the timetable under clause (i) shall be to complete, using available appropriations, maximum feasible replacement of existing lighting technologies with more cost-effective lighting technologies by not later than the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) GSA FACILITY COST-EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall—

(1) ensure that a manager responsible for accelerating the use of cost-effective technologies and practices is designated for each GSA facility; and

(2) submit to Congress a plan, to be implemented to the maximum extent feasible (including at the maximum rate feasible) using available appropriations, by not later than the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, that—

(A) identifies the specific activities needed to achieve a 20-percent reduction in operational costs through the application of cost-effective technologies and practices from 2003 levels at GSA facilities by not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) describes activities required and carried out to estimate the funds necessary to achieve the reduction described in subparagraph (A);

(C) describes the status of the implementation of cost-effective technologies and practices at GSA facilities, including—

(i) the extent to which programs, including the program established under subsection (b), are being carried out in accordance with this subtitle; and

(ii) the status of funding requests and appropriations for those programs;

(D) identifies within the planning, budgeting, and construction process all types of GSA facility-related procedures that inhibit new and existing GSA facilities from implementing cost-effective technologies and practices;

(E) recommends language for uniform standards for use by Federal agencies in implementing cost-effective technologies and practices;

(F) in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, reviews the budget process for capital programs with respect to alternatives for—

(i) permitting Federal agencies to retain all identified savings accrued as a result of the use of cost-effective technologies and practices; and

(ii) identifying short- and long-term cost savings that accrue from cost-effective technologies and practices;

(G) achieves cost savings through the application of cost-effective technologies and practices sufficient to pay the incremental additional costs of installing the cost-effective technologies and practices by not later than the date that is 5 years after the date of installation; and

(H) includes recommendations to address each of the matters, and a plan for implementation of each recommendation, described in subparagraphs (A) through (G).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 403. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY DEMONSTRATION GRANT PROGRAM FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

(a) GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this section as the ''Administrator'') shall establish a demonstration program under which the Administrator shall provide competitive grants to assist local governments (such as municipalities and counties), with respect to local government buildings—

(A) to deploy cost-effective technologies and practices; and

(B) to achieve operational cost savings, through the application of cost-effective technologies and practices, as verified by the Administrator.

(2) COST SHARING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the cost of an activity carried out using a grant provided under this section shall be 40 percent.

(B) WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The Administrator may waive up to 100 percent of the local share of the cost of any grant under this section should the Administrator determine that the community is economically distressed, pursuant to objective economic criteria established by the Administrator in published guidelines.

(3) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant provided under this subsection shall not exceed $1,000,000.

(b) GUIDELINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue guidelines to implement the grant program established under subsection (a).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidelines under paragraph (1) shall establish—

(A) standards for monitoring and verification of operational cost savings through the application of cost-effective technologies and practices reported by grantees under this section;

(B) standards for grantees to implement training programs, and to provide technical assistance and education, relating to the retrofit of buildings using cost-effective technologies and practices; and

(C) a requirement that each local government that receives a grant under this section shall achieve facility-wide cost savings, through renovation of existing local government buildings using cost-effective technologies and practices, of at least 40 percent as compared to the baseline operational costs of the buildings before the renovation (as calculated assuming a 3-year, weather-normalized average).

(c) COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW.—Nothing in this section or any program carried out using a grant provided under this section supersedes or otherwise affects any State or local law, to the extent that the State or local law contains a requirement that is more stringent than the relevant requirement of this section.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012.

(e) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide annual reports to Congress on cost savings achieved and actions taken and recommendations made under this section, and any recommendations for further action.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall issue a final report at the conclusion of the program, including findings, a summary of total cost savings achieved, and recommendations for further action.

(f) TERMINATION.—The program under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2012.

SEC. 404. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) COST-EFFECTIVE LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''cost-effective lighting technology'' means a lighting technology that—

(i) will result in substantial operational cost savings by ensuring an installed consumption of not more than 1 watt per square foot; or

(ii) is contained in a list under—

(I) section 553 of Public Law 95–619 (42 U.S.C. 8259b); and

(II) Federal acquisition regulation 23–203.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''cost-effective lighting technology'' includes—

(i) lamps;

(ii) ballasts;

(iii) luminaires;

(iv) lighting controls;

(v) daylighting; and

(vi) early use of other highly cost-effective lighting technologies.

(2) COST-EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES.—The term ''cost-effective technologies and practices'' means a technology or practice that—

(A) will result in substantial operational cost savings by reducing utility costs; and

(B) complies with the provisions of section 553 of Public Law 95–619 (42 U.S.C. 8259b) and Federal acquisition regulation 23–203.

(3) OPERATIONAL COST SAVINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''operational cost savings'' means a reduction in end-use operational costs through the application of cost-effective technologies and practices, including a reduction in electricity consumption relative to consumption by the same customer or at the same facility in a given year, as defined in guidelines promulgated by the Administrator pursuant to section 403(b), that achieves cost savings sufficient to pay the incremental additional costs of using cost-effective technologies and practices by not later than the date that is 5 years after the date of installation.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''operational cost savings'' includes savings achieved at a facility as a result of—

(i) the installation or use of cost-effective technologies and practices; or

(ii) the planting of vegetation that shades the facility and reduces the heating, cooling, or lighting needs of the facility.

(C) EXCLUSION.—The term ''operational cost savings'' does not include savings from measures that would likely be adopted in the absence of cost-effective technology and practices programs, as determined by the Administrator.

(4) GSA FACILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''GSA facility'' means any building, structure, or facility, in whole or in part (including the associated

support systems of the building, structure, or facility) that—

(i) is constructed (including facilities constructed for lease), renovated, or purchased, in whole or in part, by the Administrator for use by the Federal Government; or

(ii) is leased, in whole or in part, by the Administrator for use by the Federal Government—

(I) except as provided in subclause (II), for a term of not less than 5 years; or

(II) for a term of less than 5 years, if the Administrator determines that use of cost-effective technologies and practices would result in the payback of expenses.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''GSA facility'' includes any group of buildings, structures, or facilities described in subparagraph (A) (including the associated energy-consuming support systems of the buildings, structures, and facilities).

(C) EXEMPTION.—The Administrator may exempt from the definition of ''GSA facility'' under this paragraph a building, structure, or facility that meets the requirements of section 543(c) of Public Law 95–619 (42 U.S.C. 8253(c)).

Subtitle B—Installation of Photovoltaic System at Department of Energy Headquarters Building

SEC. 411. INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM AT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of General Services shall install a photovoltaic system, as set forth in the Sun Wall Design Project, for the headquarters building of the Department of Energy located at 1000 Independence Avenue, Southwest, Washington, D.C., commonly known as the Forrestal Building.

(b) FUNDING.—There shall be available from the Federal Buildings Fund established by section 592 of title 40, United States Code, $30,000,000 to carry out this section. Such sums shall be derived from the unobligated balance of amounts made available from the Fund for fiscal year 2007, and prior fiscal years, for repairs and alterations and other activities (excluding amounts made available for the energy program). Such sums shall remain available until expended.

(c) OBLIGATION OF FUNDS.—None of the funds made available pursuant to subsection (b) may be obligated prior to September 30, 2007.

Subtitle C—High-Performance Green Buildings

SEC. 421. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''High-Performance Green Buildings Act of 2007''.

SEC. 422. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) high-performance green buildings—

(A) reduce energy, water, and material resource use and the generation of waste;

(B) improve indoor environmental quality, and protect indoor air quality by, for example, using materials that emit fewer or no toxic chemicals into the indoor air;

(C) improve thermal comfort;

(D) improve lighting and the acoustic environment;

(E) improve the health and productivity of individuals who live and work in the buildings;

(F) improve indoor and outdoor impacts of the buildings on human health and the environment;

(G) increase the use of environmentally preferable products, including biobased, recycled, and nontoxic products with lower lifecycle impacts; and

(H) increase opportunities for reuse of materials and for recycling;

(2) during the planning, design, and construction of a high-performance green building, the environmental and energy impacts of building location and site design, the minimization of energy and materials use, and the environmental impacts of the building are considered;

(3) according to the United States Green Building Council, certified green buildings, as compared to conventional buildings—

(A) use an average of 36 percent less total energy (and in some cases up to 50 to 70 percent less total energy);

(B) use 30 percent less water; and

(C) reduce waste costs, often by 50 to 90 percent;

(4) the benefits of high-performance green buildings are important, because in the United States, buildings are responsible for approximately—

(A) 39 percent of primary energy use;

(B) 12 percent of potable water use;

(C) 136,000,000 tons of building-related construction and demolition debris;

(D) 70 percent of United States resource consumption; and

(E) 70 percent of electricity consumption;

(5) green building certification programs can be highly beneficial by disseminating up-to-date information and expertise regarding high-performance green buildings, and by providing third-party verification of green building design, practices, and materials, and other aspects of buildings; and

(6) a July 2006 study completed for the General Services Administration, entitled ''Sustainable Building Rating Systems Summary,'' concluded that—

(A) green building standards are an important means to encourage better practices;

(B) the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard for green building certification is ''currently the dominant system in the United States market and is being adapted to multiple markets worldwide''; and

(C) there are other useful green building certification or rating programs in various stages of development and adoption, including the Green Globes program and other rating systems.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this subtitle are—

(1) to encourage the Federal Government to act as an example for State and local governments, the private sector, and individuals by building high-performance green buildings that reduce energy use and environmental impacts;

(2) to establish an Office within the General Services Administration, and a Green Building Advisory Committee, to advance the goals of conducting research and development and public outreach, and to move the Federal Government toward construction of high-performance green buildings;

(3) to encourage States, local governments, and school systems to site, build, renovate, and operate high-performance green schools through the adoption of voluntary guidelines for those schools, the dissemination of grants, and the adoption of environmental health plans and programs;

(4) to strengthen Federal leadership on high-performance green buildings through the adoption of incentives for high-performance green buildings, and improved green procurement by Federal agencies; and

(5) to demonstrate that high-performance green buildings can and do provide significant benefits, in order to encourage wider adoption of green building practices, through the adoption of demonstration projects.

SEC. 423. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) COMMITTEE.—The term ''Committee'' means the Green Building Advisory Committee established under section 433(a).

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the individual appointed to the position established under section 431(a).

(4) FEDERAL FACILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''Federal facility'' means any building or facility the intended use of which requires the building or facility to be—

(i) accessible to the public; and

(ii) constructed or altered by or on behalf of the United States.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''Federal facility'' does not include a privately-owned residential or commercial structure that is not leased by the Federal Government.

(5) HIGH-PERFORMANCE GREEN BUILDING.—The term ''high-performance green building'' means a building—

(A) that, during its life-cycle—

(i) reduces energy, water, and material resource use and the generation of waste;

(ii) improves indoor environmental quality, including protecting indoor air quality during construction, using low-emitting materials, improving thermal comfort, and improving lighting and acoustic environments that affect occupant health and productivity;

(iii) improves indoor and outdoor impacts of the building on human health and the environment;

(iv) increases the use of environmentally preferable products, including biobased, recycled content, and nontoxic products with lower life-cycle impacts;

(v) increases reuse and recycling opportunities; and

(vi) integrates systems in the building; and

(B) for which, during its planning, design, and construction, the environmental and energy impacts of building location and site design are considered.

(6) LIFE CYCLE.—The term ''life cycle'', with respect to a high-performance green building, means all stages of the useful life of the building (including components, equipment, systems, and controls of the building) beginning at conception of a green building project and continuing through site selection, design, construction, landscaping, commissioning, operation, maintenance, renovation, deconstruction or demolition, removal, and recycling of the green building.

(7) LIFE-CYCLE ASSESSMENT.—The term ''life-cycle assessment'' means a comprehensive system approach for measuring the environmental performance of a product or service over the life of the product or service, beginning at raw materials acquisition and continuing through manufacturing, transportation, installation, use, reuse, and end-of-life waste management.

(8) LIFE-CYCLE COSTING.—The term ''life-cycle costing'', with respect to a high-performance green building, means a technique of economic evaluation that—

(A) sums, over a given study period, the costs of initial investment (less resale value), replacements, operations (including energy use), and maintenance and repair of an investment decision; and

(B) is expressed—

(i) in present value terms, in the case of a study period equivalent to the longest useful life of the building, determined by taking into consideration the typical life of such a building in the area in which the building is to be located; or

(ii) in annual value terms, in the case of any other study period.

(9) OFFICE.—The term ''Office'' means the Office of High-Performance Green Buildings established under section 432(a).

PART I—OFFICE OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE GREEN BUILDINGS

SEC. 431. OVERSIGHT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish within the General Services Administration, and appoint an individual to serve as Director in, a position in the career-reserved Senior Executive service, to—

(1) establish and manage the Office in accordance with section 432; and

(2) carry out other duties as required under this subtitle.

(b) COMPENSATION.—The compensation of the Director shall not exceed the maximum rate of basic pay for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5, United States Code, including any applicable locality-based comparability payment that may be authorized under section 5304(h)(2)(C) of that title.

SEC. 432. OFFICE OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE GREEN BUILDINGS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish within the General Services Administration an Office of High-Performance Green Buildings.

(b) DUTIES.—The Director shall—

(1) ensure full coordination of high-performance green building information and activities within the General Services Administration and all relevant Federal agencies, including, at a minimum—

(A) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(B) the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive;

(C) the Office of Federal Procurement Policy;

(D) the Department of Energy;

(E) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(F) the Department of Defense; and

(G) such other Federal agencies as the Director considers to be appropriate;

(2) establish a senior-level green building advisory committee, which shall provide advice and recommendations in accordance with section 433;

(3) identify and biennially reassess improved or higher rating standards recommended by the Committee;

(4) establish a national high-performance green building clearinghouse in accordance with section 434, which shall provide green building information through—

(A) outreach;

(B) education; and

(C) the provision of technical assistance;

(5) ensure full coordination of research and development information relating to high-performance green building initiatives under section 435;

(6) identify and develop green building standards that could be used for all types of Federal facilities in accordance with section 435;

(7) establish green practices that can be used throughout the life of a Federal facility;

(8) review and analyze current Federal budget practices and life-cycle costing issues, and make recommendations to Congress, in accordance with section 436; and

(9) complete and submit the report described in subsection (c).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter, the Director shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) describes the status of the green building initiatives under this subtitle and other Federal programs in effect as of the date of the report, including—

(A) the extent to which the programs are being carried out in accordance with this subtitle; and

(B) the status of funding requests and appropriations for those programs;

(2) identifies within the planning, budgeting, and construction process all types of Federal facility procedures that inhibit new and existing Federal facilities from becoming high-performance green buildings, as measured by the standard for high-performance green buildings identified in accordance with subsection (d);

(3) identifies inconsistencies, as reported to the Committee, in Federal law with respect to product acquisition guidelines and high-performance product guidelines;

(4) recommends language for uniform standards for use by Federal agencies in environmentally responsible acquisition;

(5) in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, reviews the budget process for capital programs with respect to alternatives for—

(A) restructuring of budgets to require the use of complete energy- and environmental-cost accounting;

(B) using operations expenditures in budget-related decisions while simultaneously incorporating productivity and health measures (as those measures can be quantified by the Office, with the assistance of universities and national laboratories);

(C) permitting Federal agencies to retain all identified savings accrued as a result of the use of life cycle costing; and

(D) identifying short- and long-term cost savings that accrue from high-performance green buildings, including those relating to health and productivity;

(6) identifies green, self-sustaining technologies to address the operational needs of Federal facilities in times of national security emergencies, natural disasters, or other dire emergencies;

(7) summarizes and highlights development, at the State and local level, of green building initiatives, including Executive orders, policies, or laws adopted promoting green building (including the status of implementation of those initiatives); and

(8) includes, for the 2-year period covered by the report, recommendations to address each of the matters, and a plan for implementation of each recommendation, described in paragraphs (1) through (6).

(d) IDENTIFICATION OF STANDARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of subsection (c)(2), not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall identify a standard that the Director determines to be the most likely to encourage a comprehensive and environmentally-sound approach to certification of green buildings.

(2) BASIS.—The standard identified under paragraph (1) shall be based on—

(A) a biennial study, which shall be carried out by the Director to compare and evaluate standards;

(B) the ability and availability of assessors and auditors to independently verify the criteria and measurement of metrics at the scale necessary to implement this subtitle;

(C) the ability of the applicable standard-setting organization to collect and reflect public comment;

(D) the ability of the standard to be developed and revised through a consensus-based process;

(E) an evaluation of the adequacy of the standard, which shall give credit for—

(i) efficient and sustainable use of water, energy, and other natural resources;

(ii) use of renewable energy sources;

(iii) improved indoor environmental quality through enhanced indoor air quality, thermal comfort, acoustics, day lighting, pollutant source control, and use of low-emission materials and building system controls; and

(iv) such other criteria as the Director determines to be appropriate; and

(F) national recognition within the building industry.

(3) BIENNIAL REVIEW.—The Director shall—

(A) conduct a biennial review of the standard identified under paragraph (1); and

(B) include the results of each biennial review in the report required to be submitted under subsection (c).

(e) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Office shall carry out each plan for implementation of recommendations under subsection (c)(7).

SEC. 433. GREEN BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish an advisory committee, to be known as the ''Green Building Advisory Committee''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of representatives of, at a minimum—

(A) each agency referred to in section 432(b)(1); and

(B) other relevant agencies and entities, as determined by the Director, including at least 1 representative of each of—

(i) State and local governmental green building programs;

(ii) independent green building associations or councils;

(iii) building experts, including architects, material suppliers, and construction contractors;

(iv) security advisors focusing on national security needs, natural disasters, and other dire emergency situations; and

(v) environmental health experts, including those with experience in children's health.

(2) NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.—The total number of non-Federal members on the Committee at any time shall not exceed 15.

(c) MEETINGS.—The Director shall establish a regular schedule of meetings for the Committee.

(d) DUTIES.—The Committee shall provide advice and expertise for use by the Director in carrying out the duties under this subtitle, including such recommendations relating to Federal activities carried out under sections 434 through 436 as are agreed to by a majority of the members of the Committee.

(e) FACA EXEMPTION.—The Committee shall not be subject to section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

SEC. 434. PUBLIC OUTREACH.

The Director, in coordination with the Committee, shall carry out public outreach to inform individuals and entities of the information and services available Government-wide by—

(1) establishing and maintaining a national high-performance green building clearinghouse, including on the Internet, that—

(A) identifies existing similar efforts and coordinates activities of common interest; and

(B) provides information relating to high-performance green buildings, including hyperlinks to Internet sites that describe related activities, information, and resources of—

(i) the Federal Government;

(ii) State and local governments;

(iii) the private sector (including non-governmental and nonprofit entities and organizations); and

(iv) other relevant organizations, including those from other countries;

(2) identifying and recommending educational resources for implementing high-performance green building practices, including security and emergency benefits and practices;

(3) providing access to technical assistance on using tools and resources to make more

cost-effective, energy-efficient, health-protective, and environmentally beneficial decisions for constructing high-performance green buildings, including tools available to conduct life-cycle costing and life-cycle assessment;

(4) providing information on application processes for certifying a high-performance green building, including certification and commissioning;

(5) providing technical information, market research, or other forms of assistance or advice that would be useful in planning and constructing high-performance green buildings; and

(6) using such other methods as are determined by the Director to be appropriate.

SEC. 435. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director, in coordination with the Committee, shall—

(1)(A) survey existing research and studies relating to high-performance green buildings; and

(B) coordinate activities of common interest;

(2) develop and recommend a high-performance green building research plan that—

(A) identifies information and research needs, including the relationships between human health, occupant productivity, and each of—

(i) emissions from materials and products in the building;

(ii) natural day lighting;

(iii) ventilation choices and technologies;

(iv) heating, cooling, and system control choices and technologies;

(v) moisture control and mold;

(vi) maintenance, cleaning, and pest control activities;

(vii) acoustics; and

(viii) other issues relating to the health, comfort, productivity, and performance of occupants of the building; and

(B) promotes the development and dissemination of high-performance green building measurement tools that, at a minimum, may be used—

(i) to monitor and assess the life-cycle performance of facilities (including demonstration projects) built as high-performance green buildings; and

(ii) to perform life-cycle assessments;

(3) assist the budget and life-cycle costing functions of the Office under section 436;

(4) study and identify potential benefits of green buildings relating to security, natural disaster, and emergency needs of the Federal Government; and

(5) support other research initiatives determined by the Office.

(b) INDOOR AIR QUALITY.—The Director, in consultation with the Committee, shall develop and carry out a comprehensive indoor air quality program for all Federal facilities to ensure the safety of Federal workers and facility occupants—

(1) during new construction and renovation of facilities; and

(2) in existing facilities.

SEC. 436. BUDGET AND LIFE-CYCLE COSTING AND CONTRACTING.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director, in coordination with the Committee, shall—

(1) identify, review, and analyze current budget and contracting practices that affect achievement of high-performance green buildings, including the identification of barriers to green building life-cycle costing and budgetary issues;

(2) develop guidance and conduct training sessions with budget specialists and contracting personnel from Federal agencies and budget examiners to apply life-cycle cost criteria to actual projects;

(3) identify tools to aid life-cycle cost decisionmaking; and

(4) explore the feasibility of incorporating the benefits of green buildings, such as security benefits, into a cost-budget analysis to aid in life-cycle costing for budget and decision making processes.

SEC. 437. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part $4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, to remain available until expended.

PART II—HEALTHY HIGH-PERFORMANCE SCHOOLS

SEC. 441. DEFINITION OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE SCHOOL.

In this part, the term ''high-performance school'' has the meaning given the term ''healthy, high-performance school building'' in section 5586 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7277e).

SEC. 442. GRANTS FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, may provide grants to qualified State agencies for use in—

(1) providing technical assistance for programs of the Environmental Protection Agency (including the Tools for Schools Program and the Healthy School Environmental Assessment Tool) to schools for use in addressing environmental issues; and

(2) development of State school environmental quality plans that include—

(A) standards for school building design, construction, and renovation; and

(B) identification of ongoing school building environmental problems in the State and recommended solutions to address those problems, including assessment of information on the exposure of children to environmental hazards in school facilities.

SEC. 443. MODEL GUIDELINES FOR SITING OF SCHOOL FACILITIES.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall develop voluntary school site selection guidelines that account for—

(1) the special vulnerability of children to hazardous substances or pollution exposures in any case in which the potential for contamination at a potential school site exists;

(2) modes of transportation available to students and staff;

(3) the efficient use of energy; and

(4) the potential use of a school at the site as an emergency shelter.

SEC. 444. PUBLIC OUTREACH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall provide to the Director information relating to all activities carried out under this part, which the Director shall include in the report described in section 432(c).

(b) PUBLIC OUTREACH.—The Director shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the public clearinghouse established under section 434 receives and makes available information on the exposure of children to environmental hazards in school facilities, as provided by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SEC. 445. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and other relevant agencies, shall issue voluntary guidelines for use by the State in developing and implementing an environmental health program for schools that—

(1) takes into account the status and findings of Federal research initiatives established under this subtitle and other relevant Federal law with respect to school facilities, including relevant updates on trends in the field, such as the impact of school facility environments on student and staff—

(A) health, safety, and productivity; and

(B) disabilities or special needs;

(2) provides research using relevant tools identified or developed in accordance with section 435(a) to quantify the relationships between—

(A) human health, occupant productivity, and student performance; and

(B) with respect to school facilities, each of—

(i) pollutant emissions from materials and products;

(ii) natural day lighting;

(iii) ventilation choices and technologies;

(iv) heating and cooling choices and technologies;

(v) moisture control and mold;

(vi) maintenance, cleaning, and pest control activities;

(vii) acoustics; and

(viii) other issues relating to the health, comfort, productivity, and performance of occupants of the school facilities;

(3) provides technical assistance on siting, design, management, and operation of school facilities, including facilities used by students with disabilities or special needs;

(4) collaborates with federally funded pediatric environmental health centers to assist in on-site school environmental investigations;

(5) assists States and the public in better understanding and improving the environmental health of children; and

(6) provides to the Office a biennial report of all activities carried out under this part, which the Director shall include in the report described in section 432(c).

(b) PUBLIC OUTREACH.—The Director shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the public clearinghouse established under section 434 receives and makes available—

(1) information from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency that is contained in the report described in subsection (a)(6); and

(2) information on the exposure of children to environmental hazards in school facilities, as provided by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SEC. 446. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part $10,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, to remain available until expended.

PART III—STRENGTHENING FEDERAL LEADERSHIP

SEC. 451. INCENTIVES.

As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall identify incentives to encourage the use of green buildings and related technology in the operations of the Federal Government, including through—

(1) the provision of recognition awards; and

(2) the maximum feasible retention of financial savings in the annual budgets of Federal agencies.

SEC. 452. FEDERAL PROCUREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, in consultation with the Director and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, shall promulgate revisions of the applicable acquisition regulations, to take effect as of the date of promulgation of the revisions—

(1) to direct any Federal procurement executives involved in the acquisition, construction, or major renovation (including contracting for the construction or major

renovation) of any facility, to the maximum extent practicable—

(A) to employ integrated design principles;

(B) to optimize building and systems energy performance;

(C) to protect and conserve water;

(D) to enhance indoor environmental quality; and

(E) to reduce environmental impacts of materials and waste flows; and

(2) to direct Federal procurement executives involved in leasing buildings, to give preference to the lease of facilities that, to the maximum extent practicable—

(A) are energy-efficient; and

(B) have applied contemporary high-performance and sustainable design principles during construction or renovation.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of promulgation of the revised regulations under subsection (a), the Director shall issue guidance to all Federal procurement executives providing direction and the option to renegotiate the design of proposed facilities, renovations for existing facilities, and leased facilities to incorporate improvements that are consistent with this section.

SEC. 453. FEDERAL GREEN BUILDING PERFORMANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 31 of each of the 2 fiscal years following the fiscal year in which this Act is enacted, and at such times thereafter as the Comptroller General of the United States determines to be appropriate, the Comptroller General of the United States shall, with respect to the fiscal years that have passed since the preceding report—

(1) conduct an audit of the implementation of this subtitle; and

(2) submit to the Office, the Committee, the Administrator, and Congress a report describing the results of the audit.

(b) CONTENTS.—An audit under subsection (a) shall include a review, with respect to the period covered by the report under subsection (a)(2), of—

(1) budget, life-cycle costing, and contracting issues, using best practices identified by the Comptroller General of the United States and heads of other agencies in accordance with section 436;

(2) the level of coordination among the Office, the Office of Management and Budget, and relevant agencies;

(3) the performance of the Office in carrying out the implementation plan;

(4) the design stage of high-performance green building measures;

(5) high-performance building data that were collected and reported to the Office; and

(6) such other matters as the Comptroller General of the United States determines to be appropriate.

(c) ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SCORECARD.—The Director shall consult with the Committee to enhance, and assist in the implementation of, the Environmental Stewardship Scorecard announced at the White House summit on Federal sustainable buildings in January 2006, to measure the implementation by each Federal agency of sustainable design and green building initiatives.

SEC. 454. STORM WATER RUNOFF REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

The sponsor of any development or redevelopment project involving a Federal facility with a footprint that exceeds 5,000 square feet shall use site planning, design, construction, and maintenance strategies for the property to maintain, to the maximum extent technically feasible, the predevelopment hydrology of the property with regard to the temperature, rate, volume, and duration of flow.

PART IV—DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

SEC. 461. COORDINATION OF GOALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish guidelines to implement a demonstration project to contribute to the research goals of the Office.

(b) PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with guidelines established by the Director under subsection (a) and the duties of the Director described in part I, the Director shall carry out 3 demonstration projects.

(2) LOCATION OF PROJECTS.—Each project carried out under paragraph (1) shall be located in a Federal building in a State recommended by the Director in accordance with subsection (c).

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Each project carried out under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide for the evaluation of the information obtained through the conduct of projects and activities under this subtitle; and

(B) achieve the highest available rating under the standard identified pursuant to section 432(d).

(c) CRITERIA.—With respect to the existing or proposed Federal facility at which a demonstration project under this section is conducted, the Federal facility shall—

(1) be an appropriate model for a project relating to—

(A) the effectiveness of high-performance technologies;

(B) analysis of materials, components, and systems, including the impact on the health of building occupants;

(C) life-cycle costing and life-cycle assessment of building materials and systems; and

(D) location and design that promote access to the Federal facility through walking, biking, and mass transit; and

(2) possess sufficient technological and organizational adaptability.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through September 30, 2013, the Director shall submit to the Administrator a report that describes the status of and findings regarding the demonstration project.

SEC. 462. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Federal demonstration project described in section 461(b) $10,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, to remain available until expended.

TITLE V—CORPORATE AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act''.

SEC. 502. AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS FOR AUTOMOBILES AND CERTAIN OTHER VEHICLES.

(a) INCREASED STANDARDS.—Section 32902 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''**NON-PASSENGER AUTOMOBILES**.—'' in subsection (a) and inserting ''**PRESCRIPTION OF STANDARDS BY REGULATION**.—'';

(2) by striking ''(except passenger automobiles)'' in subsection (a); and

(3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) STANDARDS FOR AUTOMOBILES AND CERTAIN OTHER VEHICLES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation, after consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall prescribe average fuel economy standards for—

''(A) automobiles manufactured by a manufacturer in each model year beginning with model year 2011 in accordance with subsection (c); and

''(B) commercial medium-duty or heavy-duty on-highway vehicles in accordance with subsection (k).

''(2) FUEL ECONOMY TARGET FOR AUTOMOBILES.—

''(A) AUTOMOBILE FUEL ECONOMY AVERAGE FOR MODEL YEARS 2011 THROUGH 2020.—The Secretary shall prescribe average fuel economy standards for automobiles in each model year beginning with model year 2011 to achieve a combined fuel economy average for model year 2020 of at least 35 miles per gallon for the fleet of automobiles manufactured or sold in the United States. The average fuel economy standards prescribed by the Secretary shall be the maximum feasible average fuel economy standards for model years 2011 through 2019.

''(B) AUTOMOBILE FUEL ECONOMY AVERAGE FOR MODEL YEARS 2021 THROUGH 2030.—For model years 2021 through 2030, the average fuel economy required to be attained by the fleet of automobiles manufactured or sold in the United States shall be at least 4 percent greater than the average fuel economy standard required to be attained for the fleet in the previous model year (rounded to the nearest $\frac{1}{10}$ mile per gallon).

''(C) PROGRESS TOWARD STANDARD REQUIRED.—In prescribing average fuel economy standards under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall prescribe annual fuel economy standard increases that increase the applicable average fuel economy standard ratably beginning with model year 2011 and ending with model year 2020.''.

(b) FUEL ECONOMY TARGET FOR COMMERCIAL MEDIUM-DUTY AND HEAVY-DUTY ON-HIGHWAY VEHICLES.—Section 32902 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

''(k) COMMERCIAL MEDIUM- AND HEAVY-DUTY ON-HIGHWAY VEHICLES.—

''(1) STUDY.—No later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall examine the fuel efficiency of commercial medium- and heavy-duty on-highway vehicles and determine—

''(A) the appropriate test procedures and methodologies for measuring commercial medium- and heavy-duty on-highway vehicle fuel efficiency;

''(B) the appropriate metric for measuring and expressing commercial medium- and heavy-duty on-highway vehicle fuel efficiency performance, taking into consideration, among other things, the work performed by such on-highway vehicles and types of operations in which they are used;

''(C) the range of factors, including, without limitation, design, functionality, use, duty cycle, infrastructure, and total overall energy consumption and operating costs that effect commercial medium- and heavy-duty on-highway vehicle fuel efficiency; and

''(D) such other factors and conditions that could have an impact on a program to improve commercial medium- and heavy-duty on-highway vehicle fuel efficiency.

''(2) RULEMAKING.—No later than 24 months after completion of the study required by paragraph (1), the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and based on the results of that study, shall determine in a rulemaking procedure how to implement a commercial medium- and heavy-duty on-highway vehicle fuel efficiency improvement program and, as appropriate, shall adopt test methods, measurement metrics, fuel efficiency standards, and compliance and enforcement protocols that are appropriate, cost-effective, and technologically feasible for commercial

medium- and heavy-duty on-highway vehicles.

''(3) LEAD-TIME; REGULATORY STABILITY.—Any commercial medium- and heavy-duty on-highway vehicle fuel efficiency regulatory program adopted pursuant to this subsection shall provide no less than 4 full model years of regulatory lead-time and 3 full model years of regulatory stability.

''(4) COMMERCIAL MEDIUM- AND HEAVY-DUTY ON-HIGHWAY VEHICLE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'commercial medium- and heavy-duty on-highway vehicle' means a commercial on-highway vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds.''.

(c) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—Section 32902 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

''(l) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.—

''(1) VEHICLE ATTRIBUTES.—The authority of the Secretary to prescribe by regulation average fuel economy standards for automobiles under this section includes the authority—

''(A) to prescribe standards based on vehicle attributes related to fuel economy and to express the standards in the form of a mathematical function; and

''(B) to issue regulations under this title prescribing average fuel economy standards for 1 or more model years.

''(2) PROHIBITION OF UNIFORM PERCENTAGE INCREASE.—When the Secretary prescribes a standard, or prescribes an amendment under this section that changes a standard, the standard may not be expressed as a uniform percentage increase from the fuel-economy performance of attribute classes or categories already achieved in a model year by a manufacturer.''.

SEC. 503. AMENDING FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32902(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(c) AMENDING FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary of Transportation—

''(A) may prescribe a standard higher than that required under subsection (b); or

''(B) may prescribe an average fuel economy standard for automobiles that is the maximum feasible level for the model year, despite being lower than the standard required under subsection (b), if the Secretary determines, based on clear and convincing evidence, that the average fuel economy standard prescribed in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) for automobiles in that model year is shown not to be cost-effective.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR LOWER STANDARD.—Before adopting an average fuel economy standard for automobiles for a model year during model years 2021 through 2030 that is lower than the standard required by subsection (b), the Secretary of Transportation shall do the following:

''(A) NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE.—At least 30 months before the model year for which the standard is to apply, the Secretary shall post a notice of proposed rulemaking for the proposed standard. The notice shall include a detailed analysis of the basis for the Secretary's determination under paragraph (1)(B).

''(B) FINAL RULE.—At least 18 months before the model year for which the standard is to apply, the Secretary shall promulgate a final rule establishing the standard.

''(C) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that outlines the steps that need to be taken to avoid further reductions in average fuel economy standards.

''(3) MAXIMUM FEASIBLE STANDARD.—An average fuel economy standard prescribed for automobiles under paragraph (1) shall be the maximum feasible standard.''.

(b) FEASIBILITY CRITERIA.—Section 32902(f) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(f) DECISIONS ON MAXIMUM FEASIBLE AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—When deciding maximum feasible average fuel economy under this section, the Secretary shall consider—

''(A) economic practicability;

''(B) the effect of other motor vehicle standards of the Government on fuel economy;

''(C) environmental impacts; and

''(D) the need of the United States to conserve energy.

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—In setting any standard under subsection (b), (c), or (d), the Secretary shall ensure that each standard is the highest standard that—

''(A) is technologically achievable;

''(B) can be achieved without materially reducing the overall safety of automobiles manufactured or sold in the United States;

''(C) is not less than the standard for that class of vehicles from any prior year; and

''(D) is cost-effective.

''(3) COST-EFFECTIVE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'cost-effective' means that the value to the United States of reduced fuel use from a proposed fuel economy standard is greater than or equal to the cost to the United States of such standard. In determining cost-effectiveness, the Secretary shall give priority to those technologies and packages of technologies that offer the largest reduction in fuel use relative to their costs.

''(4) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION BY SECRETARY IN DETERMINING COST-EFFECTIVENESS.—The Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and may consult with such other departments and agencies as the Secretary deems appropriate, and shall consider in the analysis the following factors:

''(A) Economic security.

''(B) The impact of the oil or energy intensity of the United States economy on the sensitivity of the economy to oil and other fuel price changes, including the magnitude of gross domestic product losses in response to short term price shocks or long term price increases.

''(C) National security, including the impact of United States payments for oil and other fuel imports on political, economic, and military developments in unstable or unfriendly oil-exporting countries.

''(D) The uninternalized costs of pipeline and storage oil seepage, and for risk of oil spills from production, handling, and transport, and related landscape damage.

''(E) The emissions of pollutants including greenhouse gases over the lifecycle of the fuel and the resulting costs to human health, the economy, and the environment.

''(F) Such additional factors as the Secretary deems relevant.

''(5) MINIMUM VALUATION.—When considering the value to consumers of a gallon of gasoline saved, the Secretary of Transportation shall use as a minimum value the greater of—

''(A) the average value of gasoline prices projected by the Energy Information Administration over the period covered by the standard; or

''(B) the average value of gasoline prices for the 5-year period immediately preceding the year in which the standard is established.''.

(c) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—Section 32902(i) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency'' after ''Energy''.

(d) COMMENTS.—Section 32902(j) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting ''(1) Before issuing a notice proposing to prescribe or amend an average fuel economy standard under subsection (b), (c), or (g) of this section, the Secretary of Transportation shall give the Secretary of Energy and Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency at least 30 days after the receipt of the notice during which the Secretary of Energy and Administrator may, if the Secretary of Energy or Administrator concludes that the proposed standard would adversely affect the conservation goals of the Secretary of Energy or environmental protection goals of the Administrator, provide written comments to the Secretary of Transportation about the impact of the standard on those goals. To the extent the Secretary of Transportation does not revise a proposed standard to take into account comments of the Secretary of Energy or Administrator on any adverse impact of the standard, the Secretary of Transportation shall include those comments in the notice.''; and

(2) by inserting ''and the Administrator'' after ''Energy'' each place it appears in paragraph (2).

(e) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 32902(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''passenger'' each place it appears.

(2) Section 32902(g) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''subsection (a) or (d)'' each place it appears in paragraph (1) and inserting ''subsection (b), (c), or (d)''; and

(B) striking ''(and submit the amendment to Congress when required under subsection (c)(2) of this section)'' in paragraph (2).

SEC. 504. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32901(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) except as provided in section 32908 of this title, 'automobile' means a 4-wheeled vehicle that is propelled by fuel, or by alternative fuel, manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways and rated at not more than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, except—

''(A) a vehicle operated only on a rail line;

''(B) a vehicle manufactured by 2 or more manufacturers in different stages and less than 10,000 of which are manufactured per year; or

''(C) a work truck.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(17) 'work truck' means an automobile that the Secretary determines by regulation—

''(A) is rated at between 8,500 and 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight; and

''(B) is not a medium-duty passenger vehicle (as defined in section 86.1803–01 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations).''.

(b) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Transportation—

(1) shall issue proposed regulations implementing the amendments made by subsection (a) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) shall issue final regulations implementing the amendments not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Regulations prescribed under subsection (b) shall apply beginning with model year 2010.

SEC. 505. ENSURING SAFETY OF AUTOMOBILES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 30129. Vehicle compatibility and aggressivity reduction standard

''(a) STANDARDS.—The Secretary of Transportation shall issue a motor vehicle safety standard to reduce automobile incompatibility and aggressivity. The standard shall address characteristics necessary to ensure better management of crash forces in multiple vehicle frontal and side impact crashes between different types, sizes, and weights of automobiles with a gross vehicle weight of 10,000 pounds or less in order to decrease occupant deaths and injuries.

''(b) CONSUMER INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall develop and implement a public information side and frontal compatibility crash test program with vehicle ratings based on risks to occupants, risks to other motorists, and combined risks by vehicle make and model.''.

(b) RULEMAKING DEADLINES.—

(1) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary of Transportation shall issue—

(A) a notice of a proposed rulemaking under section 30129 of title 49, United States Code, not later than January 1, 2012; and

(B) a final rule under such section not later than December 31, 2014.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE OF REQUIREMENTS.—Any requirement imposed under the final rule issued under paragraph (1) shall become fully effective not later than September 1, 2018.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The chapter analysis for chapter 301 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 30128 the following:

''30129. Vehicle compatibility and aggressivity reduction standard''.

SEC. 506. CREDIT TRADING PROGRAM.

Section 32903 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''passenger'' each place it appears;

(2) by striking ''section 32902(b)–(d) of this title'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (a), (c), or (d) of section 32902'';

(3) by striking ''3 consecutive model years'' in subsection (a)(2) and inserting ''5 consecutive model years'';

(4) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''clause (1) of this subsection,'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)''; and

(5) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) CREDIT TRADING AMONG MANUFACTURERS.—The Secretary of Transportation may establish, by regulation, a corporate average fuel economy credit trading program to allow manufacturers whose automobiles exceed the average fuel economy standards prescribed under section 32902 to earn credits to be sold to manufacturers whose automobiles fail to achieve the prescribed standards such that the total oil savings associated with manufacturers that exceed the prescribed standards are preserved when transferring credits to manufacturers that fail to achieve the prescribed standards.''.

SEC. 507. LABELS FOR FUEL ECONOMY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

Section 32908 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (F) of subsection (b)(1) as subparagraph (H) and inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

''(F) a label (or a logo imprinted on a label required by this paragraph) that—

''(i) reflects an automobile's performance on the basis of criteria developed by the Administrator to reflect the fuel economy and greenhouse gas and other emissions consequences of operating the automobile over its likely useful life;

''(ii) permits consumers to compare performance results under clause (i) among all automobiles; and

''(iii) is designed to encourage the manufacture and sale of automobiles that meet or exceed applicable fuel economy standards under section 32902.

''(G) a fuelstar under paragraph (5).''; and

(2) by adding at the end of subsection (b) the following:

''(4) GREEN LABEL PROGRAM.—

''(A) MARKETING ANALYSIS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act, the Administrator shall implement a consumer education program and execute marketing strategies to improve consumer understanding of automobile performance described in paragraph (1)(F).

''(B) ELIGIBILITY.—Not later than 3 years after the date described in subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall issue requirements for the label or logo required under paragraph (1)(F) to ensure that an automobile is not eligible for the label or logo unless it—

''(i) meets or exceeds the applicable fuel economy standard; or

''(ii) will have the lowest greenhouse gas emissions over the useful life of the vehicle of all vehicles in the vehicle attribute class to which it belongs in that model year.

''(5) FUELSTAR PROGRAM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program, to be known as the 'Fuelstar Program', under which stars shall be imprinted on or attached to the label required by paragraph (1).

''(B) GREEN STARS.—Under the Fuelstar Program, a manufacturer may include on the label maintained on an automobile under paragraph (1)—

''(i) 1 green star for any automobile that meets the average fuel economy standard for the model year under section 32902; and

''(ii) 1 additional green star for each 2 miles per gallon by which the automobile exceeds such standard.

''(C) GOLD STARS.—Under the Fuelstar Program, a manufacturer may include a gold star on the label maintained on an automobile under paragraph (1) if the automobile attains a fuel economy of at least 50 miles per gallon.''.

SEC. 508. CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF EXISTING STANDARDS.

Nothing in this title, or the amendments made by this title, shall be construed to affect the application of section 32902 of title 49, United States Code, to passenger automobiles or non-passenger automobiles manufactured before model year 2011.

SEC. 509. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES STUDIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall execute an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to develop a report evaluating vehicle fuel economy standards, including—

(1) an assessment of automotive technologies and costs to reflect developments since the Academy's 2002 report evaluating the corporate average fuel economy standards was conducted;

(2) an analysis of existing and potential technologies that may be used practically to improve automobile fuel economy;

(3) an analysis of how such technologies may be practically integrated into the automotive manufacturing process; and

(4) an assessment of how such technologies may be used to meet the new fuel economy standards under chapter 329 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this title.

(b) QUINQUENNIAL UPDATES.—After submitting the initial report, the Academy shall update the report at 5 year intervals thereafter through 2025.

(c) REPORT.—The Academy shall submit the report to the Secretary, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce, with its findings and recommendations no later than 18 months after the date on which the Secretary executes the agreement with the Academy.

SEC. 510. STANDARDS FOR EXECUTIVE AGENCY AUTOMOBILES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32917 of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 32917. Standards for Executive agency automobiles

''(a) FUEL EFFICIENCY.—The head of an Executive agency shall ensure that each new automobile procured by the Executive agency is as fuel efficient as practicable.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term 'Executive agency' has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5.

''(2) NEW AUTOMOBILE.—The term 'new automobile', with respect to the fleet of automobiles of an executive agency, means an automobile that is leased for at least 60 consecutive days or bought, by or for the Executive agency, after September 30, 2008. The term does not include any vehicle designed for combat-related missions, law enforcement work, or emergency rescue work.''.

(b) REPORT.—The Administrator of the General Services Administration shall develop a report describing and evaluating the efforts of the heads of the Executive agencies to comply with section 32917 of title 49, United States Code, for fiscal year 2009. The Administrator shall submit the report to Congress no later than December 31, 2009.

SEC. 511. ENSURING AVAILABILITY OF FLEXIBLE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.

(a) AMENDMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 329 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 32902 the following:

''§ 32902A. Requirement to manufacture flexible fuel automobiles

''(a) IN GENERAL.—For each model year, each manufacturer of new automobiles described in subsection (b) shall ensure that the percentage of such automobiles manufactured in a particular model year that are flexible fuel vehicles shall be not less than the percentage set forth for that model year in the following table:

2012	50 percent
2013	60 percent
2014	70 percent
2015	80 percent

''(b) AUTOMOBILES TO WHICH SECTION APPLIES..—An automobile is described in this subsection if it—

''(1) is capable of operating on gasoline or diesel fuel;

''(2) is distributed in interstate commerce for sale in the United States; and

''(3) does not contain certain engines that the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of Energy, may temporarily exclude from the definition because it is technologically infeasible for the engines to have flexible fuel capability at any time during a period that the Secretaries and the Administrator are engaged in an active research program with the vehicle manufacturers to develop that capability for the engines.''.

(2) DEFINITION OF FLEXIBLE FUEL AUTOMOBILE.—Section 32901(a) of title 49, United

States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (8), the following:

''(8A) 'flexible fuel automobile' means an automobile described in paragraph (8)(A).''.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 329 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 32902 the following:

''Sec. 32902A. Requirement to manufacture flexible fuel automobiles''.

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue regulations to carry out the amendments made by subsection (a).

(2) HARDSHIP EXEMPTION.—The regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include a process by which a manufacturer may be exempted from the requirement under section 32902A(a) upon demonstrating that such requirement would create a substantial economic hardship for the manufacturer.

SEC. 512. INCREASING CONSUMER AWARENESS OF FLEXIBLE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.

Section 32908 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) INCREASING CONSUMER AWARENESS OF FLEXIBLE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.—(1) The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall prescribe regulations that require the manufacturer of automobiles distributed in interstate commerce for sale in the United States—

''(A) to prominently display a permanent badge or emblem on the quarter panel or tailgate of each such automobile that indicates such vehicle is capable of operating on alternative fuel; and

''(B) to include information in the owner's manual of each such automobile information that describes—

''(i) the capability of the automobile to operate using alternative fuel;

''(ii) the benefits of using alternative fuel, including the renewable nature, and the environmental benefits of using alternative fuel; and

''(C) to contain a fuel tank cap that is clearly labeled to inform consumers that the automobile is capable of operating on alternative fuel.

''(2) The Secretary of Transportation shall collaborate with automobile retailers to develop voluntary methods for providing prospective purchasers of automobiles with information regarding the benefits of using alternative fuel in automobiles, including—

''(A) the renewable nature of alternative fuel; and

''(B) the environmental benefits of using alternative fuel.''.

SEC. 513. PERIODIC REVIEW OF ACCURACY OF FUEL ECONOMY LABELING PROCEDURES.

Beginning in December, 2009, and not less often than every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall—

(1) reevaluate the fuel economy labeling procedures described in the final rule published in the Federal Register on December 27, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 77,872; 40 C.F.R. parts 86 and 600) to determine whether changes in the factors used to establish the labeling procedures warrant a revision of that process; and

(2) submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce that describes the results of the reevaluation process.

SEC. 514. TIRE FUEL EFFICIENCY CONSUMER INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 30123 the following new section:

''§ 30123A. Tire fuel efficiency consumer information

''(a) RULEMAKING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall, after notice and opportunity for comment, promulgate rules establishing a national tire fuel efficiency consumer information program for tires designed for use on motor vehicles to educate consumers about the effect of tires on automobile fuel efficiency.

''(2) ITEMS INCLUDED IN RULE.—The rulemaking shall include—

''(A) a national tire fuel efficiency rating system for motor vehicle tires to assist consumers in making more educated tire purchasing decisions;

''(B) requirements for providing information to consumers, including information at the point of sale and other potential information dissemination methods, including the Internet;

''(C) specifications for test methods for manufacturers to use in assessing and rating tires to avoid variation among test equipment and manufacturers; and

''(D) a national tire maintenance consumer education program including, information on tire inflation pressure, alignment, rotation, and tread wear to maximize fuel efficiency.

''(3) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall not apply to tires excluded from coverage under section 575.104(c)(2) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on date of enactment of the Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act.

''(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on the means of conveying tire fuel efficiency consumer information.

''(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall conduct periodic assessments of the rules promulgated under this section to determine the utility of such rules to consumers, the level of cooperation by industry, and the contribution to national goals pertaining to energy consumption. The Secretary shall transmit periodic reports detailing the findings of such assessments to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce.

''(d) TIRE MARKING.—The Secretary shall not require permanent labeling of any kind on a tire for the purpose of tire fuel efficiency information.

''(e) PREEMPTION.—When a requirement under this section is in effect, a State or political subdivision of a State may adopt or enforce a law or regulation on tire fuel efficiency consumer information only if the law or regulation is identical to that requirement. Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt a State or political subdivision of a State from regulating the fuel efficiency of tires not otherwise preempted under this chapter.''.

(b) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 30165(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) SECTION 30123a.—Any person who fails to comply with the national tire fuel efficiency consumer information program under section 30123A is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than $50,000 for each violation.''.

(c) Conforming Amendment.—The chapter analysis for chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 30123 the following:

''30123A. Tire fuel efficiency consumer information''.

SEC. 515. ADVANCED BATTERY INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall establish and carry out an Advanced Battery Initiative in accordance with this section to support research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of battery technologies.

(b) INDUSTRY ALLIANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall competitively select an Industry Alliance to represent participants who are private, for-profit firms headquartered in the United States, the primary business of which is the manufacturing of batteries.

(c) RESEARCH.—

(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall carry out research activities of the Initiative through competitively-awarded grants to—

(A) researchers, including Industry Alliance participants;

(B) small businesses;

(C) National Laboratories; and

(D) institutions of higher education.

(2) INDUSTRY ALLIANCE.—The Secretary shall annually solicit from the Industry Alliance—

(A) comments to identify advanced battery technology and battery systems needs relevant to—

(i) electric drive technology;

(ii) portable radio communications devices, including devices used by public safety personnel; and

(iii) other applications the Secretary deems appropriate;

(B) an assessment of the progress of research activities of the Initiative; and

(C) assistance in annually updating advanced battery technology and battery systems roadmaps.

(d) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—The information and roadmaps developed under this section shall be available to the public.

(e) PREFERENCE.—In making awards under this subsection, the Secretary shall give preference to participants in the Industry Alliance.

(f) COST SHARING.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall require cost sharing in accordance with section 120(b) of title 23, United States Code.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

SEC. 516. BIODIESEL STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Energy, shall promulgate regulations to ensure that all diesel-equivalent fuels derived from renewable biomass that are introduced into interstate commerce are tested and certified to comply with appropriate American Society for Testing and Materials standards.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BIODIESEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''biodiesel'' means the monoalkyl esters of long chain fatty acids derived from plant or animal matter that meet—

(i) the registration requirements for fuels and fuel additives established by the Environmental Protection Agency under section 211 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545); and

(ii) the requirements of the American Society of Testing and Materials D6751.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''biodiesel'' includes esters described in subparagraph (A) derived from—

(i) animal waste, including poultry fat, poultry waste, and other waste material; and

(ii) municipal solid waste, sludge, and oil derived from wastewater or the treatment of wastewater.

(2) BIODIESEL BLEND.—The term ''biodiesel blend'' means a mixture of biodiesel and diesel fuel, including—

(A) a blend of biodiesel and diesel fuel approximately 5 percent of the content of which is biodiesel (commonly known as ''B5''); and

(B) a blend of biodiesel and diesel fuel approximately 20 percent of the content of which is biodiesel (commonly known as ''B20'').

SEC. 517. USE OF CIVIL PENALTIES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 32912 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

''(e) USE OF CIVIL PENALTIES.—For fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, from the total amount deposited in the general fund of the Treasury during the preceding fiscal year from fines, penalties, and other funds obtained through enforcement actions conducted pursuant to this section (including funds obtained under consent decrees), the Secretary of the Treasury, subject to the availability of appropriations, shall—

''(1) transfer 50 percent of such total amount to the account providing appropriations to the Secretary of Transportation for the administration of this chapter, which shall be used by the Secretary to carry out a program of research and development into fuel saving automotive technologies and to support rulemaking under this chapter; and

''(2) transfer 50 percent of such total amount to the Energy Security Fund established by section 518(a) of the Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act.''.

SEC. 518. ENERGY SECURITY FUND AND ALTERNATIVE FUEL GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the ''Energy Security Fund'' (referred to in this section as the ''Fund''), consisting of—

(A) amounts transferred to the Fund under section 32912(e)(2) of title 49, United States Code; and

(B) amounts credited to the Fund under paragraph (2)(C).

(2) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest in interest-bearing obligations of the United States such portion of the Fund as is not, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury, required to meet current withdrawals.

(B) SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.—Any obligation acquired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price.

(C) CREDITS TO FUND.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to, and form a part of, the Fund in accordance with section 9602 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(3) USE OF AMOUNTS IN FUND.—Amounts in the Fund shall be made available to the Secretary of Energy, subject to the availability of appropriations, to carry out the grant program under subsection (b).

(b) ALTERNATIVE FUELS GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Clean Cities Program of the Department of Energy, shall establish and carry out a program under which the Secretary shall provide grants to expand the availability to consumers of alternative fuels (as defined in section 32901(a) of title 49, United States Code).

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), any entity that is eligible to receive assistance under the Clean Cities Program shall be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—

(i) CERTAIN OIL COMPANIES.—A large, vertically-integrated oil company shall not be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection.

(ii) PROHIBITION OF DUAL BENEFITS.—An entity that receives any other Federal funds for the construction or expansion of alternative refueling infrastructure shall not be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection for the construction or expansion of the same alternative refueling infrastructure.

(C) ENSURING COMPLIANCE.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall promulgate regulations to ensure that, before receiving a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity meets applicable standards relating to the installation, construction, and expansion of infrastructure necessary to increase the availability to consumers of alternative fuels (as defined in section 32901(a) of title 49, United States Code).

(3) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—

(A) GRANTS.—The amount of a grant provided under this subsection shall not exceed $30,000.

(B) AMOUNT PER STATION.—An eligible entity shall receive not more than $90,000 under this subsection for any station of the eligible entity during a fiscal year.

(4) USE OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A grant provided under this subsection shall be used for the construction or expansion of alternative fueling infrastructure.

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 3 percent of the amount of a grant provided under this subsection shall be used for administrative expenses.

SEC. 519. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Transportation $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2021 to carry out the provisions of chapter 329 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 520. APPLICATION WITH CLEAN AIR ACT.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to conflict with the authority provided by sections 202 and 209 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7521 and 7543, respectively).

TITLE VI—PRICE GOUGING

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Petroleum Consumer Price Gouging Protection Act''.

SEC. 602. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) AFFECTED AREA.—The term ''affected area'' means an area covered by a Presidential declaration of energy emergency.

(2) SUPPLIER.—The term ''supplier'' means any person engaged in the trade or business of selling or reselling, at retail or wholesale, or distributing crude oil, gasoline, or petroleum distillates.

(3) PRICE GOUGING.—The term ''price gouging'' means the charging of an unconscionably excessive price by a supplier in an affected area.

(4) UNCONSCIONABLY EXCESSIVE PRICE.—The term ''unconscionably excessive price'' means an average price charged during an energy emergency declared by the President in an area and for a product subject to the declaration, that—

(A)(i)(I) constitutes a gross disparity from the average price at which it was offered for sale in the usual course of the supplier's business during the 30 days prior to the President's declaration of an energy emergency; and

(II) grossly exceeds the prices at which the same or similar crude oil gasoline or petroleum distillate was readily obtainable by purchasers from other suppliers in the same relevant geographic market within the affected area; or

(ii) represents an exercise of unfair leverage or unconscionable means on the part of the supplier, during a period of declared energy emergency; and

(B) is not attributable to increased wholesale or operational costs, including replacement costs, outside the control of the supplier, incurred in connection with the sale of crude oil, gasoline, or petroleum distillates; and is not attributable to local, regional, national, or international market conditions.

(5) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Trade Commission.

SEC. 603. PROHIBITION ON PRICE GOUGING DURING ENERGY EMERGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During any energy emergency declared by the President under section 606 of this Act, it is unlawful for any supplier to sell, or offer to sell crude oil, gasoline or petroleum distillates subject to that declaration in, or for use in, the area to which that declaration applies at an unconscionably excessive price.

(b) FACTORS CONSIDERED.—In determining whether a violation of subsection (a) has occurred, there shall be taken into account, among other factors, whether—

(1) the price charged was a price that would reasonably exist in a competitive and freely functioning market; and

(2) the amount of gasoline or other petroleum distillate the seller produced, distributed, or sold during the period the Proclamation was in effect increased over the average amount during the preceding 30 days.

SEC. 604. PROHIBITION ON MARKET MANIPULATION.

It is unlawful for any person, directly or indirectly, to use or employ, in connection with the purchase or sale of crude oil gasoline or petroleum distillates at wholesale, any manipulative or deceptive device or contrivance, in contravention of such rules and regulations as the Commission may prescribe as necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of United States citizens.

SEC. 605. PROHIBITION ON FALSE INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is unlawful for any person to report information related to the wholesale price of crude oil gasoline or petroleum distillates to a Federal department or agency if—

(1) that person knew, or reasonably should have known, the information to be false or misleading;

(2) the information was required by law to be reported; and

(3) the person intended the false or misleading data to affect data compiled by the department or agency for statistical or analytical purposes with respect to the market for crude oil, gasoline, or petroleum distillates.

SEC. 606. PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION OF ENERGY EMERGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If the President finds that the health, safety, welfare, or economic well-being of the citizens of the United States is at risk because of a shortage or imminent shortage of adequate supplies of crude oil, gasoline or petroleum distillates due to a disruption in the national distribution system for crude oil, gasoline or petroleum distillates (including such a shortage related to a major disaster (as defined in section 102(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster

Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2))), or significant pricing anomalies in national energy markets for crude oil, gasoline, or petroleum distillates, the President may declare that a Federal energy emergency exists.

(b) SCOPE AND DURATION.—The emergency declaration shall specify—

(1) the period, not to exceed 30 days, for which the declaration applies;

(2) the circumstance or condition necessitating the declaration; and

(3) the area or region to which it applies which may not be limited to a single State; and

(4) the product or products to which it applies.

(c) EXTENSIONS.—The President may—

(1) extend a declaration under subsection (a) for a period of not more than 30 days;

(2) extend such a declaration more than once; and

(3) discontinue such a declaration before its expiration.

SEC. 607. ENFORCEMENT BY THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.

(a) ENFORCEMENT.—This title shall be enforced by the Federal Trade Commission in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction as though all applicable terms of the Federal Trade Commission Act were incorporated into and made a part of this title. In enforcing section 603 of this Act, the Commission shall give priority to enforcement actions concerning companies with total United States wholesale or retail sales of crude oil, gasoline, and petroleum distillates in excess of $500,000,000 per year but shall not exclude enforcement actions against companies with total United States wholesale sales of $500,000,000 or less per year.

(b) VIOLATION IS TREATED AS UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACT OR PRACTICE.—The violation of any provision of this title shall be treated as an unfair or deceptive act or practice proscribed under a rule issued under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(c) COMMISSION ACTIONS.—Following the declaration of an energy emergency by the President under section 606 of this Act, the Commission shall—

(1) maintain within the Commission—

(A) a toll-free hotline that a consumer may call to report an incident of price gouging in the affected area; and

(B) a program to develop and distribute to the public informational materials to assist residents of the affected area in detecting, avoiding, and reporting price gouging;

(2) consult with the Attorney General, the United States Attorney for the districts in which a disaster occurred (if the declaration is related to a major disaster), and State and local law enforcement officials to determine whether any supplier in the affected area is charging or has charged an unconscionably excessive price for crude oil, gasoline, or petroleum distillates in the affected area; and

(3) conduct investigations as appropriate to determine whether any supplier in the affected area has violated section 603 of this Act, and upon such finding, take any action the Commission determines to be appropriate to remedy the violation.

SEC. 608. ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A State, as parens patriae, may bring a civil action on behalf of its residents in an appropriate district court of the United States to enforce the provisions of section 603 of this Act, or to impose the civil penalties authorized by section 609 for violations of section 603, whenever the attorney general of the State has reason to believe that the interests of the residents of the State have been or are being threatened or adversely affected by a supplier engaged in the sale or resale, at retail or wholesale, or distribution of crude oil, gasoline or petroleum distillates in violation of section 603 of this Act.

(b) NOTICE.—The State shall serve written notice to the Commission of any civil action under subsection (a) prior to initiating the action. The notice shall include a copy of the complaint to be filed to initiate the civil action, except that if it is not feasible for the State to provide such prior notice, the State shall provide such notice immediately upon instituting the civil action.

(c) AUTHORITY TO INTERVENE.—Upon receiving the notice required by subsection (b), the Commission may intervene in the civil action and, upon intervening—

(1) may be heard on all matters arising in such civil action; and

(2) may file petitions for appeal of a decision in such civil action.

(d) CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of bringing any civil action under subsection (a), nothing in this section shall prevent the attorney general of a State from exercising the powers conferred on the Attorney General by the laws of such State to conduct investigations or to administer oaths or affirmations or to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

(e) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In a civil action brought under subsection (a)—

(1) the venue shall be a judicial district in which—

(A) the defendant operates;

(B) the defendant was authorized to do business; or

(C) where the defendant in the civil action is found;

(2) process may be served without regard to the territorial limits of the district or of the State in which the civil action is instituted; and

(3) a person who participated with the defendant in an alleged violation that is being litigated in the civil action may be joined in the civil action without regard to the residence of the person.

(f) LIMITATION ON STATE ACTION WHILE FEDERAL ACTION IS PENDING.—If the Commission has instituted a civil action or an administrative action for violation of this title, a State attorney general, or official or agency of a State, may not bring an action under this section during the pendency of that action against any defendant named in the complaint of the Commission or the other agency for any violation of this title alleged in the Commission's civil or administrative action.

(g) NO PREEMPTION.—Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit an authorized State official from proceeding in State court to enforce a civil or criminal statute of that State.

SEC. 609. PENALTIES.

(a) CIVIL PENALTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any penalty applicable under the Federal Trade Commission Act, any supplier—

(A) that violates section 604 or section 605 of this Act is punishable by a civil penalty of not more than $1,000,000; and

(B) that violates section 603 of this Act is punishable by a civil penalty of—

(i) not more than $500,000, in the case of an independent small business marketer of gasoline (within the meaning of section 324(c) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7625(c))); and

(ii) not more than $5,000,000 in the case of any other supplier.

(2) METHOD.—The penalties provided by paragraph (1) shall be obtained in the same manner as civil penalties imposed under section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45).

(3) MULTIPLE OFFENSES; MITIGATING FACTORS.—In assessing the penalty provided by subsection (a)—

(A) each day of a continuing violation shall be considered a separate violation; and

(B) the court shall take into consideration, among other factors, the seriousness of the violation and the efforts of the person committing the violation to remedy the harm caused by the violation in a timely manner.

(b) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—Violation of section 603 of this Act is punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000,000, imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both.

SEC. 610. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

(a) OTHER AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit or affect in any way the Commission's authority to bring enforcement actions or take any other measure under the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) or any other provision of law.

(b) STATE LAW.—Nothing in this title preempts any State law.

TITLE VII—ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Energy Diplomacy and Security Act of 2007''.

SEC. 702. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) MAJOR ENERGY PRODUCER.—The term ''major energy producer'' means a country that—

(A) had crude oil, oil sands, or natural gas to liquids production of 1,000,000 barrels per day or greater average in the previous year;

(B) has crude oil, shale oil, or oil sands reserves of 6,000,000,000 barrels or greater, as recognized by the Department of Energy;

(C) had natural gas production of 30,000,000,000 cubic meters or greater in the previous year;

(D) has natural gas reserves of 1,250,000,000,000 cubic meters or greater, as recognized by the Department of Energy; or

(E) is a direct supplier of natural gas or liquefied natural gas to the United States.

(2) MAJOR ENERGY CONSUMER.—The term ''major energy consumer'' means a country that—

(A) had an oil consumption average of 1,000,000 barrels per day or greater in the previous year;

(B) had an oil consumption growth rate of 8 percent or greater in the previous year;

(C) had a natural gas consumption of 30,000,000,000 cubic meters or greater in the previous year; or

(D) had a natural gas consumption growth rate of 15 percent or greater in the previous year.

SEC. 703. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) It is imperative to the national security and prosperity of the United States to have reliable, affordable, clean, sufficient, and sustainable sources of energy.

(2) United States dependence on oil imports causes tremendous costs to the United States national security, economy, foreign policy, military, and environmental sustainability.

(3) Energy security is a priority for the governments of many foreign countries and increasingly plays a central role in the relations of the United States Government with foreign governments. Global reserves of oil and natural gas are concentrated in a small number of countries. Access to these oil and natural gas supplies depends on the political will of these producing states. Competition

between governments for access to oil and natural gas reserves can lead to economic, political, and armed conflict. Oil exporting states have received dramatically increased revenues due to high global prices, enhancing the ability of some of these states to act in a manner threatening to global stability.

(4) Efforts to combat poverty and protect the environment are hindered by the continued predominance of oil and natural gas in meeting global energy needs. Development of renewable energy through sustainable practices will help lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and enhance international development.

(5) Cooperation on energy issues between the United States Government and the governments of foreign countries is critical for securing the strategic and economic interests of the United States and of partner governments. In the current global energy situation, the energy policies and activities of the governments of foreign countries can have dramatic impacts on United States energy security.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) United States national security requires that the United States Government have an energy policy that pursues the strategic goal of achieving energy security through access to clean, affordable, sufficient, reliable, and sustainable sources of energy;

(2) achieving energy security is a priority for United States foreign policy and requires continued and enhanced engagement with foreign governments and entities in a variety of areas, including activities relating to the promotion of alternative and renewable fuels, trade and investment in oil, coal, and natural gas, energy efficiency, climate and environmental protection, data transparency, advanced scientific research, public-private partnerships, and energy activities in international development;

(3) the President should ensure that the international energy activities of the United States Government are given clear focus to support the national security needs of the United States, and to this end, there should be established a mechanism to coordinate the implementation of United States international energy policy among the Federal agencies engaged in relevant agreements and activities; and

(4) the Secretary of State should ensure that energy security is integrated into the core mission of the Department of State, and to this end, there should be established within the Office of the Secretary of State a Coordinator for International Energy Affairs with responsibility for—

(A) developing United States international energy policy in coordination with the Department of Energy and other relevant Federal agencies;

(B) working with appropriate United States Government officials to develop and update analyses of the national security implications of global energy developments;

(C) incorporating energy security priorities into the activities of the Department;

(D) coordinating activities with relevant Federal agencies; and

(E) coordinating energy security and other relevant functions currently undertaken by offices within the Bureau of Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs, the Bureau of Democracy and Global Affairs, and other offices within the Department of State.

SEC. 704. STRATEGIC ENERGY PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) United States Government partnership with foreign governments and entities, including partnership with the private sector, for securing reliable and sustainable energy is imperative to ensuring United States security and economic interests, promoting international peace and security, expanding international development, supporting democratic reform, fostering economic growth, and safeguarding the environment.

(2) Democracy and freedom should be promoted globally by partnership with foreign governments, including in particular governments of emerging democracies such as those of Ukraine and Georgia, in their efforts to reduce their dependency on oil and natural gas imports.

(3) The United States Government and the governments of foreign countries have common needs for adequate, reliable, affordable, clean, and sustainable energy in order to ensure national security, economic growth, and high standards of living in their countries. Cooperation by the United States Government with foreign governments on meeting energy security needs is mutually beneficial. United States Government partnership with foreign governments should include cooperation with major energy consuming countries, major energy producing countries, and other governments seeking to advance global energy security through reliable and sustainable means.

(4) The United States Government participates in hundreds of bilateral and multilateral energy agreements and activities with foreign governments and entities. These agreements and activities should reflect the strategic need for energy security.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to advance global energy security through cooperation with foreign governments and entities;

(2) to promote reliable, diverse, and sustainable sources of all types of energy;

(3) to increase global availability of renewable and clean sources of energy;

(4) to decrease global dependence on oil and natural gas energy sources; and

(5) to engage in energy cooperation to strengthen strategic partnerships that advance peace, security, and democratic prosperity.

(c) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, should immediately seek to establish and expand strategic energy partnerships with the governments of major energy producers and major energy consumers, and with governments of other countries (but excluding any countries that are ineligible to receive United States economic or military assistance).

(d) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the strategic energy partnerships established pursuant to subsection (c) are—

(1) to strengthen global relationships to promote international peace and security through fostering cooperation in the energy sector on a mutually beneficial basis in accordance with respective national energy policies;

(2) to promote the policy set forth in subsection (b), including activities to advance—

(A) the mutual understanding of each country's energy needs, priorities, and policies, including interparliamentary understanding;

(B) measures to respond to acute energy supply disruptions, particularly in regard to petroleum and natural gas resources;

(C) long-term reliability and sustainability in energy supply;

(D) the safeguarding and safe handling of nuclear fuel;

(E) human and environmental protection;

(F) renewable energy production;

(G) access to reliable and affordable energy for underdeveloped areas, in particular energy access for the poor;

(H) appropriate commercial cooperation;

(I) information reliability and transparency; and

(J) research and training collaboration;

(3) to advance the national security priority of developing sustainable and clean energy sources, including through research and development related to, and deployment of—

(A) renewable electrical energy sources, including biomass, wind, and solar;

(B) renewable transportation fuels, including biofuels;

(C) clean coal technologies;

(D) carbon sequestration, including in conjunction with power generation, agriculture, and forestry; and

(E) energy and fuel efficiency, including hybrids and plug-in hybrids, flexible fuel, advanced composites, hydrogen, and other transportation technologies; and

(4) to provide strategic focus for current and future United States Government activities in energy cooperation to meet the global need for energy security.

(e) DETERMINATION OF AGENDAS.—In general, the specific agenda with respect to a particular strategic energy partnership, and the Federal agencies designated to implement related activities, shall be determined by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy.

(f) USE OF CURRENT AGREEMENTS TO ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS.—Some or all of the purposes of the strategic energy partnerships established under subsection (c) may be pursued through existing bilateral or multilateral agreements and activities. Such agreements and activities shall be subject to the reporting requirements in subsection (g).

(g) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(1) INITIAL PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on progress made in developing the strategic energy partnerships authorized under this section.

(2) ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 20 years, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report on agreements entered into and activities undertaken pursuant to this section, including international environment activities.

(B) CONTENT.—Each report submitted under this paragraph shall include details on—

(i) agreements and activities pursued by the United States Government with foreign governments and entities, the implementation plans for such agreements and progress measurement benchmarks, United States Government resources used in pursuit of such agreements and activities, and legislative changes recommended for improved partnership; and

(ii) polices and actions in the energy sector of partnership countries pertinent to United States economic, security, and environmental interests.

SEC. 705. INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CRISIS RESPONSE MECHANISMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Cooperation between the United States Government and governments of other countries during energy crises promotes the national security of the United States.

(2) The participation of the United States in the International Energy Program established under the Agreement on an International Energy Program, done at Paris November 18, 1974 (27 UST 1685), including in

the coordination of national strategic petroleum reserves, is a national security asset that—

(A) protects the consumers and the economy of the United States in the event of a major disruption in petroleum supply;

(B) maximizes the effectiveness of the United States strategic petroleum reserve through cooperation in accessing global reserves of various petroleum products;

(C) provides market reassurance in countries that are members of the International Energy Program; and

(D) strengthens United States Government relationships with members of the International Energy Program.

(3) The International Energy Agency projects that the largest growth in demand for petroleum products, other than demand from the United States, will come from China and India, which are not members of the International Energy Program. The Governments of China and India vigorously pursue access to global oil reserves and are attempting to develop national petroleum reserves. Participation of the Governments of China and India in an international petroleum reserve mechanism would promote global energy security, but such participation should be conditional on the Governments of China and India abiding by customary petroleum reserve management practices.

(4) In the Western Hemisphere, only the United States and Canada are members of the International Energy Program. The vulnerability of most Western Hemisphere countries to supply disruptions from political, natural, or terrorism causes may introduce instability in the hemisphere and can be a source of conflict, despite the existence of major oil reserves in the hemisphere.

(5) Countries that are not members of the International Energy Program and are unable to maintain their own national strategic reserves are vulnerable to petroleum supply disruption. Disruption in petroleum supply and spikes in petroleum costs could devastate the economies of developing countries and could cause internal or interstate conflict.

(6) The involvement of the United States Government in the extension of international mechanisms to coordinate strategic petroleum reserves and the extension of other emergency preparedness measures should strengthen the current International Energy Program.

(b) ENERGY CRISIS RESPONSE MECHANISMS WITH INDIA AND CHINA.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, should immediately seek to establish a petroleum crisis response mechanism or mechanisms with the Governments of China and India.

(2) SCOPE.—The mechanism or mechanisms established under paragraph (1) should include—

(A) technical assistance in the development and management of national strategic petroleum reserves;

(B) agreements for coordinating drawdowns of strategic petroleum reserves with the United States, conditional upon reserve holdings and management conditions established by the Secretary of Energy;

(C) emergency demand restraint measures;

(D) fuel switching preparedness and alternative fuel production capacity; and

(E) ongoing demand intensity reduction programs.

(3) USE OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS TO ESTABLISH MECHANISM.—The Secretary may, after consultation with Congress and in accordance with existing international agreements, including the International Energy Program, include China and India in a petroleum crisis response mechanism through existing or new agreements.

(c) ENERGY CRISIS RESPONSE MECHANISM FOR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, should immediately seek to establish a Western Hemisphere energy crisis response mechanism.

(2) SCOPE.—The mechanism established under paragraph (1) should include—

(A) an information sharing and coordinating mechanism in case of energy supply emergencies;

(B) technical assistance in the development and management of national strategic petroleum reserves within countries of the Western Hemisphere;

(C) technical assistance in developing national programs to meet the requirements of membership in a future international energy application procedure as described in subsection (d);

(D) emergency demand restraint measures;

(E) energy switching preparedness and alternative energy production capacity; and

(F) ongoing demand intensity reduction programs.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary should seek to include in the Western Hemisphere energy crisis response mechanism membership for each major energy producer and major energy consumer in the Western Hemisphere and other members of the Hemisphere Energy Cooperation Forum authorized under section 706.

(d) INTERNATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCEDURE.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—The President should place on the agenda for discussion at the Governing Board of the International Energy Agency, as soon as practicable, the merits of establishing an international energy program application procedure.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of such procedure is to allow countries that are not members of the International Energy Program to apply to the Governing Board of the International Energy Agency for allocation of petroleum reserve stocks in times of emergency on a grant or loan basis. Such countries should also receive technical assistance for, and be subject to, conditions requiring development and management of national programs for energy emergency preparedness, including demand restraint, fuel switching preparedness, and development of alternative fuels production capacity.

(e) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(1) PETROLEUM RESERVES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that evaluates the options for adapting the United States national strategic petroleum reserve and the international petroleum reserve coordinating mechanism in order to carry out this section.

(2) CRISIS RESPONSE MECHANISMS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the status of the establishment of the international petroleum crisis response mechanisms described in subsections (b) and (c). The report shall include recommendations of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy for any legislation necessary to establish or carry out such mechanisms.

(3) EMERGENCY APPLICATION PROCEDURE.—Not later than 60 days after a discussion by the Governing Board of the International Energy Agency of the application procedure described under subsection (d), the President should submit to Congress a report that describes—

(A) the actions the United States Government has taken pursuant to such subsection; and

(B) a summary of the debate on the matter before the Governing Board of the International Energy Agency, including any decision that has been reached by the Governing Board with respect to the matter.

SEC. 706. HEMISPHERE ENERGY COOPERATION FORUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The engagement of the United States Government with governments of countries in the Western Hemisphere is a strategic priority for reducing the potential for tension over energy resources, maintaining and expanding reliable energy supplies, expanding use of renewable energy, and reducing the detrimental effects of energy import dependence within the hemisphere. Current energy dialogues should be expanded and refocused as needed to meet this challenge.

(2) Countries of the Western Hemisphere can most effectively meet their common needs for energy security and sustainability through partnership and cooperation. Cooperation between governments on energy issues will enhance bilateral relationships among countries of the hemisphere. The Western Hemisphere is rich in natural resources, including biomass, oil, natural gas, coal, and has significant opportunity for production of renewable hydro, solar, wind, and other energies. Countries of the Western Hemisphere can provide convenient and reliable markets for trade in energy goods and services.

(3) Development of sustainable energy alternatives in the countries of the Western Hemisphere can improve energy security, balance of trade, and environmental quality and provide markets for energy technology and agricultural products. Brazil and the United States have led the world in the production of ethanol, and deeper cooperation on biofuels with other countries of the hemisphere would extend economic and security benefits.

(4) Private sector partnership and investment in all sources of energy is critical to providing energy security in the Western Hemisphere.

(b) HEMISPHERE ENERGY COOPERATION FORUM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, should immediately seek to establish a regional-based ministerial forum to be known as the Hemisphere Energy Cooperation Forum.

(2) PURPOSES.—The Hemisphere Energy Cooperation Forum should seek—

(A) to strengthen relationships between the United States and other countries of the Western Hemisphere through cooperation on energy issues;

(B) to enhance cooperation between major energy producers and major energy consumers in the Western Hemisphere, particularly among the governments of Brazil, Canada, Mexico, the United States, and Venezuela;

(C) to ensure that energy contributes to the economic, social, and environmental enhancement of the countries of the Western Hemisphere;

(D) to provide an opportunity for open dialogue and joint commitments between member governments and with private industry; and

(E) to provide participating countries the flexibility necessary to cooperatively address broad challenges posed to the energy supply of the Western Hemisphere that are

practical in policy terms and politically acceptable.

(3) ACTIVITIES.—The Hemisphere Energy Cooperation Forum should implement the following activities:

(A) An Energy Crisis Initiative that will establish measures to respond to temporary energy supply disruptions, including through—

(i) strengthening sea-lane and infrastructure security;

(ii) implementing a real-time emergency information sharing system;

(iii) encouraging members to have emergency mechanisms and contingency plans in place; and

(iv) establishing a Western Hemisphere energy crisis response mechanism as authorized under section 705(c).

(B) An Energy Sustainability Initiative to facilitate long-term supply security through fostering reliable supply sources of fuels, including development, deployment, and commercialization of technologies for sustainable renewable fuels within the region, including activities that—

(i) promote production and trade in sustainable energy, including energy from biomass;

(ii) facilitate investment, trade, and technology cooperation in energy infrastructure, petroleum products, natural gas (including liquefied natural gas), energy efficiency (including automotive efficiency), clean fossil energy, renewable energy, and carbon sequestration;

(iii) promote regional infrastructure and market integration;

(iv) develop effective and stable regulatory frameworks;

(v) develop renewable fuels standards and renewable portfolio standards;

(vi) establish educational training and exchange programs between member countries; and

(vii) identify and remove barriers to trade in technology, services, and commodities.

(C) An Energy for Development Initiative to promote energy access for underdeveloped areas through energy policy and infrastructure development, including activities that—

(i) increase access to energy services for the poor;

(ii) improve energy sector market conditions;

(iii) promote rural development though biomass energy production and use;

(iv) increase transparency of, and participation in, energy infrastructure projects;

(v) promote development and deployment of technology for clean and sustainable energy development, including biofuel and clean coal technologies; and

(vi) facilitate use of carbon sequestration methods in agriculture and forestry and linking greenhouse gas emissions reduction programs to international carbon markets.

(c) HEMISPHERE ENERGY INDUSTRY GROUP.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Energy, should approach the governments of other countries in the Western Hemisphere to seek cooperation in establishing a Hemisphere Energy Industry Group, to be coordinated by the United States Government, involving industry representatives and government representatives from the Western Hemisphere.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the forum should be to increase public-private partnerships, foster private investment, and enable countries of the Western Hemisphere to devise energy agendas compatible with industry capacity and cognizant of industry goals.

(3) TOPICS OF DIALOGUES.—Topics for the forum should include—

(A) promotion of a secure investment climate;

(B) development and deployment of biofuels and other alternative fuels and clean electrical production facilities, including clean coal and carbon sequestration;

(C) development and deployment of energy efficient technologies and practices, including in the industrial, residential, and transportation sectors;

(D) investment in oil and natural gas production and distribution;

(E) transparency of energy production and reserves data;

(F) research promotion; and

(G) training and education exchange programs.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report on the implementation of this section, including the strategy and benchmarks for measurement of progress developed under this section.

SEC. 707. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.

In this title, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

SA 1503. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title II, add the following:

SEC. 269. GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL BUILDINGS.

(a) DEFINITION OF LEED SILVER STANDARD.—In this section, the term ''LEED silver standard'' means the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating standard identified as silver by the United States Green Building Council.

(b) GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL BUILDINGS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a Federal building for which the design phase for construction or major renovation is begun after the date of enactment of this Act shall be designed, constructed, and certified to meet, at a minimum, the LEED silver standard.

(2) DETERMINATION OF IMPRACTICABILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C)(ii), the requirement under paragraph (1) shall not apply to a Federal building if the head of the Federal agency with jurisdiction over the Federal building, in accordance with the factors described in subparagraph (B), determines that compliance with the requirement under paragraph (1) would be impracticable.

(B) FACTORS FOR DETERMINATION.—In determining whether compliance with the requirement under paragraph (1) would be impracticable, the head of the Federal agency with jurisdiction over the Federal building shall determine—

(i) the quantity of energy required by each activity carried out in the Federal building; and

(ii) whether the Federal building is used to carry out an activity relating to national security.

(C) REPORT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the head of each Federal agency shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a report that includes a description of each Federal building for which the head of the Agency with jurisdiction over the Federal building determined that compliance with the requirement under paragraph (1) would be impracticable.

(ii) REVIEW BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a report from a head of a Federal agency under clause (i), the Secretary shall review the report and notify the head of the Federal agency on whether any Federal building described in the report submitted by the head of the Federal agency shall be required to comply with the requirement under paragraph (1).

(D) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out this paragraph.

(3) STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress the results of a study comparing—

(i) the expected energy savings resulting from the implementation of this section; with

(ii) energy savings under all other Federal energy savings requirements.

(B) INCLUSION.—The Secretary shall include in the report any recommendations for changes to Federal law necessary to reduce or eliminate duplicative or inconsistent Federal energy savings requirements.

SA 1504. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. TELECOMMUTING TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to business related credits) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 45O. TELECOMMUTING CREDIT.

''(a) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—For purposes of section 38, the amount of the telecommuting credit determined under this section for the taxable year shall be equal to 40 percent of the qualified first-year wages for such year.

''(b) QUALIFIED FIRST-YEAR WAGES.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified first-year wages' means, with respect to any individual, qualified wages attributable to service rendered during the 1-year period beginning with the day the individual begins work for the employer.

''(2) QUALIFIED WAGES.—The term 'qualified wages' means the wages paid or incurred by the employer during the taxable year to qualified telecommuters.

''(3) ONLY FIRST $6,000 OF WAGES PER YEAR TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.—The amount of the qualified first-year wages which may be taken into account with respect to any individual shall not exceed $6,000 per year.

''(c) QUALIFIED TELECOMMUTER.—For purposes of this section, the term 'qualified telecommuter' means any individual who renders not less than 40 percent of the service described in subsection (b)(1) from the individual's principal residence.

''(d) WAGES.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'wages' has the meaning given to such term by subsection (b) of section 3306 (determined without regard to any dollar limitation contained in such section).

''(2) ON-THE-JOB TRAINING AND WORK SUPPLEMENTATION PAYMENTS.—

''(A) EXCLUSION FOR EMPLOYERS RECEIVING ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PAYMENTS.—The term 'wages' shall not include any amounts paid or incurred by an employer for any period to any individual for whom the employer receives federally funded payments for on-the-job training of such individual for such period.

''(B) REDUCTION FOR WORK SUPPLEMENTATION PAYMENTS TO EMPLOYERS.—The amount of wages which would (but for this subparagraph) be qualified wages under this section for an employer with respect to an individual for a taxable year shall be reduced by an amount equal to the amount of the payments made to such employer (however utilized by such employer) with respect to such individual for such taxable year under a program established under section 482(e) of the Social Security Act.

''(e) SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this section, rules similar to the rules of section 52 and subsections (f), (g), (i), (j), and (k) of section 51 shall apply.''.

(b) CREDIT TREATED AS BUSINESS CREDIT.—Section 38(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''plus'' at the end of paragraph (30), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (31) and inserting '', plus'', and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(32) the telecommuting credit determined under section 45O(a).''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 45O. Telecommuting credit.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. KERRY. I would like to inform Members that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship will hold a hearing entitled ''The Impact of Rising Gas Prices on America's Small Businesses,'' on Thursday, June 14, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Allyson Anderson, a AAAS fellow, and Paul Augustine, an EPA detailee, with my staff on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the debate on this Energy bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that Benjamin Robinson, Kristen Meierhoff, and Matthew Zedler, who are interns with my staff on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, also be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the debate on the Energy bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASEAN-UNITED STATES DIALOGUE AND RELATIONSHIP

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 177, S. Res. 110.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 110) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 30th Anniversary of the ASEAN-United States dialogue and relationship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 110) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 110

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (referred to in this resolution as ''ASEAN''), was established in 1967, with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand as the initial members;

Whereas the membership of ASEAN has expanded to 10 countries since its establishment in 1967, and now includes Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam;

Whereas the United States-ASEAN dialogue and relationship began in 1977;

Whereas the countries of ASEAN constitute the 3rd largest export market for the United States, have received approximately $90,000,000,000 in direct investment from the United States, and are developing an integrated free trade area;

Whereas trade between the United States and the countries of ASEAN totals nearly $170,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas ASEAN is committed to accelerated economic growth, social progress, cultural development, and regional peace and stability;

Whereas ASEAN is committed to developing a regional energy security strategy;

Whereas nearly 40,000 students from ASEAN countries are studying in the United States;

Whereas ASEAN countries share common concerns with the United States, including the spread of avian influenza and other diseases, and environmental issues, such as the preservation of biodiversity and illegal logging;

Whereas ASEAN countries continue to partner with the United States against global terrorism;

Whereas the Senate passed legislation authorizing the establishment of the position of United States Ambassador for ASEAN Affairs; and

Whereas United States officials announced in August of 2006 that an Ambassador for ASEAN Affairs will be appointed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the United States and the ASEAN countries should continue implementing the ASEAN-United States Enhanced Partnership, with emphasis on the agreed upon specific priority measures for cooperation in 2007;

(B) the United States should proceed with appointing a United States Ambassador for ASEAN Affairs;

(C) the United States should work with the countries of ASEAN in developing a regional energy strategy;

(D) the United States should provide greater emphasis and support toward encouraging students from ASEAN countries to study in the United States, and American students to study in ASEAN countries; and

(E) the United States should continue to support the work of multilateral financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank in ASEAN countries, and to encourage additional transparency and anticorruption efforts by those institutions, for the benefit of the ASEAN countries where they operate;

(2) the Senate welcomes the initiation of a Fulbright Program for ASEAN scholars; and

(3) the Senate welcomes and encourages planning by the countries of ASEAN and the United States for an ASEAN-United States Summit in 2007.

MEMORIALIZING FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 193, S. Res. 171.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 171) memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the day of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 171) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 171

Whereas 1,100,000 men and women comprise the fire service in the United States;

Whereas the fire service is considered one of the most dangerous professions in the United States;

Whereas fire service personnel selflessly respond to over 22,500,000 emergency calls annually, without reservation and with an unwavering commitment to the safety of their fellow citizens;

Whereas fire service personnel are the first to respond to an emergency, whether it involves a fire, medical emergency, spill of hazardous materials, natural disaster, act of terrorism, or transportation accident; and

Whereas approximately 100 fire service personnel die annually in the line of duty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this year, the United States flags on all Federal facilities should be lowered to half-staff on the day of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 12; that on Tuesday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the first half under the control of the Republicans and the second half under the control of the majority; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6; that on Tuesday, the Senate stand in recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. in order to accommodate the respective party conferences; that all time during morning business and the adjournment or recess count postcloture; that at 2:15 p.m. Tuesday, the motion to proceed be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and the Senate then proceed to H.R. 6.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate today, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:02 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 12, 2007, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate June 11, 2007:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

THOMAS J. BARRETT, OF ALASKA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE MARIA CINO, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. LYN D. SHERLOCK, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 8081:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. GARBETH S. GRAHAM, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. JIMMIE J. WELLS, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. EMERSON N. GARDNER, JR., 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) CHRISTINE M. BRUZEK-KOHLER, 0000

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on June 11, 2007 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

MICHAEL J. BURNS, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR NUCLEAR AND CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAMS, VICE DALE KLEIN, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 9, 2007.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG HOSPITAL

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the remarkable history and invaluable contributions of an extraordinary hospital in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is fitting that we recognize this outstanding institution for its leadership in health care and rehabilitation and for its enduring service to the people of our community and our Nation. It is to commend this distinguished organization that I rise to honor the Craig Hospital on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary, ''Celebrating a Century of Rebuilding Lives.''

The growing importance of innovation in health care to our well being as a society and our quality of life is well documented. Craig Hospital is a powerful community of hope and it provides people with new possibilities. Craig has set the standard for quality patient outcomes. It is an internationally recognized leader in health care and has long been recognized as a premier national center of excellence in the specialties of rehabilitation and research for patients with spinal cord injuries and acquired brain injuries.

From its founding as the ''Tent Colony of Brotherly Love'' in 1907 to the world class facility we know today, Craig Hospital continues to be a beacon of hope and remains committed to the well being of its patients. Rehabilitation is a process very different from traditional medical care. It involves teaching patients and families to care for themselves. It requires setting high expectations and hard work by patients to maximize neurological recovery, restore functional abilities and make the psychological adjustments needed to remain as independent and productive as possible.

Since 1956, Craig Hospital has treated more than 25,500 patients—more spinal cord injury patients than any other single facility in the world. Last year, Craig treated patients from 48 states and for the past 18 years, it has been ranked among the Top Ten Rehabilitation Hospitals by U.S. News and World Report. Its spinal cord and traumatic brain injury rehabilitation programs are designated by the U.S. National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation and Research (NIDRR) as Model Systems Centers. Since 2006, Craig is the NIDRR National Database and Statistical Center (HDSC) for the Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems.

Craig Hospital has burnished a reputation of compassion and legacy of care rivaled by very few. Patients have characterized Craig Hospital as ''a miracle (that is) here for patient care, not for health care dollars;'' as ''phenomenal at all they do for patients and families.'' It comes as no surprise that Craig Hospital has been awarded Magnet Designation—a national honor—by the American Nurses Credentialing Center for its excellence in staff collaboration and teamwork and for the spirit of inquiry among bed-side nurses as to what is best for patient care. Truly we, as residents of the 1st Congressional District, are fortunate indeed to have an asset of such magnitude in our community.

Please join me in commending Craig Hospital for its 100 years of leadership in health care and its invaluable service to our community and our Nation. It is the commitment and dedication that Craig Hospital and members of its staff exhibit on a daily basis which continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all of our people.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF NANCY OSBORNE'S SERVICE TO KFSN–TV ABC 30

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the distinguished career of Nancy Osborne, on the occasion of her 30th anniversary of being part of the KFSN–TV ABC 30 family in California's Central Valley.

Nancy grew up on Army bases in the United States as well as Japan and Turkey. She graduated from Las Cruces High School in New Mexico and attended New Mexico State University for 3 years. In between a 5-year hiatus from college and motherhood, Nancy relocated to Fresno, CA, in 1973. Upon settling in Fresno, she returned to college and graduated from Fresno State University with a bachelors of arts degree in speech communications in 1976.

A year into graduate school at Fresno State, Nancy accepted a reporting job with KFSN–TV 30, the local ABC affiliate television station in Fresno, California and became one of only a handful of women in the local broadcast industry. Nancy's success continued as she joined the anchor team at KFSN–TV in the fall of 1977 and again in 1980 when she produced and anchored the Valley's first locally produced news magazine show along with co-anchoring the Action News Program.

Nancy's promising career with ABC 30 continued throughout the years and in 1996 she accepted the challenge of joining the Action News Management team. While continuing her coverage of the Valley's political scene and issues involving children and families, she was named Executive Producer—Special Projects, a position which allowed her to play a key role in helping shape Action News around the clock.

In January 2004, Nancy returned to reporting full time, bringing her experience and expertise to the expanding daily Action News coverage. In addition to full-time reporting, Nancy also co-anchors Action News Live at Five with Warren Armstrong.

Through the 30 years of service and loyalty to KFSN–TV ABC 30, Nancy Osborne has demonstrated the highest level of dedication to her community. She has emerged as one of the Valley's most trusted names in news and her contributions to the Valley's broadcast industry will never be forgotten. It is my sincere hope that continued health, prosperity, and success be with Nancy through all her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RANDY PRIDEAUX

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the life of Randy Prideaux, a civic-minded business leader and longtime resident of Union Grove, Wisconsin whose energetic commitment to his community touched countless lives. Randy died unexpectedly last week, sending waves of shock and sorrow through Southeastern Wisconsin, where he was well-known through his business and civic leadership.

Randy worked his way up the ladder at Union Grove Lumber over nearly 40 years to become CEO of this local lumber and hardware business. He also served as a member of my Small Business Advisory Board, and I am grateful that he took the time to share his expertise with us. He knew the challenges that small business owners face day in and day out, and his insights on issues from health care to tax policies were very helpful. If there was one thing you could always count on, it was that Randy would tell you what he truly thought, whether he agreed or disagreed with you. His candor and his dedication to doing what is right for Union Grove will be sorely missed.

Besides working to strengthen the community as an employer and businessman, Randy gave back in many other ways. Altogether, he served 20 years on the Village Board. He was active in the Union Grove Lions Club and had served two terms as president. He also served two terms as president of the Chamber of Commerce.

In his personal life, Randy was a devoted family man, who recently became a grandfather. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, children, granddaughter, mother, and brother, and the many friends throughout Wisconsin who mourn his loss.

HONORING JUDITH REED MEHAL

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judith Mehal for over 28 years of dedicated service in the public education system.

● This ''bullet'' symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Since graduating from the California University of Pennsylvania with a degree in education, Judith Mehal has continued to make a positive impact on students in Pennsylvania and Virginia school districts. Ms. Mehal began teaching in the Penn Hills and South Allegheny school districts of Pennsylvania, but she has spent the vast majority of her venerable career in Fairfax County. After a brief stint at Cardinal Forest Elementary School, Ms. Mehal found her niche at Lanier Middle School where she was able to pursue her passion for teaching mathematics. During her time at Lanier Middle School, she earned a masters degree from Virginia Tech and became a teacher of technology education. In her 22 years at the school, she has become an integral part of the Lanier community, and her presence will be missed by colleagues and students alike.

Ms. Mehal's distinguished career is exemplary of the high standard to which public school teachers hold themselves. Her willingness and ability to teach a variety of disciplines is highly commendable, as is her own commitment to pursuing higher education while continuing to teach in the Fairfax County school system.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Ms. Mehal on her retirement as a technology education teacher from Lanier Middle School. While I know that she will be greatly missed, her retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Judith Reed Mehal and in wishing her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. NICK MANCINI

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that thousands of St. Paul friends and neighbors, along with me, mourn the passing of Mr. Nick Mancini. At 80 years of age, Nick died on May 29, 2007, and Minnesota lost a very special person.

Nick Mancini, a man of exceptional kindness, generosity and warmth of spirit, was the owner of Mancini's Char House and Lounge, a St. Paul landmark since the 1960s. For those who have never visited Nick Mancini's restaurant, it would be difficult to understand the deep sentiment and fondness we in St. Paul feel for Nick and his family. For those of us who have frequented Mancini's, we were always made to feel at home and Nick, his sons and the entire staff made us feel special—like we were part of the family. In a fast food era when the tradition of hospitality is increasingly lost in America, St. Paul is blessed with a special place—Mancini's Char House—where every customer is made to feel welcome and comfortable, and that is before you started eating a delicious steak dinner.

Hospitality and generosity were the hallmark of Nick Mancini's career and calling. He was a restaurateur, a neighborhood anchor, a St. Paul legend and a very, very caring man who I will miss and always remember. For me, visiting with Nick was always special. This was because being Nick's guest was to be enveloped by his warmth, sincerity and kindness. It didn't matter whether you were a Member of Congress, a U.S. Senator, the Mayor of St. Paul, a carpenter, a teacher, or a truck driver, to Nick you were his guest. Everyone was treated special and with respect, and everyone left his restaurant a little heavier and happier.

Along with remembering Nick, I would like to acknowledge his family and express my condolences to Nick's wife, Maryann, his sons Pat, John and Nick, Jr., and his grandchildren.

The work of Nick Mancini will not disappear with his passing. Mancini's Char House will continue to be a St. Paul landmark and an oasis of hospitality. Pat and John Mancini are carrying on the tradition of hospitality and community leadership that so many of us in St. Paul admire and appreciate. For this lasting tradition St. Paul, Minnesota, and our Nation has Nick Mancini to thank.

WORLD OCEANS DAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, Friday is World Oceans Day—a day we celebrate the vast waters that cover two-thirds of the surface of our planet.

A small, but biologically important part of the Blue Planet is offshore of my 6th Congressional District, a stretch that encompasses the entire coastline of Marin and Sonoma Counties.

If you've driven the Marin-Sonoma coast you know how beautiful it is. Most of it is undeveloped or sparsely populated. Its sparkling waters, curling waves, pristine beaches, moon rocked cliffs, surging tide pools, and its soaring seabirds and breeching whales inspire and delight. Thanks to nutrient rich upwelling which provides a bounty of phytoplankton at the bottom of the food chain, our waters support 33 species of marine mammals, including blue and humpbacked whales and elephant seals, at the top of the food chain.

That's not to say that even here there are not problems. Today the commercial fishing fleet of Bodega Bay is just a remnant of past days. Last year, because of a water allotment that devasted the Klamath River fishery, our commercial salmon fishing season was slashed. Meanwhile, native coho and chinook salmon and steelhead trout are on the endangered species list.

These tragic depletions of our fisheries are symptomatic of many things: global overfishing; inland habitat destruction; and water diversions; climate change; pollution, coastal development—all of which were addressed by reports from the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission, and all of which need to be seriously dealt with.

But the ocean is amazingly resilient. Aquatic populations can come back, if we take positive actions.

All of our oceans need enlightened governance and protection, but there are places that are so rich, so vitally important to sustaining marine life that we need to immediately take special measures.

The northern California coast is one of those places, and that's why I have introduced legislation, H.R. 1187, to expand the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries to include the entire Sonoma and with the support of Representative MIKE THOMPSON and the Mendocino County board of supervisors, the southern Mendocino coast.

The current northern boundary of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuaries is Bodega Head. Yet research shows that the rich marine geological area of the Gulf of the Farallones actually extends to Point Arena, about 100 miles north of Bodega Head.

The Sonoma and southern Mendocino coast has two great estuaries, the Russian and Gualala Rivers. The Russian River watershed is especially burdened by multiple threats caused by human development. My bill protects these estuaries by banning increased polluting discharges into their waters. And, it will ensure that changes in flow or salinity do not harm marine life.

Marine sanctuary protection will also ensure that the Bodega Marine Laboratory will be able to continue 50-years of studies in these pristine waters—research that will help us learn how to live with an ocean that is not so endless that it cannot be despoiled.

The people of Sonoma and Mendocino love their coast, and because we will bring to it permanent protection, ecosystem management and the vital research that the marine sanctuary program provides, we will pass it on to our children, unspoiled and thriving with life.

That's my commitment as we celebrate World Oceans Day.

HONORING MAITHREYI GOPALAKRISHNAN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maithreyi Gopalakrishnan, an eighth grader at Peak to Peak Charter School in Superior, Colorado. She recently made the semifinals at the National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. She has been to several spelling bees and 2 years ago, finished at an impressive 37th place. At this year's National Spelling Bee, Ms. Gopalakrishnan beat out opponents by spelling the word salinelle, a mud volcano erupting saline mud—solidifying her chance to win the contest. The winner of the National Spelling Bee receives $35,000, a $5,000 scholarship, a savings bond of $2,500 and a set of reference works.

Two hundred and eighty-six extraordinary students from across the Nation train vigorously in preparation for this annual event held at the Grand Hyatt Washington hotel. Students are expected to be able to spell words such as prioplasmosis and my personal favorite, bewusstseinslage, which means a state of consciousness—something my critics occasionally accuse me of losing.

The skills and values that Ms. Gopalakrishnan already displays will help her with many challenges that she may face in the future. Furthermore, her commitment to learning and competitive drive makes her a strong student who is sure to excel in her academic career. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Maithreyi Gopalakrishnan in all of

her accomplishments and wish her success as she continues on her quest for knowledge.

CONGRATULATING MR. TOM DAVENPORT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Tom Davenport of Lake Dallas, Texas for his 18 years of service as Superintendent of Schools for the Lake Dallas Independent School District.

During his tenure, the school district has more than doubled in size and has been in a continuous building program since 1995. In his 38 years of teaching and school administration, his focus has always been on providing top-quality education for his students.

In addition to his passion for education, Tom has deeply impressed me by his forward thinking in other areas. A few years ago, Tom made the decision to install geothermal heating and cooling in Lake Dallas ISD schools. He recognized that, despite higher up-front capital costs, the District would save money over time, as well as help clean the environment by using a renewable source.

Tom is very active in various professional organizations on both the state and national level. He is a member of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, having served as President of the Federal Properties Section for two years. On the state level, he has served as treasurer for the Texas Association of Federally Impacted Schools since 1999. He is also a member of the Texas Association of School Administrators and has served as a mentor superintendent for four newly hired superintendents across the state.

In the past he has served as Commissioner of Education Advisory Committee and served as Chair of the Education Service Center, Region XI TASA Study Group. He is a Senatorial District Representative for the Texas Association of Mid-Size Schools. Other professional organizations to which he belongs include, Phi Delta Kappa, Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, Texas Association of Community Schools, and the Equity Center.

Locally he is a member of the Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce and served as vice-president for six years. He was selected as the Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2005. He is also a member of the Lake Cities Lions Club and is an active member of Lake Shore Baptist Church in Lake Dallas.

Tom plans to reside in the Lake Cities area after retirement with his wife Carolyn.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Tom Davenport for years of hard work and dedication. I am pleased to join his friends, family, and colleagues in congratulating him on his retirement after years of devoted service.

TRIBUTE TO THE DENVER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker. I rise to commend the exceptional leadership and invaluable contributions of the Denver Gay Men's Chorus on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. It is fitting that we recognize this chorus for its extraordinary service and its enduring commitment to creative and performance excellence as well as the enrichment of the artistic and cultural experience in the 1st congressional district and throughout Colorado.

Since its inception, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus has proven to be a powerful force in promoting both artistic excellence and civic values. Founded in 1982, the chorus was the first openly gay organization in Denver. The group is a talented choral ensemble dedicated to musical excellence and it has been a beacon of strength and support for the gay and lesbian community. Touching ears and hearts alike, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, with its unique ability to convey acceptance and pride, continue to be in high demand with diverse audiences. Truly, the chorus has established itself as a major cultural presence that has served to expand the appreciation of choral music and its enduring value as a means of poignant artistic expression.

The Denver Gay Men's Chorus has openly declared that it exists to build community through music. Members have joined together for the explicit purpose of providing educational, cultural and social enrichment for themselves and their audiences. It is an organization of gay people and their friends that is actively engaged in making a positive contribution to the entire community.

The Denver Gay Men's Chorus has amassed a distinguished record of service to our State and our Nation. It has participated in the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses festivals in six cities—Denver, Montreal, New York, San Jose, Seattle, and Tampa—representing Denver and Colorado as cultural ambassadors to the world. It has participated in exchange concerts with gay men's choruses in Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, Portland, Philadelphia and Washington, DC.

In 1990, Rich Geraghty of Denver was appointed administrative director of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses Board of Directors. Prior to locating in Washington, DC, the first national offices of the GALA Choruses were in Denver. In 1992, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus welcomed over 3,500 delegates and hosted 65 choruses at the GALA Choruses Festival IV held at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. ''Of Rage and Remembrance,'' by featured composer John Corigliano, was performed at the festival's special AIDS Memorial Concert during the peak of AIDS deaths nationwide.

Over the past 25 years, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus has performed over 130 different concert programs featuring over 1,300 compositions, arrangements, commissioned works, and medleys. It comes as no surprise that the chorus was honored with the Denver Mayor's A ward for Excellence in the Arts for 1992.

As a choir member at Montview Presbyterian Church, I have an appreciation of choral music's power and its capacity to inspire both singers and audiences alike. It has been noted that ''singing is the bridge between heaven and earth; between ages and cultures. It has the power to move hearts and to touch us in ways that truly transcend mundane experience.'' Today, we celebrate the transforming power of choral music. We celebrate the invaluable contributions of the Denver Gay Men's Chorus as it continues to promote artistic excellence, pride and community. Choral music touches all of us and we are indeed fortunate to have a cultural asset of such magnitude. Please join me in commending the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, a distinguished choral ensemble. It is the leadership and dedication which members of this chorus exhibit on a daily basis that continually enhance our lives and build a better future for all of our people.

HONORING THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES ARMY STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER M. MOORE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of SSG Christopher M. Moore, who lost his life defending our Nation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Christopher M. Moore attended Alpaugh High School in Alpaugh, CA. He excelled in academics and graduated early. After Christopher graduated from high school he joined the United States Army. He was so proud to serve in the military; he enlisted for a second term. Christopher Moore was the first Alpaugh High School graduate to die in combat.

While serving with the 1st Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood, Texas, Christopher performed all of his active duties with great satisfaction. Tragically, on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 19, 2007, the vehicle in which Christopher traveled was hit by an improvised explosive device. Christopher and five other soldiers were killed in the incident.

Christopher is survived by his mother, Martha Moore, two sisters, and one brother. Also surviving are his three young daughters and numerous friends.

It is my belief that Michael's life symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country. His valor, strength, courage and determination to fight for our Nation will forever live in the minds and hearts of his family and Americans across the country. SSG Christopher M. Moore's dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy will serve as an example to all of us and for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM KOSSORIS

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, Southeastern Wisconsin lost a truly dedicated teacher last week—Tom Kossoris, who taught at Mukwonago High School over the past three decades. He passed away after a lengthy battle with illness brought on by a brain tumor. I would like to take a moment to honor his memory and reflect on the lessons he passed along to his students and others who knew him.

Tom taught history, political science and economics. He demanded a lot from his students—setting high standards that challenged them to excel. In an account that appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, his fellow teacher, Bruce Lammers put it well, saying: ''Tom taught me to have students meet your expectations. Challenge the kids academically, and the kids rise to your standards.'' Tom combined this toughness with a dry sense of humor and an unfailing commitment to his students' education.

Every year, Tom brought students to Washington to enhance and expand on what they had learned—showing them their government in action, as well as the site of so many watersheds and debates over the course of our nation's history. I could count on hearing from Tom, who would ask for assistance with getting tours of the Capitol or other opportunities to make his students' trip memorable. He held himself to the same high standards he expected of others—working tirelessly to make sure students got the most out of their experience in Washington.

Over the years he retained a love of teaching, as well as an intellectual energy and enthusiasm that he passed on to others. On top of his other teaching duties, Tom became a driver's education instructor, giving lessons before school on weekdays and on Saturdays. His sharp mind, his wit, and his determination to bring out the best in students will be greatly missed by the whole community.

HONORING CYNTHIA SIEGEL

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Cynthia Siegel for over 30 years of educational service to students in Virginia, New York, and Germany.

Originally from Long Island, Mrs. Siegel began her career in education in New York, teaching for six years on the high school level and two years for an education program at CitiBank. Mrs. Siegel's calling as a teacher didn't leave her because of a geographic location. As the spouse of an Army officer, she found herself in Germany and confronted with a base that lacked a teacher for the military school there. She gladly stepped up and filled that need. Upon her return to the U.S., Mrs. Siegel worked for six years at the Washington Business School of Northern Virginia. She joined Fairfax County Public Schools in 1989, piloting the Technology Tools class for Lanier Middle School in Fairfax, Virginia. Mrs. Siegel has been a dedicated educator at Lanier for the past 21 years.

Teaching students for over three decades and on two continents, she has demonstrated her unequivocal passion for education. Over her career, Mrs. Siegel found opportunities to actively serve in different educational systems in Virginia, New York and Europe. A proud mother and grandmother, Mrs. Siegel will continue her service to young people during her retirement. She has fondly exclaimed, ''my role as an educator will remain, only my title will officially shift from Mrs. Siegel to grandma.''

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Mrs. Cynthia Siegel for her enduring service as a teacher in Fairfax County and abroad. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Cynthia Siegel for her efforts and wishing her many happy years in retirement.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2317, LOBBYING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2007 AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2316, HONEST LEADERSHIP AND OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the Honest Leadership Open Government Act and congratulate Speaker PELOSI for taking this important step in changing the way business is done in Washington.

H.R. 2316 will bring real transparency to lobbyists' activities in order to break the corrupting influence that has been present over the last decade in Congress. This bill requires disclosure of lobbyists' contributions to members, doubles the frequency of lobbyists' reporting, and establishes a searchable public database of this disclosure information. It also increases criminal and civil penalties for those who violate the Lobby Disclosure Act and bans the K street project.

The Honest Leadership Open Government Act includes new requirements for Members of Congress, including required disclosure of job negotiations for post-Congressional employment, and establishes a public database for Members' travel and financial disclosure information.

This legislation is the second step in fulfilling the Democrats' promise to clean up Washington. In the first 100 hours of the 110th Congress we passed new House Rules imposing the toughest ethics standards ever. These rules banned gifts, meals and trips paid for by lobbyists. The House has also voted to deny pension benefits to Members of Congress convicted of corruption.

The House of Representatives is the People's House. In order to ensure that we are truly responsive to and representative of the people, it is critical that lobbyists' do not have undue access to Members or influence over the legislative process. H.R. 2316 shines a bright light on lobbyists' activities in order to end the illegal practices that waste taxpayer dollars and bring disgrace to this institution.

Under Democratic leadership, this Congress is moving America in a New Direction. Our priorities put the interests of American families ahead of special interests. I am proud to support this legislation today and urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 5th, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to vote on rollcalls Nos. 426–430.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following:

Rollcall No. 426, H. Res. 327—''aye.''
Rollcall No. 427, H. Res. 422—''aye.''
Rollcall No. 428, H. Res. 430—''aye.''
Rollcall No. 429, H. Res. 451—''aye.''
Rollcall No. 430, H. Res. 452—''aye.''

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL PATRICK HENRY BRADY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Major General Patrick H. Brady for his relentless and selfless service to this country. Major General Brady should be remembered for his heroic display while serving in the Republic of Vietnam, where he went above and beyond his call of duty flying multiple missions into hostile territory to evacuate severely wounded soldiers as an air ambulance pilot. It is estimated that Major General Brady may have evacuated more wounded from the battlefield than anyone in American history, over 5,000.

Major General Brady's gallantry and heroism has been well documented and he is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, our Nations second highest award; two Distinguished Service Medals; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; six Distinguished Flying Crosses; two Bronze Stars, one for valor; the Purple Heart; 53 Air Medals, one for valor; and the Medal of Honor, the military's highest decoration. While Major General Patrick Brady had a distinguished and honorable military career, I speak today not only to honor those achievements and his 34-year military career, but to recognize his service to our country while not wearing the uniform.

Soon Major General Brady will step down as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Citizens Flag Alliance, after more than a decade of phenomenal service. Major General Brady's outstanding ability enabled him to organize and motivate nearly 150 organizations whose sole focus is on passing a Constitutional amendment that would return to the American people the right to protect their flag. He has testified before Congress and worked

closely with many Members of Congress to gain support for an amendment that would ban the desecration of the American flag. I commend the Major General for his work and am confident he departs knowing the mission of the Alliance will continue due in no small part to his involvement and diligence.

I extend my best wishes to Major General Brady as he turns his attention toward his family. America will be forever indebted to him for his altruistic service to this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MOHAMMED H. QAYOUMI, PH.D., FOURTH PRESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mohammed H. Qayoumi, Ph.D., who assumed the presidency of Cal State University, East Bay on July 1, 2006. Dr. Qayoumi is the fourth president of the university and his formal investiture will take place at the Hayward, CA, campus of Cal State University, East Bay on June 1, 2007.

Prior to his employment at Cal State University, East Bay, President Qayoumi served as vice president for administration and finance and chief financial officer at California State University, Northridge. He was also a tenured professor of engineering management at the university.

President Qayoumi has also served as vice chancellor for administrative services and as adjunct professor at the University of Missouri-Rolla and was associate vice president for administration and an adjunct professor at Sari Jose State University. He has more than 27 years of experience in the service of higher education and industry.

He has a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from American University of Beirut, and MS. degrees in nuclear engineering, electrical and computer engineering, a well as an M.B.A. in finance and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Cincinnati.

When President Qayoumi came to the United States in 1978, he was first employed as staff engineer at the University of Cincinnati, where he also held positions as director of technical services, director of utilities and engineering services and adjunct professor. Prior to 1978, President Qayoumi was employed as a communications engineer in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and as a project electrical engineer in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

President Qayoumi has published eight books, more than 85 articles and several chapters in various books. He has made presentations at numerous conferences across the United States and in 10 other countries on various topics in his areas of academic expertise.

He has served his native country of Afghanistan in various financial capacities, including minister of finance, and remains on several boards of directors, including the Central Bank of Afghanistan.

I am confident President Qayoumi will provide exemplary leadership to Cal State University and I join in wishing him every success.

IN MEMORY OF WAYNE STEVENS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Mr. Wayne Stevens, a proud member of the San Diego community and a fellow paratrooper who recently passed away at the age 64 from the effects of cancer.

Wayne's distinguished record of military service to this Nation is one of the finest examples of selflessness and courage. He served in Vietnam with Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion of the 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, and was among the first soldiers to arrive in country from Okinawa in 1964. For his heroism in Vietnam, Wayne was awarded two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

Madam Speaker, Ronald Reagan once said, ''the willingness of our citizens to give freely and unselfishly of themselves, even their lives, in defense of our democratic principles, gives this great nation continued strength and vitality. From Valley Forge to Vietnam, through war and peace, valiant Americans have answered the call to duty with honor and dignity.'' In making these remarks, President Reagan was speaking directly to Americans like Wayne, who have so bravely and selflessly put their country before themselves and were always willing to make the ultimate sacrifice when they were needed most.

My prayers are with Wayne's devoted wife of 42 years, Donna, his daughter Jessica and two grandchildren, Sophia and Adolph, and I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying tribute to the life and memory of this true American hero.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS CASSIDY

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a community leader, my friend, Dennis Cassidy, on his retirement after over 30 years of serving the people of Paso Robles, CA, most currently as chief of police.

Chief Cassidy began his law enforcement career with the Paso Robles Police Department in 1974. In 1985, Cassidy was promoted to patrol sergeant and in 1988, he became Detective Bureau commander. In 1990, he was promoted to Lieutenant, and was responsible for seeking grants to further the department's Community Outreach Program through the early 1990s. His success led to the establishment of a satellite police office, in cooperation with the Housing Authority, where two officers were assigned to work full-time. The results were remarkable. Criminal activity dropped, community and police relationships strengthened, and a safer Paso Robles gave families increased peace of mind. In 1997, Cassidy was named chief of police, a position he has held since, until his retirement.

During his tenure as chief, Cassidy was instrumental in planning the new Public Safety Center in Paso Robles. This center was put to the test after the San Simeon earthquake in December 2003. This earthquake caused massive damage to Paso Robles and took the lives of two Paso Robles residents. The center immediately served as a staging area as Cassidy and other members of the Paso Robles Emergency Services coordinated initial rescue and recovery efforts. Later, the building was used by many different agencies brought in to assist with recovery.

Chief Cassidy has been in the forefront of exploring new technologies, which has resulted in the Paso Robles Police Department being equipped with innovative technology to help combat crime and ensure the safety of the community and residents. Specifically, Chief Cassidy was responsible for the Department obtaining its Computer Aided Dispatching and Records Management Systems, as well as Livescan fingerprinting and digital in-car video with wireless station-server download capability.

Serving his community is not something Chief Cassidy only does on-duty; he is very involved while he is off-duty. Chief Cassidy is a past commissioner of the Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County, the local agency administering State tax revenue to fund education, childcare, health and other programs for expectant parents and toddlers. He also served as president of the North County Women's Resource Center, which assists women and families against domestic violence and abuse. Finally, he is active as a Paul Harris Fellow in the local Rotary, and a member of the San Luis Obispo Cattlemen's Association.

Chief Cassidy exemplifies how one can answer the call of duty to protect and serve his fellow neighbors, and do it with great passion, strength, and devotion to his community. His shoes will be tough to fill as he raised the police department's level of excellence and outstanding conduct, and has forged a relationship of trust with the community his officers serve and protect. I know Chief Cassidy looks forward to his retirement and spending time with friends and family. I commend his service to the city of Paso Robles and wish him the best as he enters into the next stage of his life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES ARMY CORPORAL VICTOR TOLEDO PULIDO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of CPL Victor H. Toledo Pulido, who lost his life defending our Nation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After attending high school in California's Central Valley, Victor joined the Army Reserves in 2005. A year later, he signed up for active duty and was stationed at Fort Benning, GA. Victor was proud to serve in the military.

While serving with the 1st Calvary Regiment based out of Fort Benning, Victor wore his green camouflage uniform with pride. Unfortunately, on Wednesday, May 23, 2007, the vehicle in which Victor traveled was hit with an improvised explosive device. Victor and another solider were killed in the incident.

CPL Victor Toledo Pulido is survived by his mother, Maria Gaspar of Kettleman City, his wife, Cristi Toledo, and brothers, Yosio and Gaston Toledo Pulido. Also surviving is his son, Isak and numerous friends.

It is my belief that Victor's life symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country. His valor, strength, courage and pride in our Nation will forever live in the thoughts and hearts of his family and Americans across the Nation. CPL Victor H. Toledo Pulido's dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy will serve as an example to all of us and for generations to come.

HONORING EDWARD A. NIZIOLEK

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Edward Niziolek for a remarkable 41 years of faithful service to the students of Fairfax, VA.

Mr. Niziolek began his career as an educator in 1964 after graduating from the California State Teachers College with a major in mathematics. Mr. Niziolek joined Fairfax County Public Schools as a mathematics teacher at Glasgow Middle School in Alexandria, VA. After serving for five years at Glasgow, Mr. Niziolek joined the faculty at Lanier Middle School where he quickly made his mark on both the character and academic development of its students. He sponsored the Lanier Math Team, which frequently finished as one of the top performing teams in the area, including a 2nd Place finish in Mr. Niziolek's final school year. Mr. Niziolek has demonstrated his dedication to education year round, teaching an astonishing 36 summer school sessions.

Mr. Niziolek dutifully served for over four decades and demonstrated a passion for service in a school system with students from a wide array of backgrounds. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated an interest in his students, a desire to help them succeed, and the ability to achieve outstanding results. All students, faculty and parents who have been in one of his classrooms have expressed an appreciation for his dedicated service to our Nation's youth.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Mr. Edward Niziolek for his tireless service and contributions as a mathematics teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools. His legacy of success is found in each student who has traveled into his classrooms, taken his tests, and who have moved on to become productive members of the community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Edward A. Niziolek for his service and wishing him the best in a well deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO HAL BROWN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join you here today to honor our colleague, Hal Brown, on his 25 years of service to Marin County. Since 1983 when he was first appointed to the Board of Supervisors to represent the Second District, Hal has demonstrated a caring, thoughtful, and committed approach to addressing the issues facing the residents of Marin.

Hal's priorities have been clear from the start. He focuses on families, education, environment, responsible government and economic vitality. His own vitality and dedication have led him to serve on more than 25 boards and organizations, from the Marin Conservation League to the Rape Crisis Center, from the county Flood Control and Water District to the Disabled Students Advisory Board.

This work has resulted in a long list of notable accomplishments—for example, preserving more than 1,500 acres of open space, promoting free bus rides for students, and authoring Marin's Family Medical Leave law.

After the New Year's Eve flood of 2005, Hal moved to make his district safer by establishing the first regional flood warning system in the Ross Valley. For long-range safety, he has spearheaded efforts for towns and organizations to work with the county, State and Federal governments to implement a comprehensive flood control plan.

''It doesn't make sense to look at just flood control or environmental restoration or water quality issues in isolation,'' Hal has said. ''We need to address the problem with an approach that makes common, ecological and economic sense. A watershed-wide approach could meet the test of all three.''

A San Anselmo resident for 35 years, Hal coached various youth sports while raising his two sons, Mike and Chris.

Madam Speaker, I have appreciated working with Supervisor Brown on the many issues faced by the Marin community, and I look forward to continuing our partnership.

Congratulations, Hal, on your 25 years of dedicated service.

DEATH OF THOMAS A. STALLWORTH

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, for years, Thomas A. Stallworth was a pillar of Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC, serving as chaplain, professor of religion, soccer coach, dean of students, dean of alumni affairs, and after retirement, as interim director of church relations. He died suddenly on May 14, 2007. I offer for the record the following tribute from John V. Griffith, president of Presbyterian College:

TOM STALLWORTH: OUR MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

God's saints come in interesting sizes and shapes. They are agents of God's grace in the most unexpected of ways. So it is with Tom Stallworth.

In the fall of 1951, Tom Stallworth was a freshman at PC from the south side of Atlanta. As an undergraduate he joined and loved the PC choir under the direction of Eduard Patte, was involved in student government, led the Student Christian Association, enjoyed athletics, belonged to Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, was the leader of The Scottish Highlander Battalion of ROTC, and was enjoyed by his classmates for his sense of humor, love of life, and humble faith.

After graduating from Columbia Theological Seminary and a short stint at the First Presbyterian Church of Rome, Georgia, Dr. Marshall Brown asked Tom to come to the College to teach for two years. Pete Hay was on leave. Tom retired 36 years later, although the way I look at it, Tom worked at or for PC for a total of 56 years. He has been PC's man for all seasons.

In the 1973 yearbook, one of three dedicated to Tom, he wrote prophetic words, which I have come to see as autobiographical . . . ''There is an ingredient in and of this community which few miss. It's not obvious. Many take some time to see it. You may not even want to look for awhile. They do not leave the way they came. Look them up three, five, ten years from now. Won't we all be surprised? They will have a plus; it will show!''

Tom's plus showed. In him we saw much of what the College seeks to nurture in the hearts and minds of those who pass our way: a man for God, a man for God's people, and a man for PC.

Jack Edmunds, his senior year roommate remarked on Tom's call to ministry: ''It was evident during his college days that Tom would go into ministry, but he was never one to wear his religion on his sleeve. He was not a pious type and that impressed people. He personified what a good minister should be.''

Tom served God and served PC by serving God's people in everyday ways . . . everyday: through athletics, through music, through just doing his job . . . all of his jobs . . . whatever hat he was called to wear he served with all his heart and mind. Hello brother . . . T.A. Stallworth . . . hearty, honest, positive . . . direct! T.A. Stallworth . . . pleased to meet you. There wasn't a pretentious bone in his body. What you saw, what you heard, what you learned over time all lined up. T.A. Stallworth. Clear in what he believed . . . courageous in taking a stance on principle . . . available to serve. Thomas Aurelius Stallworth. I believe he liked Aurelius . . . in fact it is the only time I saw a twinge of hubris in the eyes of this saint. Thomas Aurelius Stallworth, God's humble and persistent servant. PC's man for all seasons.

There are so many wonderful stories about this man and his ministry. They have come flooding in from folks near and far, always laced with humor.

Athletics! Tom loved sports and found in them a way to connect with God's people.

He was on the way to lunch on campus and Cally Gault was on the way back. Cally leaned out of his car window and asked, ''How would you like to be our soccer coach?'' Tom said ''I believe they have 11 men on a team, depending on how you count the goalie.'' Cally said, ''You're our man!!''

He was always an athlete . . . in college and as an adult. The last real team he played on was the faculty Intramural volleyball team named the ''Good Old Boys.'' They were very serious about their volleyball and Tom is remembered by teammates Ramsey, Stidham, Weaver, Womble, Gaines, Rischbieter, Hill, Burnside and others as a great ''set man'' on the court and in life. When asked his most interesting experience he said ''playing on a championship volleyball team with an average age of 43 that continually beats teams with an average age of 19 is interesting enough!''

Music! Music is another way Tom praised God and celebrated life. The PC Choir served as his primary social group as an undergraduate. He became a star of stage in 1981 when Dr. Charles Gaines and Dr. Dale Raines recruited him to play the part of Bellamy in

the Fantasticks. He and Randy Randall have sung ''Never say No'' for many audiences since then. It occurred to me that ''Never Say No'' became the mantra of Tom's life. Never say no to what God calls you to do. To my knowledge, he never said no to PC.

Tom and Chuck Gaines lead the singing at men's prayer breakfast belting out the old favorites in a manner that upstages Gilbert and Sullivan.

Tom sang in an infamous singing group called ''The Faculty Four and the Big One'' with George Ramsey, Ron Burnside, Ted Hunter, and Ken Orr (the big one). One of their most forgettable songs was Grandma got Run over by a Reindeer, with Dean Thompson playing the banjo. One person said that the group was really good . . . and no one has ever said otherwise . .

Just doing his Job! It is here at PC as a minister of Word and Sacrament that Tom served God's people most fully. The entire PC network was his congregation.

Tom and Major General Jimmy Allen started the ROTC Alumni Association. But Tom always liked to remind Jimmy that even though Jimmy was a two star general, Tom was his Battalion Commander at PC. And together they set out to save ROTC when it was in danger of being closed by the Army.

Anyone who ever traveled with Tom knows that he did not like to travel on the Interstates or any four lane highway. He knew the back roads and always took them even if it took longer . . . although he always thought his way was quicker. One morning he intervened in my travel up Interstate 26 from Edisto. Due to a traffic jam, I had to take the Dixiana exit and enjoy the scenery along route 176. It was shorter!

''The two years I spent as Dean of Students were the ten longest years of my life,'' Tom told me once. ''I didn't get closer to students; I got closer to meetings and paperwork. I had to go back into the classroom to get back with the students.''

''I never considered myself an ivory tower scholar,'' he reflected on his 31 years as a professor. ''My method was to mix it up with students. I could give them their money's worth in the classroom, but I think my main ability was communicating the information to them in a manner that sunk in, and I enjoyed the give-and-take inside the classroom as well as out.''

Tom has conducted the marriage ceremonies of more PC people than anyone in the history of the College. He knew more PC people and their relatives than anyone I know . . . in every city and every little town across the South.

And through all of this, Mary was his partner. ''One of my most memorable times at PC,'' wrote a 1990s graduate, ''was the Easter weekend I spent writing a term paper at their kitchen table. That was one of the best weekends of my life because of the comfort I felt from Mary and Tom.

Every Homecoming cars are parked outside their house . . . people stopping by to visit and reconnect. ''I think the PC Spirit is an infection I have,'' said Tom, ''whether it is contagious or not I don't know. I'm 150 percent for PC and have tried to answer the call of whatever the College has wanted me to do.''

The Class of 1963 dedicated their yearbook to Tom. Bob Piephoff, the editor, summed up the class's feelings about this good man: ''We come to Presbyterian College and we leave . . . We leave taking a part of Tommy Stallworth with us.''

Anne told me this morning that Tom took Andy and her aside several years ago to talk about this day and his wishes. Tom will be cremated and has asked on some weekday evening at 10:00 p.m. that they, his children, sprinkle his ashes along the walk he took every evening of his college career from the old library, now the administration building, diagonally across the West Plaza to Smythe where he lived.

And so it shall be . . . Mary, Anne, Andy, Becky Mary Frances, Cooper, Max and Katie Brice . . . that Thomas Aurelius Stallworth leaves a part of himself with all those he touched.

Man of God's people, Man for God's people, Man for PC. T.A. Stallworth: PC's Man for All Seasons. Thank God for the life and works of this saint, who walked, played, laughed, sang, preached, and stood next to us each day. Amen!

HONORING SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI ON SERVING 20 YEARS IN THE HOUSE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, on June 9, 1987, NANCY PELOSI was sworn in to represent the people of California's 8th District. This week we recognize and commend her for 20 years of distinguished service in the House of Representatives, where she has served both her constituents and this Nation proudly.

During her 20 years in the House, NANCY has been a true leader on important issues, including promoting human rights, protecting the environment, and expanding health care. She has remained focused on the needs of her district, including preserving the Presidio of San Francisco as the Nation's largest urban national park, fighting for increased funding for HIV/AIDS research, and improving the lives of children.

In the 110th Congress, NANCY has ushered in a new era as the first woman Speaker of the House, setting an agenda that promotes the priorities of the American people and addresses the key challenges present in today's world. Her drive and determination make her a strong leader and legislator, and she has worked tirelessly to represent her constituents and to move our Nation in a new, positive direction.

NANCY has been a devoted public servant, both in California and in the House. She is a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. It is an honor to serve with her in the House, and I am proud to call her my friend.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HeLP AMERICA ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, adaptable lifestyle factors such as smoking, sedentary lifestyle, poor nutrition, unmanaged stress, and obesity account for approximately half of premature deaths in the United States. Spending on chronic diseases related to lifestyle and other preventable diseases accounts for an estimated 75 percent of total healthcare spending and it is estimated that by 2014 our country's total health care expenditures will be $3.6 trillion.

Clearly we cannot continue down this path. We must shift the focus of our nation's health care system to prevention and wellness programs. In so doing, we can reduce health care costs, improve health, improve quality of life, and boost productivity. Unfortunately, a very small percentage of health care spending is devoted to health promotion. The national investment in prevention is currently estimated to be less than 5 percent of annual health care costs. Our nation needs a new approach to healthcare—-one that puts prevention front and center.

That is why I rise today to introduce the Healthier Lifestyles and Prevention America Act, also known as the HeLP America Act. This important bill, which is companion legislation to a bill recently introduced by Senator HARKIN, is designed to reduce health care costs and improve health outcomes by reorienting our nation's health care system towards prevention, wellness, and self care.

The HeLP America Act is a comprehensive approach to prevention and health promotion. It provides tools and incentives for schools to improve their nutrition programs. It provides tax incentives for employers to implement wellness programs. It provides grants for communities to implement activities to prevent and reduce the incidence of obesity, and chronic diseases associated with this condition. It establishes a federal taskforce on childhood obesity to provide a coordinated leadership in Federal effort to prevent and reduce childhood obesity.

These are just a few of the many provisions included in the HeLP America Act, all aimed squarely at attacking the problem of skyrocketing health care costs associated with the increasing rates of obesity, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses.

With a greater focus on prevention, we will be able to greatly reduce the number of individuals who suffer from all types of ailments. It will improve health outcomes, improve people's lives, and help cut down on our exploding healthcare expenditures.

Madam Speaker, as is noted in the findings of this bill, per capita health spending in the United States is 56 percent greater than the median for countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. This is unacceptable. We need to get more bang for our healthcare buck and we need to look no further than focusing on prevention. As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

I urge my colleagues to join me in seeking a new and more effective approach to curing our nation's ills by cosponsoring the HeLP Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on May 24, 2007, I inadvertently missed the vote on passage of H.R. 2317, the Lobbying Transparency Act, rollcall vote 420. It was my strong intention to vote ''Aye'' on passage.

A TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND EDMUND M. O'BRIEN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Reverend Edmund M. O'Brien, a resident of Connecticut's Second Congressional District, who is celebrating his 50th year as an ordained priest.

Devoting his life to the service of others, Father O'Brien has faithfully tended to the people of Connecticut as a pastor, teacher, principal, and friend.

Father O'Brien was ordained on February 2, 1957, after completing his education at the St. John Seminary in Boston. Over the past 50 years, he has served as a dedicated pastor and educator to many Connecticut congregations. Currently, he is pastor of St. Adalbert parish in Enfield and director of the parish school.

He once said of his profession, ''a teacher affects eternity.'' As a counselor and consummate supporter of his students, Father O'Brien embodies the compassionate, nurturing, and dedicated values characteristic of our Nation's greatest educators.

A die hard fan of the celebrated Boston Red Sox, Father O'Brien is well-known for delivering score updates to his parishioners when a game has been inconveniently scheduled during a mass celebration.

I am honored to pay tribute to the Reverend Edmund M. O'Brien. Father O'Brien's dedication to his faith, his community, and the children under his care has been, and continues to be, an inspiration to myself and the residents of eastern Connecticut.

A TRIBUTE TO TEMPLE BETH DAVID

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Temple Beth David, which will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. In the past 60 years, the temple has grown into a vibrant community dedicated to the values of Judaism including spiritual discovery, educational richness, and the love and kindness of community and personal responsibility.

Founded by 10 families in 1947, Temple Beth David was the first reform synagogue in the San Gabriel Valley. The original founder, Flora Kahn, is still a member of the congregation. Since its inception, the temple has seen its membership grow to 195 families, spanning the generations. The community welcomes all Jews as well as interfaith couples and encourages non-Jewish spouses to participate in temple life.

Rabbi Alan Lachtman has been with the temple in his current position since 1976. A retired Lieutenant Colonel from the Army Reserves, Rabbi Lachtman has a degree in Marriage Family Therapy and received the Doctorate of Divinity from Hebrew Union College in 1999. He currently teaches at the University of Judaism, and works closely with the American Jewish Committee and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

A dynamic and active temple, Temple Beth David encourages congregant participation and offers a wide variety of programs from interfaith programs and social action projects to religious and Hebrew schools. Demonstrating a commitment to all members of the community, Temple Beth David offers not only youth scholarships but also an array of adult education programs for those who seek a greater understanding of Judaism.

Committed participants not only in temple life but in the larger world as well, the members of Temple Beth David have recently joined the interfaith chorus calling for U.S. Government intervention in Darfur. Along with Rabbi Lachtman, the 195 families of the temple, mindful of their own community's history, are activists for the civilians in Darfur.

It is my privilege to honor Temple Beth David on its anniversary of 60 years of active community and fulfillment in Judaism. I ask all members to join me in wishing the Temple Beth David and its congregants continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ALBERT J. SIMONE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of a distinguished academic who I am privileged to call my friend, Dr. Albert J. Simone. Dr. Simone has served as the President of Rochester Institute of Technology since September 1, 1992, and during that time I have had the pleasure of working with him as he advanced the university's reputation as a leading career-oriented institution. He is retiring his post this year, and his vision and leadership will be sorely missed.

Before taking the helm at RIT, Dr. Simone served as president of the University of Hawaii System and chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He also taught at several well-respected institutions for higher education, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University, Northeastern University, Boston College, Boston University, University of Cincinnati, and the University of Hawaii. But his achievements go far beyond administration and instruction.

Dr. Simone has authored countless publications, including books and journal articles on the application of mathematics, statistics, and computers to economics and business. He is a founding editor of Decision Sciences and is a past president and fellow of the Institute of Decision Sciences. And, although he is retiring, he will continue to make contributions to academia as he is currently in the process of collecting data for a book he will be writing on higher education.

A true trailblazer, Dr. Simone was the first American university president to officially visit North Korea, Vietnam, and Vladivostok when these regions were closed to the United States except for cultural and educational exchange. He oversaw the launch of three Ph.D. programs at RIT in the areas of microsystems engineering, computing and information sciences, and color science. And, under his stewardship, six bachelor's degree programs have been added to the university's offerings, including programs in information technology, software engineering, chemistry and polymer chemistry, biochemistry, advertising and public relations, and new media publishing. These new programs represent the university's understanding of the needs of the community outside of it, and help distinguish the City of Rochester as a center for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Simone led RIT's largest capital campaign, raising $310 million which enabled the university to add over 210 new scholarships, name three colleges, add seven new endowed professorships, build nine new campus facilities, add $90 million in new applied research initiatives, and add $34 million to the RIT endowment. This capital campaign enhanced RIT's reputation, made college education more accessible for more students, and gave students and faculty better resources to pursue their academic endeavors.

Thanks to Dr. Simone and the programs he has cultivated at RIT, the university has become a strong partner in regional economic development efforts. His endeavors have consistently reflected his belief that the ''R' in RIT means something.'' Aside from creating academic programs at the university to address the business needs of Rochester and the surrounding region, Dr. Simone served as chairman of the board of the Greater Rochester Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves on the boards of the Rochester Business Alliance, the Center for Government Research, and the Finger Lakes Partnership for the WIRED initiative. His involvement in these and countless other community organizations has benefited not only the organizations themselves, but also the university and its students by establishing important networking opportunities and using the knowledge from those relationships to inform the direction of the university.

Dr. Simone has been recognized by several organizations throughout Western New York and the Nation for his outstanding leadership and community involvement. He was the recipient of the Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award from Partners or Livable Communities (2006), the YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County Racial Justice Award (2005), the Rochester International Council International Citizen Award (2004), the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals President's Award (2001), and the Rochester Business Alliance Civic Medal among many, many others.

RIT and the community surrounding it owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Simone, and I am honored today to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his service. His legacy will live on at RIT, and I look forward to seeing the university continue to flourish. I wish Dr. Simone and his wife Carolie, their four children, and five grandchildren the best during his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES O. RICH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate one of South Carolina's

most faithful and dedicated church leaders as he retires from the ministry. Rev. Dr. James O. "J.O." Rich is a stalwart in upstate South Carolina where he has been the long-serving pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church and is the co-owner of Rich-Colonial Funeral Home.

J.O. was born in Sumter, SC, where he attended Lincoln High School and went on to earn a bachelor's in divinity from Morris College. His dedication to the ministry led him to earn a master's in divinity from the International Theological Center, Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, GA. He completed further study at the Lutheran Southern Seminary, and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Morris College in 1975.

Dr. Rich truly committed himself to the teachings of the church and sought leadership positions to help share his faith with a wider audience. He served as president of Baptist education bodies on the State and national levels including the South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education and the Progressive National Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

Within in his own church, Dr. Rich helped expand the educational outreach opportunities. He oversaw the construction of St. Paul Baptist Church's Educational Center as a testament to the church's investment in spiritual and human growth. The center cost $600,000 to build in 1977, but stands today as a central part of the community and the church's outreach ministries.

Throughout his career, Dr. Rich has been a lecturer and author as well. He has spoken on college and university campuses in South Carolina and across the Nation. He also served as the compilation editor of Foundations of Worship, a developmental meditation for families. Other publications by Dr. Rich include, Help, a study guide for Baptists, BTU Report, and articles in the Quiet Hour, the Worker, and In-Teen magazines.

His work and dedication are not just isolated to the church. Dr. Rich believes strongly in giving back to the community. He did so by serving as president of the Anderson Branch of the NAACP for more than 20 years. He chaired the City of Anderson Community Development Corporation, and is a member of the Alston Wilkes Society, Inc., the South Carolina Christian Action Council, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Governor Dick Riley recognized Dr. Rich's dedication and honored him with South Carolina's highest honor, the Palmetto Award. Governor Riley also appointed Dr. Rich to serve as the Third Congressional District's representative to the State Council on Maternal, Infant and Child Health. It was a position for which Governor Carroll Campbell re-appointed him.

In 1986, while serving as president of the Baptist E&M Convention of South Carolina, the Ford Foundation awarded the organization a $180,000 grant to fight teenage pregnancy.

Housing issues are also very important to Dr. Rich. He served as the chairman of the Baptist Service Inc., the housing arm of the Baptist E&M Convention. And while serving as the moderator of the Rocky River Baptist Association, Dr. Rich initiated the building of the Rocky River Residential Care Home, a 60–unit complex for the elderly and handicapped in Anderson.

As a result of all his outstanding community service and dedication to the ministry, his alma mater, Morris College, named one of its men's dormitories in his honor. He has also been the recipient of the Mamie L. Duckett Founder's Day Award given by Benedict College, the Jefferson Award conferred by WYFF–TV, the Howard McClain Christian Action Award issued by the Christian Action Council, and the Pastor of the Year Award granted by the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

His leadership of St. Paul Baptist Church has been an inspiration, and his accomplishments there are too numerous to mention. Yet throughout his service, his loving wife, Arabella, their children Stanley and Stephanie, and now their daughter-in-law Phyllis and grandson Stanford, have been fully supportive of his efforts.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Rev. Dr. J.O. Rich for his tremendous service to his faith and his community. He is a living testament to the Bible's admonition "to whom much is given, much is required." Dr. Rich has been given extraordinary talents, and he has used them to honor his faith and his fellow man. I applaud the example he has set for others to follow, and wish him a wonderful retirement and Godspeed.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO ESTABLISH A SUNSET FOR THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION OF 2002 (PUBLIC LAW 107–243)

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to establish a sunset for the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq (P.L. 107–243). There are several active pieces of legislation that would rescind the authorization to use force against Iraq, but the approach of this legislation is quite different. This legislation would sunset the original authorization 6 months after it is enacted, which would give Congress plenty of time to consider anew the authority for Iraq.

The rationale for this sunset is that according to the 2002 authorization for Iraq, the President was authorized to use military force against Iraq to achieve the following two specific objectives only: "(1) defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq; and (2) enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq."

It should be obvious to both supporters and critics of our military action in Iraq that our military has achieved both legal objectives. Our military quickly removed the regime of Saddam Hussein, against whom the United Nations resolutions were targeted. And a government has been elected in post-Saddam Iraq that has met with U.S. approval, fulfilling the first objective of the authorization.

With both objectives of the original authorization completely satisfied, Congress has a constitutional obligation to revisit this issue and provide needed oversight and policy guidance. We ignore this obligation at risk to the United States and, very importantly, to our soldiers in harm's way in Iraq.

Unlike other proposals, this bill does not criticize the President's handling of the war. It does not cut off funds for the troops. Nor does this bill set a timetable for our withdrawal. I strongly believe that this legislation will enjoy broad support among both those in favor of our action in Iraq and those who favor ending the war, and I am encouraged by the bipartisan support I have received when seeking original cosponsors. Congress is obligated to consider anew the authority for Iraq sooner rather than later and I hope more of my colleagues will join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Army Air Corps' legendary Tuskegee Airmen. On March 29, 2007, in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, the surviving Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the most prestigious recognition that Federal lawmakers can bestow. Tuskegee Airmen, from Colorado, that received the Congressional Gold Medal include: James E. Harrison, James H. Harvey III, Samuel C. Hunter Jr., Franklin J. Macon, John W. Mosley, Fitzroy "Buck" Newsum, Marion R. Rodgers, David A. Smith and William A. Walters.

The first African-American airmen unit in the U.S. military trained in Tuskegee, Alabama. A total of 450 Tuskegee Airmen served overseas on various missions. During WWII, the Airmen flew missions over North Africa, Italy and Sicily. Collectively, they flew more than 15,000 combat sorties, shot down 111 German planes, and disabled 150 German planes on the ground. Thirty-three Airmen were shot down and held as POWs, and 66 of the Airmen were killed.

The Tuskegee Airmen got their start in 1941 after the NAACP filed a lawsuit. President Franklin Roosevelt started the Army Air Corps training program as the first African-American training program. The Airmen were segregated from other units and endured blatant racism and discrimination while helping win World War II and change our Nation for the better. Their achievements helped contribute to the eventual integration of African-Americans into the military and also helped lead the way for further desegregation throughout the Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James E. Harrison, James H. Harvey III, Samuel C. Hunter Jr., Franklin J. Macon, John W. Mosley, Fitzroy "Buck" Newsum, Marion R. Rodgers, David A. Smith and William A. Walters for their patriotism and service to the United States of America. Their triumph over racism and discrimination, along with their outstanding service, is inspirational, and they are a source of pride for America and for all of Colorado. I wish them continued health and happiness.

IN HONOR OF OUR FALLEN HEROES IN THE ARMED FORCES

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on May 28, 2007, millions of Americans across the country recognized the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while fighting to protect the citizens and freedom of our great Nation.

In recognition of Memorial Day, LT. Zach Alessi-Friedlander gave an address at a Memorial Day Ceremony at Hillside Cemetery in Wilton, Connecticut. I submit the text of LT. Alessi-Friedlander's remarks to be entered into the RECORD.

We come together on this solemn occasion to commemorate the sacrifice and celebrate the legacy of those Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen who have lost their lives while serving our great Nation.

When the leaders of the Wilton Memorial Day parade committee—especially Mr. Toothaker and Mr. Brautigam as well as Mr. Dartley of the VFW—invited me to speak at this ceremony, I embraced the opportunity because it would give me a forum through which to speak with you all about service—a truly timeless value that is integral to the vibrancy of our society. My purpose here today is to provide a Soldiers'-eye-view on the value of service—drawn not only from my own experiences but from those of the extraordinary Soldiers with whom I have had the great privilege of serving alongside.

Nine years ago, I was 17 years old and a week from my high school graduation. To me, the world seemed pregnant with opportunity and possibility. Over much of these last nine years, my personal journey has been largely defined by abstract intellectual pursuits—college, internships, and even a semester of graduate school. But in early 2004, I felt a growing sense of discomfort. So much was unfolding outside the classrooms and libraries in which I spent so much of my time. I was almost 23 and I felt the need to be a part of something that was larger and more important than me. I then made the decision to pursue a commission in the Army. At the time, in response to the queries of friends and family, I could only describe my motivations in an abstract sense. But over the last two and half years, the reasons for my decision to serve have been made clearer through the crucible of experience.

After attending Basic Training and Officer Candidate School, I was commissioned as a Field Artillery lieutenant. Sixty-five years ago, on the conventional battlefields of World War II, I would have been responsible for planning and coordinating the artillery, mortars, aerial firepower, and naval gunfire needed to support my troop commander's scheme of maneuver. However, the battlefields of Iraq are—at this stage of the war—decidedly different from their World War II counterparts. Conventional schemes of maneuver have been replaced with the unconventional strategies and tactics needed to manage an elusive and adaptive enemy within an asymmetric and three-dimensional battlefield. Coalition Forces are grappling with a multi-faceted insurgency—divided along different ethno-sectarian and ideological lines. The fight for key terrain and the push to force the enemy to formally surrender have been replaced with the fight for the hearts and minds of the Iraqi local nationals—the people upon whom the burden of a free and secure Iraq will ultimately rest.

What I'm talking about is our effort to diversify the scope of the ''fight'' in order to create a foundation upon which the Iraqi people can rebuild a society less vulnerable to virulent strands of militant Islam and sectarian antipathy. More specifically, we now complement our combat operations with four additional lines of operation: training Iraqi Security Forces; promoting local governance; restoring essential services; and developing the economy. This is a long, tough, unpredictable process that is at times frustrating and at other times exhilarating. Over the last nine months, my troop has been able to develop our sector through a strategy that depends fundamentally upon earning the genuine trust of the local nationals living within our sector. Many of you, I am sure, have heard about many of these new emphases—especially after the recent appointment of General David Petreaus as the new theater commander in Iraq. However, experiencing it on the ground is a truly perspective-altering experience. My unit's progress—especially over the past 5 months—has been startling. In this period, we have poured several million dollars worth of projects into the small villages dotting our sector—providing services like trash collection and replacing dilapidated infrastructure such as a drinking-water tower and power-line transformers. But our most successful-civil military initiatives have been those which have integrated our Soldiers, members of either the Iraqi Army or Iraqi National Police, and the local nationals into combined community projects. Examples of such initiatives include: two medical-assistance visits during which our medics and doctors were able to provide medicine, care, diagnoses, and treatment advice to almost 400 local nationals; as well as something called a ''VET CAP'' during which an Army veterinarian was able to treat and de-worm 150 sheep and 20 cows.

But, the civil-military initiatives of which I am most proud are the efforts that have enabled us to promote truly indigenous forms of self-government. In December, when we recognized that local nationals residing in our sector were unwilling to participate in the regional branches of the Iraqi government—called Nahia and Qada councils—we decided to host a series of village-level town-hall meetings. At these meetings, we were able to identify community leaders with the initiative, technical expertise, and will to represent the other members of the villages. These town-hall meetings served as jumping-off points for two major developments. A group of local nationals in our largest village now regularly attend the Nahia council meetings, which allows them to interface with the Iraqi government. But, perhaps more impressively, this same group created a Farmers' Cooperative, whose leaders now represent farmers from throughout our entire area of operations.

But, make no mistake, our unit has been forced to combat an adaptive, innovative, patient, and committed insurgent threat intent on disrupting our efforts through a series of persistent attacks against us and—perhaps more ominously—by casting a specter of fear over the local-national population whom we are attempting to secure and whose trust we are working to earn. Our military has been largely built and trained to fight high-intensity conflicts using technological superiority and mobility to combat nation states. My unit is a cavalry troop composed of field artilleryman, cavalry scouts, and infantrymen—all of whom were initially trained to play specific roles in a conventional fight. But, every day, I am amazed at how our Soldiers have been able to adapt to the changing nature of the fight.

My preceding remarks were an effort to provide the context necessary for you all to appreciate the service of the Soldiers alongside whom I proudly serve. General Robert E. Lee once described duty—the close cousin of service—as the most sublime word in the English language. I would argue that he was trying to explain that duty and service as concepts are impossible to understand in an abstract intellectual sense; rather, in order to wrap our minds around this simple but crucial civic value, we need to discuss specific examples—and that will be the intent of the balance of my remarks.

The key to the success that my unit has experienced has been the influence of our extraordinary non-commissioned officers. For those of you with prior military experience, you know that at troop or company levels, NCOs have dramatically more time in service—and thus experience—than their commissioned-officer counterparts. Therefore, the key to a successful unit is to develop a synergy between the NCO and Officer Corps. Each officer-NCO pair must understand the role that the other plays in training, planning, and operations and must then work to complement their counterpart in every phase of mission preparation and execution. In my troop, the only Soldiers with previous combat experience are the NCOs. Two in particular come to mind: SFC Richardson and SSG Mont-Eton, the platoon sergeant and senior scout for our 2nd platoon—the element whom I would argue has helped to establish the model by which a counter-insurgency must be fought. Perhaps the most illuminating parts of my deployment have come while riding alongside SSG Monty in his truck. Over the course of any given patrol, he spends time instructing his gunner on how to more effectively scan the key pieces of terrain with his optics; teaching his driver on how to scan the road for the command-wire-IED initiators that are carefully concealed alongside the routes in our sector; and positioning his dismount on where he must stand to establish the most effective security when the platoon gets out of the trucks. But SSG Monty's true gift is his uncanny ability to establish rapport with the local nationals upon whose trust the entire troop depends in order to rebuild the communities and counter the insurgent threats. Smoking cigarettes and drinking coffee constantly, SSG Monty can approach any individual in our sector, and, within a matter of minutes, they are exchanging stories about their children or talking about how to improve water flow in a nearby irrigation canal. Never in my life, not at Columbia nor at Harvard, have I ever encountered an individual with more practical intelligence—with the ability to adapt doctrine or theory to a real-world operating environment, which, in our case, carries life and death significance. As for SFC Richardson, he is simply a force of nature. He is the tactical expert upon whom his platoon leader relies to carefully plan any deliberate operation. Riding in the 4-truck, the platoon's trail vehicle, he has managed the evacuation of all Soldiers injured on patrol with a sense of calm and poise that has allowed the platoon to address potentially catastrophic situations with the speed and efficiency needed to ensure the safety of all involved. The Soldiers in his platoon trust him implicitly and would literally follow him wherever he decided to go. He is the most senior Soldier in the entire troop, with even more years in service than our first sergeant; he has used this seniority to be the forceful and articulate voice on all Soldier issues. When his guys are smoked, he goes to my commander and first sergeant, and tells them the platoon needs a day of refit . . . and they listen. SFC Richardson was the one who insisted upon explaining to the local-national children, who gathered to receive their soccer

balls, why Nick's name had been inscribed on each of their gifts. Into his leadership style, SFC Richardson has managed to fold toughness, moral authority, compassion, and intelligence—or, more specifically, the ability to think critically about and to respond swiftly to unpredictable and challenging situations. And then there's the amazing symbiosis that my commander and first sergeant have been able to establish. They are the only command pair in my entire squadron not to have previously deployed to either Afghanistan or Iraq since combat operations began in those places in 2001 and 2003, respectively. However, they have not allowed this relative inexperience to adversely affect our troop's operations. Rather, they have approached our campaign plan with a refreshing open-mindedness, rigorous planning process, and strict attention to detail that have helped to keep our Soldiers safe and our unit mission effective.

I have still only spoken in relatively general terms thus far, but I want to share with you a specific example from our deployment that I believe demonstrates the courage and discipline of our Soldiers and, more generally, illuminates the value of service. In mid-October, after only a month in our sector, our infantry platoon was conducting dismounted night-time reconnaissance of a piece of key terrain. The 8-man dismounted element had just embarked on their patrol when their senior scout, SSG Hurlbutt, stepped on an anti-tank mine. He was blown off the ground and sent hurtling 15 feet through the air into a reed-choked and half-filled irrigation canal. Without hesitating, the dismounted team leader, SGT Love, and one of the other members of the patrol, SPC Conolly, immediately jumped into the canal and extracted—up its steep and slippery banks—their severely injured platoon mate—who, between the weight of his body, protective armor, weapon, and gear weighed more than 300 pounds. While they administered first aid, the platoon leader, lLT Kimes, who was the trail man in the patrol, positioned the balance of the element in a security perimeter and coordinated for the MEDEVAC. (And, this provides me with an opportunity to praise again the technical skill and courage of Chief Reeves and the other MEDEVAC pilots upon us guys on the ground constantly rely.) Some people may be inclined to attribute the way in which the ''rock lizards'' were able to handle this situation to their training, but I am more inclined to attribute it to their courage and commitment to one another. As for SSG Hurlbutt, he is an extraordinary Soldier among many extraordinary Soldiers. Just prior to the deployment, he was given. the option of deploying late or not deploying at all in order to care for his wife, who had only recently recovered from a very serious illness. Despite his concern for his wife, he declined the offer, understanding that his previous combat experience and deep knowledge were essential to helping his platoon transition to operations in theater. And then, in January, when my commander returned to Fort Drum, where my unit is based, for his mid-tour leave, he visited SSG Hurlbutt, who is still recovering from his injuries. In the months between sustaining the injury and my commander's visit, SSG Hurlbutt had received skin grafts to replace the skin and tissue destroyed by the mine's intense heat and he was undergoing excruciating physical therapy to recover from the chunk of flesh and muscle that he lost from his left thigh. Despite all this and despite the fact that he was barely ambulatory at the time of my commander's visit, he amazingly started campaigning to return to sector before we redeployed.

And then there's SPC Jonathan Cadavero. SPC Cadavero was my good friend and we were in the same company at Officer Candidate School. Throughout the first half of the course, he began to have reservations about continuing his pursuit of an officer's commission—but never once questioned his desire to serve. After successfully completing the land-navigation course and receiving top marks on his academic testing and leadership evaluations, he recognized that he had met and exceeded the standards required to become an officer. He then felt that he could leave Officer Candidate School without feeling that he was dodging a challenge. He decided that he preferred to fulfill his obligations to the Army as an enlisted medic rather than as an officer, which meant less pay and decision-making authority; but, he did not care about that; he simply wanted to serve his country in Iraq. I remember having long conversations with him about his decision in our barracks at Ft Benning. I told him that he needed to make the decision with which he felt most comfortable; either way, he would have the opportunity to serve—a motivation we both proudly shared and embraced. The next time we met was at Bradley's, the tailor shop just outside of Ft Drum; we were both having nametapes sewn on our boonie caps, assault packs, and ruck sacks in preparation for the deployment of our brigade. We talked informally about our families; about finally being in the regular Army after more than a year in various Army schools; about the long and challenging deployment that hovered on the horizon. Over the next 6 months, we met randomly on Camp Striker—at the gym, at the chow hall, around our living quarters—each time sharing warm conversation, sometimes about the Army, but usually just about baseball. On February 27th, while acting as the platoon medic for a route-clearance element operating in support of my unit's sister troop, he was killed when an IED detonated under the truck in which he was riding. This device was buried deep under the paved surface of the road on which he was traveling, and, when it detonated, it completely destroyed his truck and killed all of the occupants. I remember seeing his name listed among the casualties. At first, everything seemed to collapse with the pain I felt for his loss, for his family, friends, and fellow Soldiers. And then everything seemed to explode in a rush of memories—wandering through the woods of Ft Benning in our desperate attempts to find our points on the land-navigation course or cracking jokes before the dreaded arrival of our supervisors at the ridiculous light-out ritual each night. I remember his distinctive New York accent, his infectious smile, his wit, his intelligence, his unwavering desire to serve his country as a Soldier during wartime. His sacrifice and sense of duty should be an inspiration to his fellow Soldiers and to the country he proudly served, but these are no comfort to his family and friends. The memory of his loss is still too fresh. The loss of each service member sends ripples of pain throughout communities; those closest to him are touched in a way that is impossible for most of us to imagine. Most can sympathize but not really empathize. This is the fundamental challenge of Memorial Day: once a year, we have the opportunity to congregate as a community and as a society to commemorate their sacrifice—but perhaps more importantly—to celebrate their legacy. I would encourage everyone to find the name of an individual Soldier, Marine, Airman, or Sailor, who has lost their life while serving their country; give that name and the magnitude of their sacrifice specific attention. This will help us to humanize the sacrifice that spans generations. This sacrifice and service connect us all in a tragic but crucial narrative. Ours is a country built upon the value of service and it should be celebrated—even if it must be done with a somber tone and painful heart. I know that on every Memorial Day from this day forward, I'll take the opportunity to reflect on the life and sacrifice of SPC Cadavero.

Rare is this profession of arms for its whole essence is built upon a foundation of specifically conceptualized values that are intended to discipline individual Soldiers into a coherent and selfless team. The only constants that Soldiers will ever have are the support of their fellow Soldiers, the value of their service, and the appreciation of the grateful nation whom they serve. Soldiers have always been asked to sacrifice their comforts and desires for the sake of the team and for the mission. Unlike the civilian world, Soldiers are required to see their commitment through to the end regardless of the extenuating circumstances that may arise after making the oath of enlistment or commission. I am awed by the courage and service of my Soldiers, by their ability to manage their myriad personal and family concerns while negotiating the constant threats to their safety that lurk ominously every time we leave the wire in Iraq. The purpose of Memorial Day is for our nation to recognize and express their appreciation for this service, in general, and the sacrifice of those that have lost their lives while serving, more specifically. I ask only that we, as a community, embrace this opportunity to contemplate seriously what this service and sacrifice have meant in the development of our country and in the expression of our shared values.

HONORING GEOFFREY SEFFENS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Geoffrey Seffens for 32 years of dedicated service to the Fairfax County Public School system.

After graduating from the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music in Ohio, Mr. Seffens began his career as an elementary band teacher in Northern Virginia. Not one to shy away from a challenge, Mr. Seffens spent his first 4 years as a teacher engaging students from five different schools. Not only did he rise to this challenge but he pushed himself even further, teaching more than 400 students from nine schools over the course of the next 2 years. Mr. Seffens's hard work was recognized in 1979 when he was selected as the new band director at Lanier Middle School. Ever since joining the faculty at Lanier, Mr. Seffens has continued to guide students towards musical achievement while becoming an indispensable member of the school's community.

As a native of Northern Virginia and a product of the Fairfax County Public School system himself, Mr. Seffens and his successful teaching career stand as a testament to the region's firm commitment to academic excellence. Upon his retirement after years of commendable work, Mr. Seffens will certainly be missed by students and faculty alike.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Mr. Seffens's steadfast devotion to raising the standard of musical education and personally thank him for his dedication to the Fairfax County Public

School system. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Geoffrey Steffens for his service to our Nation and wishing him the best in a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 6, 2007, I could not be present for rollcall votes 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, and 439 because I was attending my daughter's high school graduation.

Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

''No'' on rollcall 431, H. Res. 435—Providing for the consideration of H.R. 2446, Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

''Yes'' on rollcall 432, H.R. 1716—Green Energy Education Act;

''Yes'' on rollcall 433, H.R. 632—To authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish monetary prizes for achievements in overcoming scientific and technical barriers associated with hydrogen energy;

''No'' on rollcall 434, H.R. 964—Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act;

''Yes'' on rollcall 435, H.R. 2446—Kirk Amendment;

''No'' on rollcall 436, H.R. 2446—Kucinich Amendment;

''Yes'' on rollcall 437, H.R. 2446—Motion to Recommit with Instructions Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

''Yes'' on rollcall 438, H.R. 2446—Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act;

''No'' on rollcall 439, H.R. 2560—Human Cloning Prohibition Act.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE CENTER ON HALSTED

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the opening of the Center on Halsted, a new gay and lesbian community center at 3656 N. Halsted, in the heart of the northside of the Fifth District. This new facility will give the surrounding community a state of the art building for youth services, mental health services and community/cultural programming and more.

The Center on Halsted has actually served Chicago's gay and lesbian community for more than three decades. Unfortunately, though, they had to make do with temporary facilities for a number of years. Today, the community has a place to call home.

This grand opening has been a long time in coming, with planning dating back to 2001. I am proud to have worked closely with the leadership at the Center on Halsted, Mayor Daley, Alderman Tunney, and many other local leaders to make the dream of a new center a reality.

The Center on Halsted focuses their programming into three areas: mental health, youth and community outreach, and cultural programming. One of the center's goals is to provide role models for young members of the gay and lesbian community.

The three-story facility is a proud home for a proud community, and the end product is almost as remarkable as the hard work of all the people who made it happen. The roof deck, computer lab, theater facilities, Whole Foods, café, and more will make the Center on Halsted a welcoming location for its neighbors and an engine for economic development on the northside of Chicago.

Madam Speaker, I am thrilled that the Center on Halsted has opened its doors. I want to congratulate everyone involved on a job well done, and I know the center will be an important part of Chicago for a long time to come.

IN HONOR OF THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ALBERT J. SIMONE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of a distinguished academic who I am privileged to call my friend, Dr. Albert J. Simone. Dr. Simone has served as the president of Rochester Institute of Technology since September 1, 1992, and during that time I have had the pleasure of working with him as he advanced the university's reputation as a leading career-oriented institution. He is retiring his post this year, and his vision and leadership will be sorely missed.

Before taking the helm at RIT, Dr. Simone served as president of the University of Hawaii System and chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He also taught at several well-respected institutions for higher education, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University, Northeastern University, Boston College, Boston University, University of Cincinnati, and the University of Hawaii. But his achievements go far beyond administration and instruction.

Dr. Simone has authored countless publications, including books and journal articles on the application of mathematics, statistics, and computers to economics and business. He is a founding editor of Decision Sciences and is a past president and fellow of the Institute of Decision Sciences. And, although he is retiring, he will continue to make contributions to academia as he is currently in the process of collecting data for a book he will be writing on higher education.

A true trailblazer, Dr. Simone was the first American university president to officially visit North Korea, Vietnam, and Vladivostok when these regions were closed to the United States except for cultural and educational exchange. He oversaw the launch of three Ph.D. programs at RIT in the areas of microsystems engineering, computing and information sciences, and color science. And, under his stewardship, six bachelor's degree programs have been added to the university's offerings, including programs in information technology, software engineering, chemistry and polymer chemistry, biochemistry, advertising and public relations, and new media publishing. These new programs represent the university's understanding of the needs of the community outside of it, and help distinguish the city of Rochester as a center for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Simone led RIT's largest capital campaign, raising $310 million which enabled the university to add over 210 new scholarships, name three colleges, add seven new endowed professorships, build nine new campus facilities, add $90 million in new applied research initiatives, and add $34 to the RIT endowment. This capital campaign enhanced RIT's reputation, made college education more accessible for more students, and gave students and faculty better resources to pursue their academic endeavors.

Thanks to Dr. Simone and the programs he has cultivated at RIT, the university has become a strong partner in regional economic development efforts. His endeavors have consistently reflected his belief that the '''R' in RIT means something.'' Aside from creating academic programs at the university to address the business needs of the Rochester and the surrounding region, Dr. Simone served as chairman of the board of the Greater Rochester Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves on the boards of the Rochester Business Alliance, the Center for Government Research, and the Finger Lakes Partnership for the WIRED initiative. His involvement in these and countless other community organizations has benefited not only the organizations themselves, but also the university and its students by establishing important networking opportunities and using the knowledge from those relationships to inform the direction of the university.

Dr. Simone has been recognized by several organizations throughout western New York and the Nation for his outstanding leadership and community involvement. He was the recipient of the Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award from Partners for Livable Communities—2006, the YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County Racial Justice Award—2005, the Rochester International Council International Citizen Award—2004, the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals President's Award—2001, and the Rochester Business Alliance Civic Medal among many, many others.

RIT and the community surrounding it owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Simone, and I am honored today to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his service. His legacy will live on at RIT, and I look forward to seeing the university continue to flourish. I wish Dr. Simone and his wife Carolie, their four children, and five grandchildren the best during his retirement.

HONORING THE 32ND ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 32nd Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, GLBT, communities, their families, and friends.

The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current week-

long celebration. This year Capital Pride culminates with the Pride Parade on June 9th and ''The Main Event,'' a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the Capitol, June 10th.

I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community.

This year's theme, ''Together we can, Together we will,'' holds special meaning for the citizens of the District of Columbia and its GLBT community in particular. Washingtonians live in distinct diverse neighborhoods such as Colonial Village to the North, Fort Drum to the South, Northeast Boundary to the East, and Spring Valley to the West. Together we can unite in our quest for all the rights guaranteed U.S. citizens by the Constitution.

In 1994 the District of Columbia lost the first vote it ever won on the floor of the House of Representatives, the delegate vote in the Committee of the Whole. The Republicans retracted the District's vote when they assumed control of the House and this right was re-established under Speaker NANCY PELOSI. Our city of 550,000 residents, 10 percent more residents than the entire State of Wyoming, who pay more taxes per capita than 49 of the 50 states, remains the only jurisdiction in the United States subject to Taxation Without Representation. Our Nation's Capital is entitled full voting rights in the House and the Senate. On April 19, 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1905, The District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007. The measure is now before the Senate and is an important milestone on DC's road to full and equal representation.

This one success is a reminder of the pending legislation that the 110th Congress must pass: The Clarification of Federal Employment Protections Act, The Early Treatment for HIV Act, The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, The Responsible Education About Life Act, The Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act, and The Uniting American Families Act.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming the celebrants attending the 32nd Annual Capital Pride Festival in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that U.S. citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

RECOGNIZING LIUNA LOCAL 777

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to commemorate a significant milestone and to commend the leadership of the Laborers International Union of North America, LIUNA, Local 777 and its International Union, for their unyielding dedication to fight for the rights of working Americans.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the county workers in Riverside County joining LIUNA Local 777.

Thanks to the profound efforts and devotion of the original organizing committee and subsequent rank and file leaders, Local 777 has become a powerful, dynamic, and active organization committed to improving the quality of life for workers.

Local 777 continues to grow today. From its humble roots of 57 founding members working for the City of Indio in 1993, Local 777 boasts a current membership of nearly 9,000.

LIUNA's membership, which includes workers in the health sector, construction, mail handlers, school employees, higher education employees, and more, have had a positive impact on the community in Riverside, and throughout the whole state of California.

The organization has remained dedicated to their mission of ensuring hard-working Americans are given fair wages, good benefits, a safe work environment, and a chance to fulfill the American dream.

Besides protecting worker's rights, LIUNA also is very active in communities throughout California. The organization sponsors informative training, education, and safety programs that benefit all citizens.

It is with great pride that I recognize the Laborers International Union Local 777 of Riverside County. On this important anniversary, we rise to thank them for all they do to protect working American families.

TRIBUTE TO MONUMENTS MEN AND WOMEN OF WORLD WAR II

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on this 63rd anniversary of D-day, I am proud to pay tribute to the men and women who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives program, MFAA, under the Civil Affairs and Military Government Sections of the United States Armed Forces for their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and other priceless artifacts in Europe and Asia during and following World War II.

That is why I am proud to be a sponsor of H. Con. Res. 48, which provides much needed recognition to the ''Monuments Men and Women'' who did so much to preserve many of the world great cultural treasures.

Without their dedication and service, many more of the world's artistic and historic treasures would have been destroyed or lost forever amidst the chaos and destruction of World War II.

I wish to give special thanks and appreciation to the ''Monuments Men'' for establishing the precedent of protecting cultural property in the event of armed conflict, and by setting a standard not just for one country, but for people of all nations to acknowledge and uphold.

In 1943, the United States Government established the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas to promote and coordinate the protection and salvage of works of art and cultural and historical monuments and records in countries occupied by Allied armies during World War II. The chairman of the Commission was Supreme Court Associate Justice Owen J. Roberts.

In connection with the establishment of the Roberts Commission, the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives program, MFAA, was established under the Civil Affairs and Military Government Sections of the United States Armed Forces.

The Roberts Commission and the MFAA provide an example for other countries, working in conjunction with the United States, to develop similar programs. More than 100 foreign MFAA personnel, representing at least 17 countries, contributed to this international effort.

The MFAA was comprised of both men and women, commissioned officers and civilians, who were appointed or volunteered to serve as representatives of the Roberts Commission and as the official guardians of some of the world's greatest artistic and cultural treasures.

Members of the MFAA, called the ''Monuments Men,'' often joined frontline military forces and some even lost their lives in combat during World War II. For years following the Allied victory in World War II, members of the MFAA worked tirelessly to locate, identify, catalogue, restore, and repatriate priceless works of art and irreplaceable cultural artifacts, including masterpieces by Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rembrandt and Vermeer, that had been stolen or sequestered by the Axis powers.

The heroic actions of the MFAA in saving priceless works of art and irreplaceable cultural artifacts for future generations cannot be overstated. It set a moral precedent and established standards, practices, and procedures for the preservation, protection, and restitution of artistic and cultural treasures in future armed conflicts.

Members of the MFAA went on to become renowned directors and curators of preeminent international cultural institutions, including the National Gallery of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Toledo Museum of Art, and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, as well as professors at institutions of higher education, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, New York University, Williams College, and Columbia University.

Other members of the MFAA were founders, presidents, and members of associations, such as the New York City Ballet, the American Association of Museums, the American Association of Museum Directors, the Archaeological Institute of America, the Society of Architectural Historians, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as respected artists, architects, musicians, and archivists.

Madam Speaker, it bears repeating that the heroic actions of the MFAA in saving priceless works of art and irreplaceable cultural artifacts for future generations cannot be overstated. It established the standards, practices, and procedures for the preservation, protection, and saved for the world artistic and cultural treasures of inestimable value.

I salute the ''Monuments Men and Women,'' who by their example provide further proof of why we call theirs the ''Greatest Generation.''

MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Mental Health

Care for Our Wounded Warriors Act of 2007. This important legislation will address the significant mental health care issues faced by our brave service men and women.

According to recent reports from the Government Accountability Office, 22 percent of returning OEF/OIF service members were referred for further mental health evaluations for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and an estimated one in six service members will receive a diagnosis of PTSD.

As a member of the Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, I have been working hard to understand how mental health issues, especially PTSD, are affecting our service men and women. We know that PTSD and TBI are the signature injuries of this war.

Unfortunately, the DoD has neither the facilities nor the personnel to meet the needs of returning service members with mental health care diagnoses. We have no research clearinghouse to study and facilitate mental health services and develop effective mental health care policies.

The Mental Health for Our Wounded Warriors Act, a companion to legislation introduced by Senator LIEBERMAN, will establish Centers of Excellence within the DoD to research strategies to prevent, identify and treat combat related mental health injuries.

Equally as important, each center will seek to develop strategies to counter the stigma that surrounds PTSD and mental health in general in the military.

The bill will also include language on treating mental health professionals who are exposed to combat related stress, as well as study the unique needs of female service members serving in combat situations.

The military needs help dealing with this very complex issue. We cannot expect our service members to go out and do the job they do without providing adequate mental health services we know they will need.

The battle against combat-related mental health injuries will be an ongoing issue. It is our obligation to provide the resources necessary to address the absence of a designated center to study the mental health care needs of service members and to provide a solution to the shortage of DoD mental health professionals.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM KLING, SR.

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and celebrate the life of Huntsville businessman, Mr. William Kling, Sr.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Kling and his wife Margaret Anne ''Peggy'' Rothschild moved to Huntsville in 1950 and formed the Valley Pride Packing Company. Prior to his retirement in 1966, Mr. Kling served as president of the Alabama Meat Packers Association and as a member of the board of directors for the Alabama Cattlemen's Association and the American Meat Institute.

In addition to his leadership in state and local business communities, Mr. Kling shared his kindness and vision to help nurture the cultural development of our region. After his retirement, Mr. Kling became the first individual to serve 3 consecutive years as president of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors. Under his leadership, the Von Braun Center, a world-class concert hall and entertainment center, was constructed. For more than 25 years, the Von Braun Center has hosted numerous internationally acclaimed musical performances and events.

Mr. Kling also served as a member of the first Huntsville-Madison County Airport Authority. During his time with the authority, he played an influential role in the establishment of the Huntsville International Airport. This airport has since become an economic engine for north Alabama and it continues to support our region's remarkable growth.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Kling passed away in November 2006. He was a successful businessman, humanitarian, and civic leader. His willingness to help others and dedication to his community is an inspiration for all in north Alabama and across the country to follow. I rise today to celebrate his life and honor his achievements, which continue to have a profound impact on north Alabama today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on May 17 through May 22 I missed votes due to my being out of the country to conduct oversight of our operations in Iraq.

Had I been present for rollcall 378, the Bachus Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''no.''

Had I been present for rollcall 379, the Hensarling Amendment No. 29 to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''no.''

Had I been present for rollcall 380, the McHenry Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''no.''

Had I been present for rollcall 381, the Kanjorski Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''no.''

Had I been present for rollcall 382, the Roskam Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''no.''

Had I been present for rollcall 383, the Garrett Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''no.''

Had I been present for rollcall 384, H.R. 698, the Industrial Bank Holding Company Act, I would have voted ''yes.''

Had I been present for rollcall 385, H.R. 1425, the Staff Sergeant Marvin Rex Young Post Office Building, I would have voted ''yes.''

Had I been present for rollcall 386, the Feeney Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''no.''

Had I been present for rollcall 387, the Price (GA) Amendment No. 8 to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''yes.''

Had I been present for rollcall 388, the Sessions Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''yes.''

Had I been present for rollcall 389, the Brady Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''no.''

Had I been present for rollcall 390, the Price (GA) Amendment No. 9 to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''no.''

Had I been present for rollcall 391, the Doolittle Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''yes.''

Had I been present for rollcall 392, the Hensarling Amendment No. 30 to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''no.''

Had I been present for rollcall 393, the Neugebauer Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''no.''

Had I been present for rollcall 394, the Neugebauer Amendment No. 4 to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''no.''

Had I been present for rollcall 395, on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''no.''

Had I been present for rollcall 396, on final passage of H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, I would have voted ''yes.''

Had I been present for rollcall 397, S. 214, I would have voted ''yes.''

Had I been present for rollcall 398, H.R. 2264, the No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act, I would have voted ''yes.''

Had I been present for rollcall 399, S. 1104, I would have voted ''yes.''

Had I been present for rollcall 400, H.R. 2399, the Alien Smuggling and Terrorism Prevention Act, I would have voted ''yes.''

Had I been present for rollcall 401, H.R. 1722, the Leonard W. Herman Post Office, I would have voted ''yes.''

Had I been present for rollcall 402, a motion to table H. Res. 428, I would have voted ''no.''

IN HONOR OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 25th anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County, founded in 1982. Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the United States, and its Santa Cruz County chapter has served over 3,000 children in the last 25 years.

For more than a quarter century this organization has created and nurtured one-on-one mentoring relationships between children and carefully screened adult mentors. The shared experiences between a Big Brother or Big Sister and his or her Little Brother or Sister have a documented Positive outcome in the child's life.

Research and anecdotal evidence show that Little Brothers and Sisters are less likely to do drugs, drink alcohol, skip school, or engage in

acts of violence. They have greater self-esteem, more success at school, and better relationships with their friends and family.

In their testimonials, Big Brothers and Big Sisters also report a positive impact on their life. They say that they find a sense of purpose and satisfaction by helping and mentoring a young child through the difficulties of growing up. They value their experiences as highly as we value their service to the community. Thus, these relationships benefit everyone involved, including the mentor, the child, the family, and the community.

Through its One-on-One Mentoring Program and After-School Enrichment and Mentoring Program, Big Brothers Big Sisters nurtures children as they grow up both socially and academically. The After-School Enrichment program assists children in their academic life by providing after-school tutoring in an array of topics including math, science, and writing. Additionally, the program brings in guest speakers to discuss issues involving academic, social, and leadership development.

I would like to thank the many volunteers and staff who give their time and commitment to this wonderful program. Without their support, this program would not have been able to achieve the level of success it has over the past 25 years.

Madam Speaker, on this joyous and historic occasion, it gives me great pleasure to present the congratulations of my colleagues in the House to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOAN REPAYMENT EQUITY TECHNICAL AMENDMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the ''District of Columbia Loan Repayment Equity Technical Amendment Act of 2007.'' This bill will ensure that undeserved communities in the District of Columbia have access to adequate health care services in selected health professional shortage areas, HPSAs, identified by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services under the State Loan Repayment Program, as Congress intended. This bill does not involve any new funds. It will make the District eligible to receive assistance through the Public Health Service Act grants system, as would already be the case if the District had a matching program. Until 2006 there was no matching program in the District thus making it ineligible to apply for assistance. This bill is revenue neutral. Adding the District of Columbia to this program will not have any effect on federal funding because the District will be required to compete for the Federal funds exactly as every other State competes for the grants.

The State Loan Repayment Program, SLRP, was implemented in 1987 in response to Section 3381 of the Public Health Service Act, which authorizes the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to make grants to States to help recruit and retain primary health care professionals in HPSAs. Under the State Loan Repayment Program, clinicians provide primary care health services in HPSAs in exchange for funds for the repayment of their qualifying educational loans. These individuals are fully trained and licensed primary health care clinicians dedicated to meeting the health care needs of medically underserved communities.

Under the State Loan Repayment Program, grants are made to States to operate their own loan repayment programs. Primary care health professionals who are providing a minimum of 2 years of full-time clinical services in public or non-profit facilities located in HPSAs are eligible to apply for a loan repayment. The State Loan Repayment Program is a collaboration of Federal, State, and community efforts. The Federal Government provides up to 50 percent of the funds to make loan repayment funds to primary health care professionals. The remaining 50 percent of the funding comes from State and local community resources.

The District of Columbia has 13.8 percent underinsured residents compared to 15.7 percent of individuals that are uninsured across the country. Approximately 17 percent of nonelderly adults and l0.4 percent of children are uninsured.

Today, millions of Americans lack access to health insurance. In 2005, more than 46 million persons were uninsured for the entire year. There are several reasons for the lack of health coverage for Americans among all uninsured persons under age 65, more than half were underprivileged and 34 percent lacked health coverage.

Improving the health care system is a huge priority for Congress. The Institute of Medicine found that the insurance status of parents affects the amount of health care that their children receive. By amending the Public Health Service Act, this bill would provide eligibility to the District of Columbia for the State Loan Repayment Program. It is extremely important that underserved populations have access to primary health services regardless of their low-income status. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

SABINOSO WILDERNESS ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sabinoso Wilderness Act of 2007. New Mexico is filled with extraordinary landscapes and, as a representative of this beautiful State, it is an honor to work to conserve these scenic and historic areas for future generations. One of New Mexico's special places is the Sabinoso Wilderness Study Area. Last year, I had the opportunity to explore this unique area on horseback. While traveling through deep canyons covered with indigenous trees such as piñon-juniper, cottonwood, willow, and ponderosa pine, it was evident that Sabinoso is an exceptional setting that deserves to be protected and accessible to all. That is why I am introducing legislation to designate as wilderness the lands in and near the Sabinoso WSA.

The Sabinoso WSA comprises approximately 20,000 acres and is situated in San Miguel County, 40 miles east of Las Vegas, NM, and 25 miles northwest of Conchas Dam State Park. Roaming the canyons last year, I was struck by the ecological, scenic and recreational values of the area. Sabinoso overlays a thick section of colorful sedimentary rocks, typical of desert rock formations throughout the West. The area's scenic and densely vegetated landscape is also home to a rich diversity of wildlife, such as red-tailed hawks, western scrub-jays, broad-tailed hummingbirds, mule deer, bobcats, and gray foxes. All of these natural resources will provide outstanding opportunities to hunt, hike, horseback ride, take photographs, and simply experience the unspoiled lands of our ancestors.

During the 2007 session of the New Mexico State Legislature, House Memorial 53, which calls on the New Mexico congressional delegation to support the establishment of the Sabinoso Wilderness Area, was introduced by State Representative Thomas Garcia and passed unanimously by a vote of 66–0.

Unfortunately, this beautiful piece of land is currently inaccessible to the general public. Designating the area will help open it to everyone and provide access to all of these activities. Opening Sabinoso will also create important new economic development opportunities for the surrounding communities. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation and creating the Sabinoso Wilderness Area so that everyone will be able to experience its natural and unique beauty for generations to come.

RECOGNITION OF ARNOLD ''NUB'' PORTERFIELD

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Arnold G. ''Nub'' Porterfield of Bluefield, WV. Arnold was a special and caring man whose commitment to his community could only be rivaled by his commitment to his family. He was a loving son, a loving husband, brother, and uncle. He was, in short, a loving man.

Anyone who knew Arnold, or ''Nub'' as those closest to him referred to him, could not help but be touched by his generous and caring nature. He took a special interest in the lives of others, and he often made those lives a part of his own. He had an uncanny ability to connect with people, to make them feel comfortable in his presence. He was a good friend and a great man.

Arnold was very dedicated to his country and his community. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and served with distinction in both World War II and the Korean war. He served the city of Bluefield, WV as a postmaster, a fireman, and as the chief of police. His commitment to his community exemplified the motto of the Marine Corps, ''semper fidelis'', always faithful.

After retiring from this distinguished career, Nub dedicated his life to spreading his love of books and opened the Appalachian Bookstore in Bluefield. He was a man who loved to read and had a deep desire to share that passion with others. When Nub decided to retire, he

donated the contents of his bookstore, an estimated 40,000 volumes, to a very grateful Concord College Foundation.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to ask this great body to reflect for a moment to honor the life of a great man, faithful husband and father, and an honorable American. As the Lord called his servant home; his generosity, compassion, and commitment to his community will live on forever in the memories of all who had the high honor knowing Arnold ''Nub'' Porterfield.

TRIBUTE TO THE 440TH AIRLIFT WING BASED IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 440th Airlift Wing's long and distinguished history. It was formed in 1943 at Baer Field in Indiana, but has been based at General Mitchell International Airport—Air Reserve Station located in the Fourth Congressional District, since 1957. The airport and Air Reserve Station are both named in honor of Brig. Gen. William Mitchell, the Milwaukeean who is considered the ''father'' of the modern Air Force.

After moving to Milwaukee, the 440th Troop Carrier Group became the 440th Airlift Wing and in 1967, underwent another name change becoming the Reserve Tactical Airlift Wing. The 440th has received many honors including: the Air Force Association's Outstanding Reserve Unit during 1963, 1964, 1966 and 1968; the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, 1968: 14 Feb—11 Mar for airlift operations to the Vietnam Theater; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period Oct 1985—30 Sep 1987; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period 2 Oct 1992—2 Oct 1993; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period 1 Jun 1997—30 Sep 1998; and in 1998 received the highest score for a Reserve Unit in two years. In 1989, the 440th was equipped with eight new C–130s. The first C–130H was dubbed ''The Spirit of Wisconsin.''

The 440th has performed admirably in virtually every US combat theater and tactical operation including: the Cuban Missile Crisis; Vietnam Conflict; Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield in the Persian Gulf States; and was the first wing unit to deploy members on Anti-Terror Operations after the September 11, 2001 assault on America. In fact, ''The Flying Badgers'' have been constantly available to provide airlift support, superb aircraft maintenance and security training and support.

In 2006 the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) ordered the 440th to be reassigned to Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina. Flight operations in Milwaukee will end in June, 2007 and will resume at the Wing's new location at Pope AFB.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to the 440th for their stellar performance, dedication and service to my district and to the nation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ARTHUR C. NERIANI

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the 63rd anniversary of the D-Day invasion, I rise today to honor the service and valor of all veterans, and especially the contributions of Arthur Neriani, who served bravely in World War II.

The son of two Italian immigrants, Arthur Neriani grew up in Avon, CT, when Avon was still considered a farm town. As a young man, Art spent much of his time with a group of 15 boys from the same neighborhood. Organized by Gildo Consolini, the boys played softball on a local team called the Avon Tigers. Bonded through friendship and love of country, 14 of these young men went on to serve their country during World War II.

At the age of 21, Art's name was at the top of the list at the Draft Board 2B in Unionville. As the first from the Farmington Valley to be drafted, Art's unique status was covered in the Hartford Courant. In 1940, Art joined the National Guard, Company M, 169th Regiment, 43rd Division in New Britain. In 1941, the division was federalized and sent to train in Camp Blanding in Starke, FL. After his year of service was almost complete on December 7, 1941, it was soon made clear he was not going home. Soon after Pearl Harbor, all of the soldiers at Camp Blanding were asked to sign up for Officer Candidate School. It was not Corporal Neriani, but rather a friend, who signed Art's name in for consideration. Of the 26 candidates who stepped forward, only 2 were accepted—one of which was Art Neriani. After completion of candidate school, Art arrived on the beaches of Normandy as the 2nd Lieutenant of the 8th Infantry Division on July 4, 1944, referred to as D plus 28 (28 days after D-Day).

In 1945, after the gruesome battle in Huertgen Forest, Germany, Officer Neriani received a battlefield promotion from 2nd Lieutenant to 1st Lieutenant. When he was awarded the Bronze Star medal for his leadership and courage in battle he refused it. He felt he had not earned the decoration. To him, this type of honor and recognition was better served in honoring the other men—the ones who paid the greatest sacrifice with their lives.

1st Lt. Neriani battled through Europe, liberated German and Polish political prisoners from Nazi concentration camps, and reached the end of the war when meeting with Russian allies in May 1945. Of the 14 servicemen from Avon that were sent to war, all but one returned home—Gildo Consolini. It is in honor of him that the Avon's Veterans of Foreign War Post is named.

A man of honor and courage, Captain Neriani saw many battles, lost friends and brothers, and was one of many to bring freedom to Europe. We owe our veterans, those here and now gone, this country's greatest debt of gratitude. I call on my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to men like Art Neriani—to the dedicated men and women in our military our proudly serve this Nation and protect our freedom.

THE JUBILEE ACT OF 2007

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007. This bill will expand existing debt cancellation programs for the world's poorest countries and ensure that the benefits from debt cancellation will not be eroded by future lending to these impoverished nations.

Existing debt cancellation programs have freed up resources to reduce poverty in some of the world's poorest countries. Cameroon is using its savings of $29.8 million from debt cancellation in 2006 for national poverty reduction priorities, including infrastructure, social sector and governance reforms. Uganda is using its savings of $57.9 million on improving energy infrastructure to ease acute electricity shortages, as well as primary education, malaria control, healthcare, and water infrastructure. Zambia is using its savings of $23.8 million to increase spending on agricultural projects and to eliminate fees for healthcare in rural areas. However, there are many needy and deserving poor countries that have yet to benefit from the cancellation of their debts.

The Jubilee Act will make 67 of the world's poorest countries eligible for complete debt cancellation by the United States, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and other bilateral and multilateral creditors. In order to receive debt cancellation, the governments of these countries will be required to allocate the savings from debt cancellation towards spending on poverty-reduction programs. They will also have to engage interested parties within their societies, including a broad cross-section of civil society groups, in the spending allocation process; produce an annual report on this spending; and make it publicly available.

Countries would be excluded from receiving debt cancellation under the Jubilee Act if they have an excessive level of military expenditures; provide support for acts of international terrorism; fail to cooperate on international narcotics control matters; or engage in a consistent pattern of human rights violations. Countries also would be excluded if they lack transparent and effective budget execution and public financial management systems to ensure that the savings from debt cancellation would be spent on reducing poverty.

The Jubilee Act will establish a framework for responsible lending in order to preserve the benefits that debt cancellation has provided to poor countries and their people. The Jubilee Act requires the United States Secretary of the Treasury to take action to end the predatory practices of ''vulture funds,'' private investment funds that buy up the debts of poor countries at reduced prices just before these countries receive debt cancellation and then sue these countries to recover the original value of the debts plus interest. Finally, the Jubilee Act will require the Secretary of the Treasury to develop and promote policies to prevent bilateral, multilateral and private creditors from eroding the benefits of debt cancellation through irresponsible or exploitive lending.

The Jubilee Act will expand debt cancellation to all needy and deserving poor countries

and preserve the benefits that debt cancellation has provided to impoverished people worldwide. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation to reduce poverty through much needed debt cancellation reforms.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, because I was voting in elections in the State of New Jersey I was not in attendance on June 5th. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 426, ''yea'' on rollcall No. 427, ''yea'' on rollcall No. 428, ''yea'' on rollcall No. 429, and ''yea'' on rollcall No. 430.

IN HONOR OF FREDERIC ''BUZZ'' EDWARD RAINER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Frederic ''Buzz'' Edward Rainer, an exceptional teacher and coach who passed away May 11, 2007. Buzz lived his life to its fullest and fought with passion. I offer his wife Barbara, sons Ted and Scott, and daughter Grace, my sincerest condolences.

Buzz grew up in Claremont, CA, and graduated from Claremont High School. He met his wife of 54 years, Barbara, in the 6th grade and they were later married in 1952. Buzz attended the University of Southern California where he earned a Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Education. He was active in sports, especially track, where he set school records. After gaining his Master's, Buzz and Barbara moved to Carmel, CA, where Buzz began a long and passionate career as a teacher and coach. Buzz taught at Carmel High School for 33 devoted years and 8 years at The York School in Monterey. He coached a range of sports at Carmel High including football, track, basketball, and golf.

Buzz's teaching career was extensive and was not confined to the Monterey Bay. In 1963 he took a one year sabbatical to Cambridge University in England and later in 1978 he spent a year at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Taking a 2-year leave of absence from Carmel High School in 1967, Buzz taught English at the American Community School of Athens in Greece. His love for teaching was truly a gift and he was often caught saying ''I never really worked a day in my life.''

He had a passion for using his gift of poetry to motivate school spirit and its athletic teams. I remember, during my school years, Coach Rainer getting all the ''jocks'' in his class and turning them into English majors. He knew how to put passions to words, and meaning to learning, that no one ever forgot. He was a teacher who challenged students to think and to commit their thoughts to action.

Not only was Buzz an extraordinary teacher and coach, but he was also an involved figure in the community. He was an active member of the Diogenes Club, the Knights of the Vine, and the local International Club of Carmel. Serving as a volunteer for the Carmel Highlands Fire Dept. was just another hobby of Buzz's and he was later appointed to their Board of Directors.

However, Buzz's greatest gift and passion in life was his love for literature. He composed hundreds of poems and recited them to his many friends. A great accomplishment of Buzz's was having one of his beautiful poems published in a book illustrated by Eldon Dedini. He had been writing two books as well. One of the books was about the joy he received from being a teacher; inspired from hundreds of letters he's received from past students describing the impact he's made on them.

Madam Speaker, Frederic ''Buzz'' Edward Rainer lived a life that we can all be envious of. Through his admirable life, our community grew greater and stronger with every person that Buzz came in contact with. His love of life, and of people, will be remembered by all. Buzz may no longer be with us but his memory will carry on in all those whose lives that Buzz touched. I am honored to have been able to have had him as my coach at Carmel High School and to have known such an extraordinary person.

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG C. MELLO, PHD, 2006 NOBEL LAUREATE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, as the House prepares today to vote on final passage of S.5, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, I am again reminded of the extraordinary contributions one of my constituents has made to the life sciences. Dr. Craig C. Mello of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts won the 2006 Nobel Prize in the field of Physiology or Medicine for his revolutionary discovery of RNA interference and the gene silencing process. Earlier this year, the University of Massachusetts Medical School honored its most famous faculty member with a tribute that I was regretfully unable to attend. However, on May 2 I had the distinct privilege of introducing Dr. Mello at a luncheon for all of the 2006 Nobel Laureates hosted by my colleagues and the Science Coalition here in the Capitol.

It seems only fitting on this historic day in the United States House of Representatives that I humbly submit for the RECORD my introduction of Dr. Mello at that recent program. I do this not only to highlight his achievement but to also to emphasize the fact that this vitally important research is being led by America's most brilliant, thoughtful and committed scientists who are dedicated to improving the lives of all people everywhere.

CONGRESSMAN JAMES P. MCGOVERN—INTRODUCTION OF CRAIG C. MELLO, PHD.

Good afternoon. I want to begin by thanking all of my colleagues who are here today and, in particular, Chairman Bart Gordon and Congressman McNerney for their work in organizing this Nobel Laureate Luncheon as well as the House Resolution honoring our distinguished guests. I also want to thank the Science Coalition for their assistance in coordinating this program and all of the activities our Nobel Laureates are participating in today.

You know, if you work in this building long enough you come in contact with some very impressive people; world leaders, movie actors, artists, authors and every kind of celebrity.

Well, I've now worked in this building for more than half my life—fourteen years as an aide to the late Congressman Joe Moakley and ten years as a member of Congress myself—and I'm here to tell you that few people have impressed me more than Dr. Craig Mello. That's not just because he is my constituent and works at the finest medical school—public or private—in the world, the University of Massachusetts Medical School in my hometown of Worcester. It is also not just because Craig Mello and I have so much in common. We are both tall with full heads-of-hair as you can tell. Notwithstanding these similarities, I am—in all seriousness—very proud to be here today to introduce and congratulate Dr. Mello for far less obvious but much more important reasons.

He and his colleague, Dr. Andrew Fire, have blown open a whole new field of biomedical research with their revolutionary discovery of RNA interference and the gene silencing process. Together, they have brought renewed hope to millions of people who are suffering from countless debilitating diseases and genetic disorders. The potential for new therapies for cancer, heart disease, and diabetes among several other diseases has never been greater as a result of their extraordinary achievement.

In fact, their research may one day even have the added benefit of helping one of Dr. Mello's own children who is diabetic. I can't even imagine how gratifying that must be for Dr. Mello and it is surely a source of pride that extends even beyond the prestige of winning a Nobel Prize. It is also a poignant reminder for all us in public service about how deeply personal and incredibly important it is for this research to continue.

You know, I'm not aware of any other Nobel Laureates in my congressional district but that's not to say it hasn't been home to other distinguished figures in our nation's history. Horace Mann, widely regarded as the father of the American education system, served first in the Massachusetts Legislature and later as a member of this House, was born in Franklin, Massachusetts—in my congressional district.

After serving in Congress, Horace Mann ended his career as President of Antioch College and in his final valedictory address to the graduating class of 1859, he said this:

''Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for Humanity.''

Well, Dr. Mello, there is no doubt that you have scored a triumphant victory for all of Humanity. I am both humbled and inspired by what you have accomplished. And, I am also deeply grateful for all that you've done since winning the Nobel Prize to support funding for public education in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts and elsewhere. Your generosity and commitment to that cause is even further evidence that you are deserving of the accolades you have rightly received.

It is now my distinct pleasure to introduce Dr. Craig Mello, the winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and to present him with this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTH MAUI COASTAL PRESERVATION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the North Maui Coastal Preservation Act of 2007, a bill directing the National Park Service to study the suitability and feasibility of designating certain lands along the northern coast of Maui, between Specklesville and Paia, as a unit of the National Park System.

The citizens of Maui strongly support preservation of this coast, which provides important open space and public beach areas. Thousands of post cards in support of creating a national park or national seashore along this coast have been sent to me and to my predecessor.

This beautiful coastline is under significant development pressure. Its closeness to major population centers in Maui and its popularity with both visitors and residents makes protecting access a major concern.

Supporters of this park have asked that it be named after Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink, a native of Maui who grew up in the Hamakua Poko/Paia area. While this bill, which authorizes a study, does not direct what the prospective national park would be named, I would certainly support naming it after Patsy Mink, whose commitment to the people of the island and state was without question.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

RECOGNIZING D/FW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S ''WELCOME HOME A HERO'' PROGRAM

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer some well-deserved thanks to those involved in the ''Welcome Home a Hero'' program. These patriotic ambassadors of good will volunteer at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport to welcome home the brave service men and women who protect America abroad.

As I travel through my district, constituents ask me what they can do to show appreciation for the service and sacrifices of our military. ''Welcome Home A Hero'' volunteers at the Dallas- Fort Worth International Airport are great examples of how to give back to the community and help our soldiers start their 2 weeks of rest and recuperation at home on a high note. Because of the compassion and good cheer of ''Welcome Home A Hero'' volunteers, our troops know that a grateful nation honors their service and respects their sacrifice. You can't put a price on that.

On June 12, as the Defense Department marks the return of the 500,000th soldier home for R&R, it is fitting that D/FW International Airport has been selected to host this celebration, precisely because of the success of the ''Welcome Home a Hero'' program and the outpouring of support that Texans have shown for our men and women in uniform.

I salute our soldiers, their families, and the great Americans who have volunteered to honor them. Thank you for your dedicated service to country.

10,000 TRAINED BY 2010 ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1467 the ''10,000 Trained by 2010 Act''. This legislation would authorize the appropriation of about $100 million over the 2008–2011 period for the National Science Foundation to award grants to institutions of higher education for research on innovative approaches to enhancing healthcare informatics through hardware and software solutions, as well as to conduct basic research and improve undergraduate and graduate education in the study of information systems. Higher educations facilities would also be able to establish multidisciplinary centers for Health and Medical Informatics Research Centers.

These research centers would be designed to train qualified healthcare personnel and professionals, as well as physicians, nurses, information technology specialists, medical administrators and social scientist.

Ciborra (2002) defines the study of information systems as the study that ''deals with the deployment of information technology in organizations, institutions, and society at large.'' Today, information and information technology have become the fifth major resource available to executives for shaping an organization, alongside people, money, material and machines

One of the benefits of H.R. 1467 the ''10,000 Trained by 2010 Act'' is that we will be able to stay ''up to date'' with other countries and their technology.

Most businesses have shifted from being product oriented to knowledge oriented. This means that employers are now looking for people who can compete in innovative, and knowledge oriented businesses, rather than product oriented business. By funding this Act, we are giving our youth a better knowledge about the field of information systems so that they can have a greater chance on jobs and other opportunities in our country, rather than the employer having to go to foreign nations to look for help. We are also increasing the amount of resources that we have available here in the United States.

We should make a conscious effort to get as many of our minority students and women into the information systems career field as possible. Although this is a highly populated field, there are not very many minorities holding these positions. It is not because they are incapable or lack the drive and determination to get the job done, but simply because they are not very educated about the options and possibilities that are out there.

MENTORING AMERICA'S CHILDREN ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation strengthening the link between high-quality mentoring and public education in the United States.

The Mentoring America's Children Act of 2007 will improve upon the current efforts to match high-quality and responsible mentors with children in need of a strong role model.

In 2002, the U.S. Department of Education began granting funding directly to community organizations and schools to establish or expand mentoring opportunities. Since then, over $200 million has been allocated contributing to a 20 percent increase in the number of children benefiting from a mentor.

The Mentoring America's Children Act sets out to expand and build upon this success. By increasing the availability and quality of the grants available through the Department of Education, the mentoring program will reach more children in need while enhancing quality.

The bill will also tie mentoring programs funding more closely with the important role mentors can play in improving a young person's academic standing and the learning environment. The legislation would broaden the reach of mentoring to include a number of specific populations of young people who could benefit from a strong role model.

Finally, the legislation also authorizes the Department of Education to conduct high-quality research into successful school-based mentoring programs. Through this research, plus improved data collection and tracking, we will better understand the impact of mentoring and can continue to refine program practices to best meet the needs of children.

Mentoring is a critical element in a child's social, cognitive and emotional development. When it comes to education, a healthy relationship with a mentor plays a key role in improving the learning environment for a young person. Students with a responsible mentor have better attendance and are more connected to their school, schoolwork, and teachers. They perform better in school and are more likely to graduate and go on to higher education.

It is an honor to introduce this legislation with a number of my colleagues on the House Mentoring Caucus and others dedicated to the noble cause of mentoring. It was also an honor to work directly with the MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and the National Collaboration for Youth to develop this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge consideration of this legislation.

RECOGNIZING NINA TINARI

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Nina Tinari, who was recently

selected by Women Making a Difference, Inc. as one of Philadelphia's Next Generation of Women Leaders.

Madam Speaker, Nina began her career in government as an intern in the Press Office of Mayor Martin O'Malley of Baltimore, Maryland. Upon graduation from college, she worked as a volunteer in the campaign office of Mayor Rendell who was running for Governor of Pennsylvania. After his successful bid for Governor, she transferred to Harrisburg to serve as Assistant to the Executive Director of the Inaugural Committee.

Nina was then offered the position of Special Assistant in the Office of Public Liaison. Soon thereafter, she became Deputy Director of Scheduling and Advance in the Governor's Office. She advanced to the position of Deputy Press Secretary and Communications Manager where she served as a liaison between State agencies and the Governor's Office, managed releases and press briefings, and pro actively promoted the policy agenda of Governor Rendell.

Ms. Tinari has a B.A. in Communications with a concentration in Public Relations from Loyola College in Maryland, a Certificate in Non Profit Leadership and Management from the Fels Institute of Government—University of Pennsylvania, and is presently a candidate for a masters in Government Administration from the Fels Institute of Government—University of Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, as the first woman Speaker and someone who is extremely proud of her Italian heritage, I ask you and all of our colleagues to congratulate an up-and-coming leader. A woman who is working hard to blaze a trail for her generation—Nina Tinari.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOR WINNING THE PINNACLE AWARD

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy, located in my Congressional district, on receiving the 2007 Pinnacle Award from the American Pharmacists Association Foundation. This national award celebrates innovators who have made significant contributions to improving the quality of medication delivery for patients and caregivers.

Los Angeles County is home to more than 2.7 million uninsured residents, many of whom rely on their local health care clinic for needed health services. USC's Community Pharmacy Group earned this honor for their work to serve patients in eight safety-net clinics in underserved neighborhoods in Los Angeles, including the JWCH Medical Clinic at the Weingart Center located in the heart of downtown Los Angeles' Skid Row.

Recognizing that community pharmacists are often the most accessible health care professionals for many underserved patients, USC has trained pharmacists along with residents and students to provide disease management services to high-risk patients, and has helped community clinics purchase lower-cost medication. USC pharmacists work directly with patients with chronic diseases requiring ongoing medication and lifestyle changes. By implementing pharmacist-based disease management services and education at these clinics, the USC Community Pharmacy Group has demonstrated significant improvements in health outcomes directly attributed to pharmacist interventions.

Prior to the start of the project, none of the eight clinics had a pharmacist available to provide pharmaceutical care to patients in the clinic. Pharmacists have reduced drug costs at the clinics by utilizing patient assistance programs and formulary products. The results were outstanding; patients with chronic conditions increased their use of appropriate medications and improved control of their illnesses.

Madam Speaker, I applaud USC for their commitment to improving health outcomes for low-income patients in Los Angeles. It is my hope that the recognition USC receives through the Pinnacle Award will prompt other communities to try similar successful interventions. Together, through these types of efforts, we can improve the quality of life for millions of underserved Americans in need of quality health care.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING NORMAN ROSENSHEIN, NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor Norman Rosenshein, Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America for his tireless efforts and dedication on behalf of America's veterans. Jewish War Veterans of the USA, is the oldest active veterans association in the United States, founded by civil war veterans in 1896. Today, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA is dedicated to those programs that support the needs of our veterans' community; combat anti-Semitism and bigotry; support American youth through scouting, scholarships and anti-drug programs; and assist oppressed Jews worldwide.

Mr. Rosenshein served in the U.S. Army on active duty from December 8, 1964 until December 7, 1966. He joined the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America in January 1970. Since 1970, he has been an active member of David Blick Post 63 of Elizabeth, NJ. During that time Mr. Rosenshein has held all of the post offices until finally in August of 2006 when he was elected National Commander.

In addition to the Jewish War Veterans, Mr. Rosenshein is active in his congregation, having served as their Vice President. Because of his expertise, Mr. Rosenshein was appointed to the New Jersey Healthcare System Veterans Stakeholder Advisory Group in 1995 and presently serves on their committees. I applaud Mr. Rosenshein's whole hearted commitment to the Jewish War Veterans. He has proved himself a tenacious advocate and his continuous contribution for their welfare and wellbeing is truly commendable.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MARQUETTE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor faithful people and an important historic landmark in my district, the First Presbyterian Church of Marquette, Michigan. For a century and a half, the First Presbyterian Church of Marquette has served as a place of worship for the residents of Marquette and surrounding communities in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.). Throughout its rich history, the church and its congregation have served as an anchor to the community and offered important social services to those in the area.

In October of 1855, a small group of people met and considered putting together an organization for a Presbyterian Society in Marquette. A month after this initial meeting, this small group purchased a piece of land on which to erect a church. Called the ''Session House,'' the building originally stood on the corner of Baraga Avenue and Fourth Street in Marquette. In June of 1857, the original 18 members of the Presbyterian Society called a meeting and elected its first elders. The Reverend Jonathan A. Woodruff was named the first temporary pastor. During these early years of the church, a Sunday School was started and common functions such as baptisms and marriages were performed.

By 1865, the size of the First Presbyterian Church's congregation had increased dramatically and the congregation determined that a larger church was necessary. In 1867, a large brick and stone structure was erected on the corner of Front and Bluff Streets in Marquette, Michigan. In the summer of 1868, a horrific fire swept through the downtown area of Marquette, destroying practically every building in the area. Nonetheless, the structure of the First Presbyterian Church survived and the church was finished and dedicated in November of 1868.

Sadly, this structure was destroyed in a second fire that occurred in 1931. Nonetheless, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church remained united in their faith and continued to hold services in various locations. Two faithful church members left a bequest, allowing the church to be rebuilt in 1935. The 1935 structure exhibits the architecture of the English Gothic period and stained glass windows inspired by 13th century churches. The 1935 building still stands today.

Throughout its history, the church has provided not only a place to worship, but a valuable center of social services to the entire Marquette community. In the late 1970s, an adult day care center was started at the church for elderly community members in rooms furnished to meet a variety of needs. The program remains active today and serves approximately thirty people a week, providing vital services to some of the most vulnerable members of the Marquette community.

The genesis of the adult day care center stemmed from another valuable program at the church, the ''Lunch Bunch,'' a social event at the church targeting elderly residents. Members of the congregation cook lunch and make it available to anyone who wishes to attend, primarily elderly members of the community.

One of the church's newer programs, ''Stephen Ministry,'' was brought to the church in 1984. The program trains congregation members in pastoral counseling. Individuals undergoing emotional stress due to bereavement or divorce can seek a Stephen Ministry counselor and receive confidential one-on-one advice. In short, the program has enlisted members of the First Presbyterian Church of Marquette to counsel friends and neighbors during difficult times in their lives.

By organizing and hosting panel discussions, the church has also served as a forum where social problems in the community can be debated and discussed. In some cases, these discussions have yielded important innovative solutions. For example, one panel discussion resulted in the founding of the Medical Care Access Coalition, a collaboration of physicians and pharmacists throughout the area willing to offer free services to uninsured residents in Marquette County.

Madam Speaker, on Saturday, the First Presbyterian Church of Marquette will celebrate 150 years of dedicated service to the Marquette community. The church and its congregation have been blessed with dedicated pastors who have demonstrated great vision in building upon the teachings of Jesus Christ and the principles found in the Bible to offer a place of worship as well as critical social services to their brothers and sisters of Marquette County. I would ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting the First Presbyterian Church and its faithful congregation upon its sesquicentennial celebration.

RECOGNITION OF SPC JEREMIAH ''JEREMY'' DAVID COSTELLO

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Army Specialist Jeremy Costello. Spc. Costello was a motor transport operator who was recently killed by an improvised explosive device while fighting for freedom in Iraq.

Costello was a 22 year-old from Carlinville, Illinois who was assigned to 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division out of Fort Bliss, TX.

Costello is survived by his 4-year old daughter of Alton. I am proud of the service this young man gave to our country and the service his fellow troops perform everyday. Not enough can be said about Spc. Costello. Some of his awards and decorations speak to what a great soldier and man he was; the Combat Action Badge and Driver and Mechanic Badge. It is troops like Costello that are risking their lives day in and day out to ensure our freedom here at home and to others throughout the rest of the world. My best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy. May God bless him and may God continue to bless America.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ANDREA WATKINS AND DENISS QUINTANILLA-CERON

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend two outstanding seniors at Eastside High School in Paterson, Andrea Watkins and Deniss Quintanilla-Ceron. These young people are this year's recipients of the Nathan LeBron Scholarship Fund for their commitment to their education and to their futures.

Eastside High School may sound familiar—it is the school featured in the 1989 movie, Lean On Me. Many of the young men and women who attend that school face a wide variety of challenges and must overcome much to achieve their goals for a brighter future. The LeBron scholarship is one way that the community can demonstrate its support for their endeavors. Both Andrea and Deniss possess the brilliance of spirit that will turn this small show of support into an extraordinary future.

The scholarship is given in partnership with the Michelle Mitzvah Group of Beth Haverim. Both are named for people who exemplify perseverance and love of life. Nathan LeBron was a cancer survivor. Michelle was a young girl he met before she succumbed to leukemia. Nathan came from a troubled home, but with the love and support of Michelle's father, Marc Appelbaum, he went on to graduate college, earn a masters at Harvard, and head the IT operations at the Baseball Hall of Fame. The Mitzvah group seeks out opportunities to make the community a better place, with particular emphasis on brightening the lives who really need it—much as Marc Appelbaum did for Nathan LeBron in his youth.

I commend the men and women who work with this scholarship fund and who make the social action mission of the Michelle Mitzvah Group come to life. And, I commend Andrea and Deniss for their accomplishments. There is little doubt that they, in turn, will do tremendous things to brighten the lives of others as well.

RECOGNIZING MINNA ZHOU OF WOODBURY, MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minna Zhou of Woodbury, Minnesota, who was recently chosen as a 2007 Young Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

Minna has proven herself to be an outstanding young woman through her involvement in Girl Scouts, for which she has received their highest honor, the Gold Award.

She has also become involved. in her community by developing and teaching biweekly classes to adopted Chinese children focusing on Chinese language, culture, holidays, music and dance.

At the same time, Minna has published a newsletter sharing this information with her students' parents, to create a mutual understanding and appreciation of their children's background, and helped her students organize a recital showcasing their knowledge.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the important goals of Minna's classes, and I am extremely proud of Minna's dedication to volunteerism in her community. She is a remarkable young leader, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her accomplishments.

HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2560 the ''Human Cloning Prohibition Act.'' This legislation prohibits human cloning, and it makes it unlawful for any person to ship, mail, transport, or receive the product of human somatic cell nuclear transfer technology knowing that it will be used for human cloning. H.R. 2650 also makes it illegal for any person to initiate a pregnancy to facilitate human cloning.

Mr. Speaker, by a wide margin Americans believe that human cloning is wrong and immoral. It is also highly inefficient. More than 90% of cloning attempts fail to produce viable offspring. In addition to low success rates, cloned animals tend to have compromised immune system and higher rates of infections, tumors, and other disorders.

Studies conducted in Japan show that cloned mice live in poor health and die early. About a third of the cloned calves born alive have died young, and many of them were abnormally large. The American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) have issued formal public statements advising against human reproductive cloning.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 2560 because it reinforces the views and values of the American people. Human beings should be born, not cloned. Bringing a child into this world should be a consecrated act of grace; not a clinical or commercial enterprise. It is one thing to conduct research to find life-saving cures. It is quite another to try and create life in the laboratory. I support the former and oppose the latter.

For these reasons, I support H.R. 2560 and urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

RECOGNIZING BORDEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join Borden as they celebrate their 150th anniversary.

For those who are not familiar with Borden, it was founded in 1857 by Gail Borden and was originally known as the New York Condensed Milk Company. Borden invented the

innovative process of condensing milk, allowing for the first time, milk to be kept pure and storable without refrigeration. This allowed for milk to be safely distributed over long distances. Borden's condensed milk played an intricate role in sustaining the Union Army during the Civil War.

Borden revolutionized the dairy industry again in 1900 with the ''Dairyman's Ten Commandments,'' which taught dairymen how to better care for the cows and the milk they produce. These methods formed the foundation for modern health regulations.

Borden's lovable spokesman, Elsie the Cow, was created in 1938 by David William Reid. Through appearances in magazines, newspapers and tours around the country Elsie gained popularity, rivaling Mickey Mouse, and she made her film debut in the classic Little Men. Today, she ranks in the top 10 advertising icons of the 20th century.

In 1995 Borden Inc. was sold to the investment firm of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. Then, in 1997 the Borden brand and Elsie's image were bought by Mid-America Dairymen Inc., which would eventually merge with other cooperatives to form Dairy Farmers of America.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Borden on their 150th anniversary and their many accomplishments and contributions to the dairy industry over the years.

RECOGNIZING TYLER FREDERICK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Frederick, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 69, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler Frederick for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THE CHILD LABOR PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the Child Labor Protection Act of 2007 is a narrowly drafted bipartisan bill that amends the Fair Labor Standards Act, FLSA, to increase civil penalties for those who violated child labor provisions. Specifically, it would: Increase penalties from $11,000 to $50,000 for violations that cause death or serious injury; provide that the penalty can be doubled when the violation causing death or serious injury is repeated or willful; and provide that the $50,000 penalty can be assessed for each violation.

This legislation does not make the impositions of penalties mandatory—whether or not to assess a penalty is still discretionary with the Secretary of Labor—but it would provide the Department of Labor with a much needed enforcement tool to address the most serious child labor violations, deter repeat occurrences and further strengthen its enforcement of laws that protect children.

There is much that must be done to strengthen our child labor laws, and this bill is the foundation for future action that I hope my Subcommittee on Workforce Protections of the Committee on Education and Labor will take on these issues.

CHARLES T. ORTMAN FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles T. Ortman, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1395, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Charles has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 28 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, senior patrol leader, patrol leader, den chief, Order of the Arrow representative, and instructor. Charles is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Charles is also a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Charles poured a concrete sidewalk around the side of Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles T. Ortman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CHARLES CROWE FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Crowe, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1395, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Charles has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 33 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant senior patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, quartermaster, and librarian. Charles is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Charles is also a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Charles removed weeds and debris and planted bushes at a cemetery in Weatherby Lake, MO.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles Crowe for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

DALLAS/FORT WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S ''WELCOME HOME A HERO'' PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport for their role in sponsoring the internationally recognized ''Welcome Home a Hero'' program. DFW has been selected by the U.S. Military to host the celebration of the success of this critical program for soldiers and their families.

DFW's ''Welcome a Hero'' program has been praised as the premiere volunteer homecoming program for soldiers returning from Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait for much needed R&R with their families.

On June 12, 2007, the 500,000th soldier to return home during Operation Iraqi Freedom for 2 weeks of Rest and Recuperation (R&R) will travel through DFW International Airport.

As a representative of part of the DFW Airport and a frequent traveler between DFW and Washington Reagan, I am grateful that they have taken to heart the mission of our brave soldiers. I have participated in the ''Welcome Home a Hero'' program, and I will always remember the pride I felt and the thankfulness I had for the dedication of those men and women to our country and freedom.

I extend my sincere congratulations the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and their success with the ''Welcome Home a Hero'' program.

ZACHERY R. BODE FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachery R. Bode, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1395, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachery has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Zachery has been involved in scouting, he has earned 32 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant senior patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, and chaplains aide. Zachery

is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Zachery placed safety signs and evacuation procedures throughout the church and school at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church and School.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachery R. Bode for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SEAN TYLER COWDEN FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Tyler Cowden, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1395, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Sean has been involved in scouting, he has earned 29 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, den chief, and historian. Sean is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Sean painted house numbers on the street of a local housing division.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean Tyler Cowden for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF CICERO, NEW YORK

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the town of Cicero's 200th anniversary. Located on the southern shore of Oneida Lake, the town of Cicero serves as a northern suburb of metropolitan Syracuse. The town was named after the great Roman orator Marcus Tullius Cicero.

The town of Cicero was one of the townships of the former Central New York Military Tract. The CNY Military Tract was land reserved for soldiers who served in the American Revolution. Cicero became a part of the town of Lysander when Onondaga County was formed in 1794. The town of Cicero split from the town of Lysander in 1807. The town of Cicero also included the town of Clay until 1827 when the township was divided.

The town contains a rich history on involvement within Central New York. The town of Cicero was crucial to the building of the Erie Canal. The construction of the canal brought many settlers into the town, expanding its growth. The town of Cicero was also extensively involved within the salt industry. The salt industry provided many people with jobs, either making barrels or in furnishing lumber. When the salt mines dried up, the town's residents turned to the agriculture and dairy industries.

Over its history, the town of Cicero has changed drastically. From a small farming community, Cicero has transformed into one of the fastest growing suburbs of the region.

It has been an honor for me to represent the town of Cicero and its citizens for close to 20 years. The town of Cicero has provided the Central New York region with a prime example of a successful township filled with great people. The residents of the town of Cicero should be proud of their rich heritage. I congratulate them as they celebrate their first 200 years, and wish them nothing but the best for next 200 more.

RECOGNIZING SHANE DARWIN POPE II FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shane Darwin Pope II, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 946, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Shane has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Shane has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Shane Darwin Pope II for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM PAYNE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Payne, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Payne for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ROLAND KELLY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Roland Kelly, a 16-year member of the South Bend Common Council, World War II veteran, and beloved member of the community. Mr. Kelly lost his battle with a strep infection on May 26, 2007.

Born and raised in Port Chester, New York, Mr. Kelly enlisted in the United States Navy at age 17 to serve in WWII. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1950 and remained in South Bend to work in broadcasting until 1972. At WSBT–TV, Mr. Kelly served as the news anchor and the news director. Though a natural in front of the camera, Mr. Kelly began a new career at the local bank where he served as the Vice President and Director of Marketing, and he would retire as the Director of Business Development. Throughout his life, he dedicated himself to bettering the community through volunteering and mentoring.

Mr. Kelly was a member of many boards and committees, but most notably he sat on the South Bend Common Council as Vice-President until his death. Described as the ''peacemaker'' by fellow council members, he sponsored an anti-gun ordinance in 1991 and was instrumental in including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in anti-discrimination laws. Mr. Kelly was also influential in revamping a tax abatement ordinance which has fostered millions of dollars of new investment in our community. Committees he sat on included the Information and Technology committee and the Community and Economic Development committee, and he was chairperson of the Community Relations committee. For his dedication to the community, Mr. Kelly was inducted into the South Bend Community Hall of Fame in 2001.

Our community has lost a beloved family member, generous friend, devoted father, doting grandfather, and Notre Dame's most enthusiastic fan. He was described as a ''ham at heart'' and was often seen performing in theatre and music groups. Off-stage, Mr. Kelly never missed an opportunity to share a witty story.

Mr. Kelly leaves behind three children, seven grandchildren, a great-grandson, and countless friends. His ever-present energy and humor will be dearly missed. It is with great pride that I celebrate the life and service of Roland Kelly.

HONORING THE MERCURY 13 WOMEN

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 421, to honor the trailblazing accomplishments of the ''Mercury 13'' women, whose efforts in the early 1960s

demonstrated the capabilities of American women to undertake the human exploration of space.

The 13 women who participated in this program demonstrated the willingness and capability that women all around the world, past and present, possess, and in many cases must possess to overcome an indictment of sexism and discrimination that our society often presents. Although their participation in these tests and trials yielded no concrete results, the 13 women trailblazers ought to be recognized for having endured and overcome such grueling physical, medical and psychological astronautical fitness examinations.

These 13 women—Jerri Cobb, Wally Funk, Irene Leverton, Myrtle ''K'' Cagle, Jane B. Hart, Gene Nora Stumbough (Jessen), Jerri Sloan (Truhill), Rhea Hurrle (Woltman), Sarah Gorelick (Ratley), Bernice ''B'' Trimble Steadman, Jan Dietrich, and the late Marlon Dietrich and Jean Hixson—all surpassed society's expectations of rejections, by proving that although women are typically smaller and lighter than men, women are still fit to be good occupants in cramped space vehicles. These women attempted the dream that many others only dreamed of—flying the newest and the fastest craft.

Mr. Speaker, though few Americans know the names of the 13 women trailblazers, their valiant attempts to earn the opportunity to fly a spacecraft call for worldwide recognition. Because of the secrecy of the test programs, these women never received the recognition for their accomplishments, which laid that critical groundwork for women who have reached and those who are seeking to reach the skies. We can show our gratitude and appreciation for these women trailblazers by honoring them with the passing of this bill.

As a representative of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, home to an integral number of space exploration projects, centers, businesses, and constituents employed in the space industry, I strongly support legislation that seeks to inspire, motivate and recognize those individuals who assist with the improvement and advancement of space exploration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 421 to honor the trailblazing accomplishments of the 13 female pilots of Mercury 13.

RECOGNIZING THE TRAVIS REGIONAL ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee (TRAFC) as they celebrate their 10-year anniversary.

The TRAFC is comprised of over 150 business and civic leaders who work together to support the men and women of Travis Air Force Base. The mission of the TRAFC is to ''maintain liaison with personnel at Travis Air Force Base, promote the mission of the base to the community, and enhance the importance of the facility as an instrument of national security.''

The TRAFC meets monthly on base to receive updates from the Commanders of the 60th AMW, 349 AMW Reserve, and 615 CRW and to recognize airmen from the various wings for going ''above and beyond'' in their service.

In addition, the TRAFC hosts various events throughout the year to bring the communities surrounding the base and base personnel closer together. Events include the Military Recognition Night, NCO Night, and Commander's Night. The TRAFC also hosts a Contractor's Breakfast to educate businesses about bidding for contracts on base.

Moreover, the TRAFC was instrumental in working with the local community to ensure the Base Realignment and Closure Panel understood the vital role of Travis AFB in securing the Nation.

A great deal of the TRAFC's success is due in part to the leadership of the Fairfield-Suisun and Vacaville Chambers of Commerce and the Committee's own leadership. Past Presidents include Don Erickson, 1997–1998, Bev Dorsett, 1998–1999, Al Lavezzo, 1999–2000, Len Augustine, 2000–2001, Gary Falati, 2001–2002, Dale Baumler, 2002–2003, Ben Huber, 2003–2004, Bud Ross, 2004–2005, Ray Schoch, 2005–2006, and Foy McNaughton, 2006–2007.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with the TRAFC to support Travis AFB, both locally and in Washington, and have had the opportunity to support their nomination as the best base support organization in the Air Mobility Command.

As the TRAFC celebrates their 10-year anniversary, I would like to thank current and past members of TRAFC for their dedication to the men and women of Travis AFB and recognize them for their support of the base and its vital mission.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL RONALD A. RUTLAND

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and career of Colonel Ronald A. Rutland. Colonel Rutland is the commander of the 512th Airlift Wing at the Dover Air Force Base. Colonel Rutland is a distinguished member of the Reserves Officers Association with more than 6,500 flying hours in training, airlift and tanker experience. I commend Colonel Rutland for his years of public service defending our Nation.

Colonel Rutland received a Bachelor Degree of Political Science at Mississippi State University in 1973, and in 1977 attended the Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. Colonel Rutland's passion for learning never subsided, and in 1988, he went back to school to receive his Masters of Aeronautical Science at Embry-Riddle University.

Colonel Rutland received his undergraduate pilot training at the Columbus Air Force Base in 1973. From 1977 until the present, Colonel Rutland has served in various areas of command, including Air Training, Strategic Air Command, and Air Mobility Command, at six different Air Force Bases within the United States. Most recently, Colonel Rutland served in Iraq as the commander of the 447th Air Expeditionary Group at Sather Air Base.

Ronald has served as a distinguished member of the United States Air Force for 34 years and has been honored on several occasions for his service. He has received countless awards such as the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Air Force Longevity Service Award with six oak leaf clusters.

I join with the people of Delaware to thank Colonel Rutland for his continued dedication to the Air Force. He has served in a role that can be difficult at times, but is a necessity to the security of our Nation. I commend him for a life of service and thank him for his tireless dedication to Delaware and the United States of America.

HONORING REV. RICHARD P. OLDHAM

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Richard P. Oldham, an exemplary citizen and friend from my Congressional District. Rev. Oldham will celebrate his 50th anniversary this month as Pastor of Glendale Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

A native of Louisville, KY, Rev. Oldham began his ministry at the First Baptist Church in Savannah, TN while attending nearby Union University. He later earned an advanced degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and served various churches in Kentucky, Michigan, and Arkansas.

In 1957, he came back to Kentucky to become pastor of Glendale Baptist Church. During his five decades of spiritual leadership, over 250 young men and women have gone on to serve in the pastorate and in other mission assignments all over the world. He has also presided over an estimated 4,000 baptisms.

Rev. Oldham has remained very active in the Glendale community throughout his tenure including over 30 years as director of the Annual Youth Bible Conference at Camp Joy; numerous speaking roles at the annual Kentucky Baptist Convention; and past service as President of the Kentucky Baptist Pastor's Conference. Rev. Oldham is also the founder of Anchored Christian School in Bowling Green.

It is my great privilege to honor Rev. Richard P. Oldham today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for his dedicated service to the spiritual needs of members of the Baptist faith and the Warren County community at large. He is an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

HONORING ASTRONAUT WALTER MARTY SCHIRRA, AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON HIS PASSING

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 446, to honor and recognize the life of astronaut Walter Marty Schirra, and to express condolences on his passing. Walter Marty Schirra passed away in La Jolla, CA, at the age of 84.

The American community is sad to have lost one of its original space trailblazer—a true pioneer in both innovation and discovery. In attempting to place men in space, Schirra was chosen to serve as one of the original Mercury 7 astronauts for Project Mercury. Serving as an astronaut and naval officer, Schirra became the first man to fly on all three of our Nation's space programs—Apollo 7, Gemini VI–A, and Mercury 8 (Sigma 7). Prior to his passing, ''Astronaut Wally Schirra'' logged a total of 4577 hours of flight time, with 295 of those being in space. Additionally, he performed 267 landings in an aircraft carrier.

His lifetime of achievement also included a decorated record of service in the United States Military. He flew 90 combat missions in F–84E jets, as well as downing at least one MIG fighter, while serving as an exchange pilot with the 154th Fighter Bomber Squadron during the Korean War. His courage and valor was eventually recognized with three distinguishing flying crosses, two air medals, two NASA Distinguished Services Medals, and induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Wally Schirra serves as a positive role model and an asset to the space community. Schirra was an accomplished astronaut whose personal and professional career was filled with positive milestones and accomplishments. Schirra always rejected mediocrity by rejecting to conform to commonplace expectations. Schirra pushed the limits of 2 discovery and was determined to work harder and go farther than anyone before him.

Despite his numerous accomplishments, which ranged from educational attainment, military awards, hall of fame inductions, activeness in diverse clubs and organizations, as well as experiences, his humility was one of his most endearing traits. Although he was a great asset to the space industry, he assumed a very modest character.

As one of the few and profound trailblazers ever known to the United States Naval Academy, NASA, and the space community, he has helped pave the way for much of our knowledge about the operations of the space system. As a Member who represents many NASA-employed constituents and as a strong supporter of the expansion of our space programs, I understand the important role that Schirra played in advancing our scientific explorations in space.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the enormous contributions that late astronaut Walter Marty Schirra has made in the space industry and beyond, while also expressing condolences for his passing.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF JOHNNY W. WELTON

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Johnny W. Welton, as he retires as the director of Contra Costa Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), after 40 years of serving students in special education.

Johnny W. Welton's career in special education encompasses 12 years as a classroom teacher, 3 years as a resource teacher, 8 years as a site and central office administrator and 16 years as the Director of the Contra Costa SELPA.

In his role as director of SELPA, Welton established a Resource Parent Program, initiated Facilitation Skills training for staff IEP teams, and introduced Solutions Panel mediation training. Throughout his career, Johnny W. Welton has worked for equity, quality, reforms, and results in special education and conflict resolution.

On many occasions during his illustrious career, Johnny W. Welton received national, State and local awards and recognition for his service to the children of Contra Costa County.

Among these are: the first ''Peacemaker of the Year Award'' from the California Department of Education; the ''Outstanding Administrator of the Year Award'' presented by the Association of California School Administrators; a certificate of Appreciation awarded by Contra Costa Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; and the first Alternative Dispute Resolution grant from the California Department of Education in 1993, and in each year to follow.

Johnny W. Welton's outstanding service to special education and dispute resolution more than validates his awards. He assisted in the reorganization and establishment of the California Department of Education Procedural Safeguards Unit, Compliance Monitoring Unit; he built partnerships between Education and other local agencies serving children with special needs; and he chaired the state of California Alternative Dispute Resolution Steering Committee.

As Johnny W. Welton retires, I would like to thank him for his dedication to the quality of education of the children of Contra Costa County, and his leadership in the field of special education as an exceptional educator and SELPA Director. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MINQUAS FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 OF NEWPORT, DE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to commemorate an important anniversary of service to the Town of Newport and the entire State of Delaware.

On May 21, 1907, concerned citizens met in the historic town of Newport to discuss the formation of a fire company. At the time, there had been numerous fires which destroyed properties before the already established fire companies in Wilmington, New Castle and Newark could arrive and fight the blazes. After much discussion and debate, Lt. Governor John M. Mendinhall suggested to the 68 founders that the company should be named the Minquas Fire Company No. 1 commemorating a tribe of Native American Indians who traded with early settlers along the Christiania River.

From its genesis, the Minquas Fire Company has taken great pride in providing volunteer fire rescue and emergency medical services to the citizens of greater Newport. They began by purchasing property in the unit block of North James Street. Several extensions and expansions have taken place over the years the most recent being the erection of an ultra modern facility in 2005.

Minquas' first President Howard P. Weldin and Chief Thomas Bullen oversaw the original building project and the construction of the first fire house. In 1908, a horse drawn chemical engine was purchased from Radnor Fire Company of Pennsylvania for $1,000 and put in service at the brand new station.

Today President Curtis Clifton and Chief Michael Saggione command the Fire Company. Through their leadership, Minquas has continued to acquire the latest fire, rescue, ambulance apparatus and equipment to respond to the emergency service needs of their community. The Company's Motto ''We go where duty calls'' exemplifies the volunteer spirit of the men and women of the Minquas Fire Company No. 1.

I am proud of the contributions the volunteers of Minquas have made to Delaware over all these years and I congratulate them on this important milestone of 100 years of service.

IN TRIBUTE TO SAM CARMEN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader and volunteer from the Fourth Congressional District, Sam Carmen. Mr. Carmen is a recognized leader at the national and local level for his work in the area of educational innovation and reform. Mr. Carmen is retiring from the Milwaukee Teacher's Education Association (MTEA) after 28 years of faithful service.

Sam Carmen graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in Industrial and Labor Relations. Following graduation, he worked for both public sector and private sector unions in various capacities.

Mr. Carmen joined the staff of MTEA in 1979. In 1986, he became MTEA's chief spokesperson in contract negotiations with the Milwaukee Public School (MPS) Board. While he was serving as chief negotiator, MTEA developed a portfolio of educational reforms that were incorporated into the collective bargaining agreement and became national models. For example, Mr. Carmen negotiated an interview process for filling teacher vacancies replacing the traditional seniority model. MPS utilizes this process to select teachers who best fit their needs with the input of teachers, administration, and parent representatives.

In 1994, Sam Carmen was selected as the MTEA Executive Director while continuing as the chief negotiator. As Executive Director, he was a leader in the successful establishment of the MPS/MTEA Teacher Mentor Program, the Joint Teacher Evaluation and Mentoring Program, the Milwaukee Teacher Education Center (MTEC), and the Milwaukee Partnership Academy. Most recently, Mr. Carmen was instrumental in the development and implementation of a collaborative strategic planning process with MPS and the Greater Milwaukee Committee entitled ''Working Together, Achieving More.''

Sam Carmen has been active in organizations including: Citizen Action of Wisconsin; the Urban Directors' Association, a national network of urban union executives; the UWM School of Education Dean's Community Advisory Committee; and the Holmes Partnership, a network of professional organizations working to improve teaching and learning for all children.

During Mr. Carmen's tenure, the MTEA established annual community outreach activities including: an art show and awards program for MPS students; a scholarship program for MPS graduates, particularly those pursuing teaching careers; and the Food for Our Future partnership with Hunger Task Force, a food drive and advocacy program.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to rise and pay tribute today to Sam Carmen's contributions to educational reform in the Fourth Congressional District.

HONORING THE 46TH ANNUAL YMCA YOUTH GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 46th annual YMCA Youth Governor's Conference that began in Washington, DC, this past weekend and continues throughout this week. I am pleased to have the distinct honor of being one of the congressional hosts for the YMCA Youth Governor's breakfast with my House colleagues this Wednesday morning.

The YMCA Youth Governor's Conference brings together some of the most outstanding youth leaders in America. YMCA Youth and Government is a nationwide program that allows thousands of teenagers to simulate State and national government.

Madam Speaker, I would like to personally recognize each of this year's YMCA Youth Governors for their dedication and service to America's youth:

Lillian Wilson of Alabama, Emile Gordon of Arizona, David Murdter of California, Alex Chandler of Colorado, Samantha Free of Connecticut, Anna Galati of Delaware, Bradley Pough of Florida, Kristin Graham of Georgia, Tiana Maruyama of Hawaii, Elise Marchant of Idaho, Sean Tompkins of Illinois, Martin Turman of Indiana, Will Webb of Louisiana, Jay Gobeil of Maine, Arnell Limberry of Maryland, Alexis Morin of Massachusetts, Trenton Swank of Michigan, Dilara Uskup of Michigan, Eric Kunkel of Minnesota, Josh Travis of Missouri, Olaniyi Solebo of the Model United Nations Program, David Colaco of New Jersey, Matthew Scarvie of New Mexico, Matthew Vigliotta of New York, Tucker Piner of North Carolina, Stuart Downey of Oklahoma, Gregory Murray of Oregon, Jeff Mitch of Pennsylvania, Neel Mehta of South Carolina, Matt Robinson of Tennessee, Tyler Thomason of Tennessee, Dave Harris of Texas, Marco Leung of Virginia, Erik Ashida of Washington, Damien White of the District of Columbia, Caroline Kitchens of Wisconsin.

I wish all of the 2007 YMCA Youth Governors a very successful conference here in Washington, and encourage them to continue their sincere devotion to leadership and public service in this and their future endeavors.

ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE JUDGE RALPH M. BURNETT

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of a great constituent of the 6th District of Maryland—The Honorable Ralph M. Burnett, Jr. Ralph M. Burnett was a Maryland district court judge and pioneer in the fight against prostate cancer. Judge Burnett died from the disease on May 9, 2007 at the age of 64.

Judge Burnett was born in 1943 in Seneca Falls, N.Y., to the late Ralph M. Burnett, Sr., and Betty Burnett. He graduated from St. Paul's High School in 1961 and earned a BA from Dickinson College, in 1965. A Vietnam Veteran, Judge Burnett was sent to Korea and served as First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army until 1969. He then enrolled in the Baltimore School of Law and received a degree in 1972.

Judge Burnett began practicing law in Oakland, MD, and served as Garrett County's State Attorney from 1974–1978. In December of 1993, he was appointed an associate district court judge. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Maryland Judicial Conference, and served on the Editorial Board of Justice Matters until his passing.

Diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1996, Judge Burnett became a devoted advocate for the prostate cancer community. He served as chairman of the National Prostate Cancer Coalition, NPCC, from 1999–2001. Under his leadership, federal funding for prostate cancer research doubled and the NPCC tripled in size.

After stepping down as chairman, Judge Burnett stayed on as a board member and doggedly pursued more prostate cancer treatment options for patients. He was also an advocate for the Johns Hopkins University's Specialized Program of Research Excellence and served on several panels within the Department of Defense where he worked to leverage the DOD's investment in prostate cancer research and participated in discovering the lethal phenotype that causes the disease.

Judge Burnett is survived by his former wife, Lucy Burnett, a son, P. Chase Burnett and his wife Jaime, three grandchildren, Ian, Eli, and Sophie Burnett, a daughter, Catherine Burnett, and one sister, Clara Tordella.

Ralph M. Burnett's funeral was held on Saturday, May 12, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Oakland.

On behalf of the residents of the Sixth District, I am honored but humbled to offer this token of appreciation for the distinguished service of Ralph M. Burnett to others and his many accomplishments. I hope that this simple testament provides some comfort to ease the grief of his family, neighbors and friends over his loss.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE DAVID F. LEVI

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Judge David Levi, one of our Nation's respected judges and a true friend. After 17 years of service on the Federal bench Judge Levi is retiring to become the next dean of Duke University's Law School. As his colleagues, friends and family gather to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant.

The son of Edward and Kate Levi, Judge Levi was born into a distinguished family that valued pubic service and the pursuit of knowledge to serve others. His father was the President of the University of Chicago and served as the United States Attorney General under President Gerald Ford, while his mother was equally committed to a variety of worthy pursuits. In 1972, Judge Levi graduated from Harvard, magna cum laude, with a degree in history and literature. Upon graduating from Stanford Law School in 1980, he clerked for Judge Ben Duniway of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and followed that by clerking for Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell.

After his tenure with Justice Powell ended, Judge Levi returned to California and began a renowned career with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Sacramento. From 1983 to 1986 he served as Assistant United States Attorney and worked in the office's criminal division. In 1986 Judge Levi was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California. As the U.S. Attorney, Judge Levi led one of the most successful public corruption prosecutions in the state's history.

In 1990 Judge Levi was nominated by President George H.W. Bush to become a U.S. District Judge of the Eastern District of California. Since 2003, he has served as the Chief Judge of the District. After over a decade and half on the federal bench he has earned a reputation as one who still approaches each case, large and small, with a commitment to tirelessly examine all of the facts and treat each case with the utmost of importance.

Judge Levi also is a national leader on legal reform. Recognizing his keen intellect, former Chief Justice William Rehnquist appointed him to the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in 1994, which Judge Levi chaired from 2000–2003. Four years ago, Justice Rehnquist named Judge Levi as Chairman of the Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure. In these roles he has revised and brought a much needed dose of reform to the rules of procedure in federal courts, making the courts more efficient, accurate and fair.

Madam Speaker, as Judge David Levi leaves the bench to become the dean of Duke University's prestigious law school, I am truly honored to pay tribute to a friend and dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing David, his wife Nancy and their sons William and Joseph continued success and happiness in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING THE ALFRED E. ZAMPELLA SCHOOL

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Alfred E. Zampella School, whose outstanding work has been rewarded with the Heart of Gold Award for the Second Kindest School in New Jersey for the third year in a row.

The Kindness is Contagious program began in New Jersey several years ago as a way to encourage students, teachers, parents, and the community to work together to perform ''acts of kindness.'' At the beginning of the school year, students are taught about the values of compassion and generosity; they are then given journals to record their individual acts of kindness at home and at school while teachers, administrators, school personnel, and parents recognize and reinforce these acts. By the end of the school year, these important values are integrated into the daily education of students.

The students in the Alfred E. Zampella School—from the Pre-Kindergarten class to the Eighth Grade—have performed 53,926 acts of benevolence, empathy, thoughtfulness, and compassion in the past school year. It is clear by the sheer number of acts, that kindness is truly contagious in this school. These individual acts ranged from picking up a piece of trash in the cafeteria to a school-wide penny collection to raise money for leukemia research. The students not only learned how to improve their school community but also discovered the valuable life lesson of doing good works for other people—not for the recognition, but because it makes another person's life better.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in commending Principal Sandra Frierson, the staff, and students of the Alfred E. Zampella School for the tens of thousands of acts of kindness they have performed. They are a great credit to our country and its steadfast spirit of generosity and goodwill.

TRIBUTE TO ALICE R. BARHAM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Alice R. Barham, a warm and wonderful person who passed away on Tuesday, June 5, 2007.

Her family and friends will memorialize her at a ''going home'' celebration to be held on Saturday, June 9, 2007 at Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in Miami, FL.

Mrs. Barham was a mother, grandmother, sister, and nurse. However, more than that, she was one of the most caring people I have ever met. Born on July 17, 1938 to John and Ruth Stephens, of Atlanta, Georgia and christened Alice Ruth.

Alice Barham was one of the most caring people I have ever met, and so it was natural for her to choose a profession in which she could help people in pain and in need of comfort, and in a very personal way. She began her career in nursing at Jackson Memorial Hospital in the Pediatric Nursing Unit in the Skaggs and Woodard building. Later in her career, she became a Public Health Nurse for the Miami Dade County Health Department and worked in Liberty Square and James E. Scott housing projects providing health services to the underserved residents in the community. Alice was also employed at Mt. Sinai Hospital before eventually going to the Miami Dade County Public Schools System as a Public Health Nurse and biology teacher and retiring.

Mrs. Barham had the ability to soothe people who were hurt, calm people who were worried and bring comfort to people who were afflicted. Children were naturally attracted to her, as was she to them. She had a remarkable gift, and she was generous in sharing it so freely with so many people in our community. I could not begin to estimate the number of people whose lives she touched and whose path she made a little easier.

Mrs. Alice Barham was also my dear friend, and a dear friend to my family, and she played a very instrumental role in the lives of my children. I am deeply saddened by her passing, but I am grateful for having had her in my life. My heart goes out to her family and I thank them for sharing this phenomenal woman with us. Indeed, the legacy she leaves behind will live on in the people she helped throughout her career and life.

HONORING THE WORK OF DEBRA STEINBERG, RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL ETHNIC COALITION OF ORGANIZATIONS' 2007 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Debra Brown Steinberg for her reception of the 2007 Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Through its Ellis Island Medals program, the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO) honors United States Citizens whose life and work show dedication to community service and the preservation of ethnic heritage. Ms. Steinberg joins an elite group of medalists, who represent several industries and come from many different backgrounds.

Debra Steinberg is an accomplished attorney who has devoted time in her professional life to advancing civil rights. Most commendable is her pro bono representation of families of 9/11 victims. Determined to protect the rights of this group in need, Ms. Steinberg assisted in drafting The September 11th Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act, H.R. 1071. I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of this bill. As a founding member of ''Project 9/11,'' a consortium of lawyers formed in October 2001, Ms. Steinberg provided legal services for families of victims of the September 11th attacks, including those seeking citizen status. Collectively, these lawyers devoted many hours of their lives to this fight.

Once again, I offer my heart-felt congratulations to Ms. Steinberg at the time of this venerable distinction, the 2007 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. As representative of the 8th Congressional District of New York, I am honored to have such a distinguished citizen working in my district to improve the lives of all Americans and their families.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support S. 5, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007. This bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support a comprehensive program of embryonic stem cell research.

In my 14 years with the Committee on Science and Technology, I have exhibited a firm and consistent commitment to scientific research. That includes stem cell research.

Nearly all of the scientific societies are strong supporters of this legislation, and many have contacted me urging support of S. 5. The bill supports the development of techniques to derive stem cells from non-embryo sources for the improved understanding of and treatments for diseases.

Mr. Speaker, this bill that will enable critically important, ethical stem cell research. The President vetoed such legislation in the past, and I hope that he will listen to the majority of Americans and support this measure.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL OWEN A. HEETER OF ROCHESTER, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of COL Owen A. Heeter, who faithfully served our country in the United States Air Force for 30 years. Colonel Heeter passed away on February 17, 2007.

Colonel Heeter was born in Athens, Indiana in 1936. He graduated from Rochester High School in 1954 as an accomplished athlete and went on to attend DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. At DePauw, Colonel Heeter played baseball and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. However, it was his experiences in the Reserve Officers Training Corps that led him to a career dedicated to serving our country.

After graduation in 1958, Colonel Heeter joined the United States Air Force, becoming

one of our country's most successful pilots. He was stationed at various bases within the United States and overseas, including Spain, Thailand, and Panama. Some of his most notable accomplishments include becoming the first pilot to fly an HH–53 helicopter across the Pacific Ocean, flying rescue missions over Vietnam, and recovering bodies from the mass suicide in Jonestown, Guyana.

Colonel Heeter received numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding service during his tours of duty. Included in these are the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

After retiring from the Air Force, Colonel Heeter was a member of the international sales department at Bell Helicopter in Fort Worth, Texas. After retiring 10 years later, he returned to Rochester, Indiana, eventually marrying his high school sweetheart. In the last decade of his life, Colonel Heeter was an active member of Grace United Methodist Church, the Kiwanis Club, the LeRoy Shelton American Legion Post #36, and many other organizations. He enjoyed working on his golf game and spending time with his grandchildren.

Colonel Heeter represented the best that this country has to offer. His selfless dedication to the United States, to his community and to his family will always be remembered. It is with great pride that I celebrate the life and service of COL Owen A. Heeter.

TRIBUTE TO BILL AND BETH HANKS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill and Beth Hanks on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, which they will celebrate June 15.

The story of Beth Ballentine Hanks and William ''Bill'' Franklin Hanks is one of love at first sight and the American Dream. Beth grew up in South Carolina and Bill grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina. The couple met while attending Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina.

At Furman, Bill, a sophomore at the time, spotted Beth, a freshman, waiting in line for the freshman orientation tea. He knew she was the one. Bill and his fraternity brothers showed up at the freshman dance to see Beth. He had his friends continually cut in on Beth and her date so that they never had the opportunity to dance together. Eventually, her date got mad and left. This was when Bill made his move. Bill and Beth were married on June 15, 1957 in Beth's hometown of Walterboro, SC. Today, the couple splits their time between homes in Knoxville, TN and Fripp Island, SC. They enjoy attending UT football and basketball games and spending time with friends and family. The Hanks have 4 grown children, Linda, William, Wallace, and Lucille, and 10 grandchildren. After 50 years, Bill and Beth are very supportive of one another and still do their daily devotion together before they go to bed, no matter how late or how tired they may be. Madam Speaker, in closing, I am pleased to honor Bill and Beth's Golden Anniversary and urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this very special milestone.

TRIBUTE TO PAT LOOMES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pat Loomes, upon her retirement from Girls Inc. after 30 years of distinguished service to girls in Alameda County, California. This fall, Ms. Loomes will retire from Girls, Inc. leaving an organization that now serves more than 7,000 girls, has more than 90 staff members and a $5 million budget.

While feminists across the country marched to demand equal rights in the workplace, in the classroom, and at home, Pat Loomes realized that improving the quality of women's lives meant empowering them in their most formative years, when they were girls. Although many of her friends disagreed, arguing that advocating for girls weakened the women's movement, she followed her heart. Her commitment to leveling the playing field for girls laid the foundation for Girls Incorporated of Alameda County and contributed to the organization's impressive growth.

Pat Loomes saw Girls, Inc. as a vital opportunity to set girls' lives on the right track and give them the skills needed to lead productive and fulfilling lives. Among her first accomplishments was a grant from the Department of Labor that allowed girls to learn about carpentry, construction and other non-traditional jobs from women already in the industry.

Soon, she realized that girls' programs received far fewer funds from United Way than boys' programs and embarked on a campaign to end the discrimination. She recalls, '' I wrote a letter every week to the president of the board asking to increase funding until I got a response.'' Pat Loomes' campaign led to equitable funding, not only for Girls Inc. of Alameda County, but also for other girls' programs such as Campfire Girls, YWCA and the Girl Scouts.

In 1983, she created a formal program to treat child victims of sexual abuse. When government funds were discontinued for pregnant teens across the country, Girls Inc. moved to fill the gap and provided sex education and life options beyond high school, such as college, work, and travel.

Ms. Loomes achievements and success with the myriad of programs at Girls, Inc. have been recognized by numerous organizations, such as United Way and then, Seaton Manning Outstanding Agency Professional Award for her leadership and advocacy on behalf of girls.

I join the community in thanking Pat Loomes for her outstanding legacy. She has molded and shaped the girls' movement in a profound way that will be felt for generations.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. JAMES DETHERAGE

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, thank, and recognize my constituent Mr. James Detherage for 35 years of service and 30 years as Chief with the West Chester Fire Department.

As a husband, father and Fire Chief, James has given outstanding service and support to the people of West Chester. His lengthy and tireless work in West Chester over three decades is a constant source of pride and unconditional praise. As Chief of the West Chester Fire Department, James has seen the department grow from a volunteer staff to its current state of 40 full-time firefighters. Outside of his post as Chief, he has also served as President of the Butler County Fireman's Association, President of the Southwest District of Ohio Fire Chiefs Association and President of the Butler County Fire Chief's Association.

James' attitude, fierce determination, and community spirit are a source of energy for all those around him. So much of James' work is done quietly and without reward and it is my honor to take this moment to say thank you and congratulate him on his new position as West Chester Township Public Safety Director.

TRIBUTE TO BOOKER T. DOZIER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Booker T. Dozier, of Inkster, Michigan, on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Mr. Dozier is a pillar of the Inkster community, where he has lived for over 50 years. Time and again, Inkster has turned to Mr. Dozier for guidance, organization and leadership. In 1993 he led the effort to create Inkster's Memorial Day parade, culminating in a successful annual event which continues today. His organizational skills were put to use again when he was called on by the Mayor of Inkster to spearhead a successful effort to raise $100,000 for young man in need of a heart transplant.

There are also many different organizations which have benefited from Mr. Dozier's guidance. He has been involved with the Inkster Summerfest Festival Committee; the Because Inkster Cares Committee; the Optimist Club; the Inkster Dance Club; and the Inkster Goodfellows, who work to ensure that there will be ''no child without a Christmas.'' Mr. Dozier also served as the Chairman of the Inkster Commission on Aging for over 20 years and has been a member of the Wayne County Board of Directors for Meals on Wheels for the elderly.

Booker T. Dozier has consistently served his community. His efforts to improve Inkster have not gone unnoticed, as one of the most well known and used facilities within the city is the Booker T. Dozier Recreation Center. I thank Mr. Dozier for all of his efforts to better

his community and I congratulate him on the milestone of his 90th birthday.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOCAL 318 OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 75th anniversary of Local 318 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, headquartered in Marion, IL.

1932, our Nation was mired in the depths of the Great Depression. Prices were low. The average new car cost $610 and you could fill up the tank for 10 cents a gallon. However, few could afford the car or the gas as employment was over 23 percent nationally with over 13 million Americans having lost their jobs since the beginning of the Depression in 1929. It was in this time of economic distress that Local 318 was founded in Harrisburg, IL.

Local 318 covers 14 counties in the southernmost area of Illinois and is comprised of 900 skilled operators. Their commitment to providing the highest quality of labor to their hundreds of signatory contractors extends to a strong training program, both at the apprentice level and upgrades for Journeymen as well.

The members of Local 318 are also contributing members of their respective communities and, through their local, they support a number of area charities and provide a scholarship fund to support their dependents who attend college.

With union membership struggling in many areas of the country, Local 318 boasts a 98 percent union membership for their covered trades. This speaks well of the benefits that the members realize through their union membership and also the increased productivity for the contractors who use the skilled workers of Local 318.

In 1996 Local 318 moved its headquarters to Marion, IL. They continue to provide quality representation for their members and, through their training and community involvement, they are a positive example of organized labor in southern Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and members of Local 318 of the International Union of Operating Engineers as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO ELEANOR McGOVERN

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation honoring the life of Eleanor McGovern by officially designating the post office in her home town of Woonsocket, South Dakota, as the Eleanor McGovern Post Office.

The wife of Presidential nominee and United States Senator George McGovern, Eleanor made headlines of her own while campaigning solo across the country for her husband. Eleanor engaged crowds on the campaign trail with her eloquence and frequently participated in network television and radio discussions concerning national and international policy. Her high profile helped transform public perception of the role and value of women in politics.

Aside from politics, Eleanor worked as a tireless advocate for children and families. She served on the boards of directors for Dakota Wesleyan University, the Psychiatric Institute Foundation, the Child Study Association, the Erickson Institute of Chicago and Odyssey House of New York. She founded the Martha Movement and was a development officer for the Child Development Associates Consortium. Eleanor and her family also established the McGovern Family Foundation in Washington, DC, to raise funds for alcoholism research.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of this legislation that honors the life of Eleanor McGovern.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI JEROME DAVIDSON

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of Rabbi Jerome Davidson after nearly 50 years of dedicated service to the community of Great Neck, New York.

Rabbi Jerome Davidson is no ordinary rabbi. He has successfully fused his life as a religious leader and a Jewish mentor together with his commitment to a life of civic engagement and Tikkun Olam, or repairing the world. Throughout his years of service, Rabbi Davidson has effectively transcended the walls of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck in Nassau County, New York, establishing himself as an inspirational leader for both his congregation and community.

Jerome Davidson joined Temple Beth-El, a member congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism, as an assistant rabbi in 1958, and became its senior rabbi in 1971. Rabbi Davidson soon impressed the congregation with his dynamic sermons, driven enthusiasm and compelling sense of humor. Rabbi Davidson's brilliance and erudition were key in shaping the congregation's future. The educational opportunities presented by the Temple's comprehensive library and historical museum were central to Rabbi Davidson's success in teaching his congregants. Under his devoted tutelage, Temple Beth-El grew to become a thriving beacon of Jewish life in Great Neck; an arena of countless Bnai Mitzvah, weddings, other life-cycle events and social affairs.

Rabbi Davidson also laid the foundations of a successful Religious School and Early Childhood Education Center that addressed the needs of the diversified and growing congregation. Rabbi Davidson's exceptional creativity and boundless imagination confirmed Temple Beth-El, with its impressive membership of over 1200 families, as one of the most innovative and energetic Reform congregations in America. His uncoupled wisdom and unbridled inspiration served as a source of strength and encouragement in the aftermath of a devastating fire that struck the Temple in 1991.

Rabbi Davidson's steady rise to Jewish national iconography is no surprise considering the unique leadership qualities he demonstrated in serving Temple Beth-El. Rabbi Davidson's service as President of the Synagogue Council of America, as well as past president of the Rabbinic Alumni Association of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion only cemented Rabbi Davidson as a true Jewish leader.

Madam Speaker, Rabbi Davidson's commitment to Reform Judaism informed and complemented his involvement in pluralism and social justice. Rabbi Davidson's multiple terms as President of the Great Neck Clergy Association, and his groundbreaking efforts in developing interfaith dialogue, have served to better the lives of those around him, successfully realizing his lofty goals of building a community of tolerance and understanding. Rabbi Davidson's exemplary interfaith achievements, coupled with his involvement as a founding member of the American Jewish World Service, led the New York Board of Rabbis to honor him "Rabbi of the Year" in 1994.

More recently, Rabbi Davidson has been a trailblazer in formally welcoming the gay and lesbian community into Jewish life. He has likewise advocated for religious pluralism in Israel. Today, Rabbi Davidson continues to serve on the faculty of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and as a member of its Board of Governors. Rabbi Davidson also serves on the Advisory Board of the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, and is deeply involved in a plethora of other local and national Jewish organizations. Rabbi Davidson's adept ability for translating his values into action by positively affecting the world around him is truly an inspiration to all of those whose lives he has touched.

Madam Speaker, the accolades bestowed upon Jerome Davidson for his almost 50 years of outstanding service to the Long Island community are well deserved. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Rabbi Jerome Davidson for his outstanding work and wishing him many more years of success as he becomes Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck, New York.

TRIBUTE TO 1ST LT. KEITH HEIDTMAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise in tribute of an American patriot and fallen Connecticut son. A native of Norwich, 1st Lt. Keith Heidtman was killed in Iraq on Memorial Day, May 28, 2007 while piloting a helicopter north of Baghdad.

I spent Memorial Day in Iraq with the troops and witnessed firsthand the dangers they face every minute. To later learn that the day of my visit would also be the same as Keith's passing was particularly painful.

Keith was a 2001 graduate of Norwich Free Academy where he was an all-conference

baseball player, talented basketball player, and honor student. He then attended the University of Connecticut where he participated in ROTC, graduating cum laude in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in resource economics.

After graduation, Keith joined the army. At the top of his class, he chose to attend the United States Army Aviation Warfighting Center where he became a helicopter pilot. He was deployed to Iraq in December as part of Task Force Lightning.

Keith Heidtman represents the promise of America. A talented and dedicated young man, he laid down his life to serve his country. While his smile may no longer brighten the lives of those around him, the memory of his life shall always endure. Young men and women are serving our Nation with honor and distinction every day. They are on the frontlines, defending those in need of help. There is no job nobler. Keith understood this great responsibility and volunteered for service to protect his country and its citizens, strangers and family members alike.

At his funeral, I was moved by the incredible outpouring of support demonstrated by his friends and community. Hundreds of people came to pay their respects and salute this American hero.

I recently had the chance to meet Keith's mother and stepfather, Maureen and Arthur, at their home in Norwich. After meeting them it was clear to me where Keith developed his penchant for service—his mother. As an employee for the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, Maureen has dedicated her life to helping those in need. Keith carried on her legacy in the U.S. Army where he bravely served his country and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring 1st Lt. Keith Heidtman and his service to our great Nation. Keith and his sacrifice will forever be remembered by me, a mourning Connecticut, a grateful Nation, and family members who will never forget.

HONORING DR. MANUEL LOPEZ'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Manuel (Manny) Lopez as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Dr. Lopez has served the Oxnard community as a doctor, an activist, a community volunteer and as an elected official. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Lopez on this special day.

Born in Oxnard in 1927, Dr. Lopez attended local schools through high school, attended Ventura Community College and went on to attend DC Berkeley for his undergraduate education and as a student of optometry. He returned to his community and has practiced Optometry in Oxnard since 1962.

Before serving on the Oxnard City Council for 12 years and then serving as mayor for 14 years, Dr. Lopez was involved with the Oxnard Planning Commission, the Housing Authority, the Redevelopment Agency, the Community Relations Commission and the Economic Development Commission. While serving as a Member of the Council and as mayor, Dr. Lopez represented the city on a number of local and regional committees dealing with such issues as transportation planning, wastewater treatment, local airport policy and agricultural land preservation. He has also participated in many community groups such as the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Oxnard Optimist Club, the Oxnard Boys and Girls Club and many others.

As a result of his dedication to his community, Dr. Lopez was chosen as the 1991 Oxnard Distinguished Citizen of the Year and, in 1992, he received the Patrick Henry Award. In 2006 Dr. Lopez was the Grand Marshal of the Oxnard Christmas Parade. It is my honor, Madam Speaker, to recognize and commend Dr. Manuel Lopez for his ongoing service to his community on this joyous occasion of his 80th Birthday.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Minority Cancer Awareness Week. This week of awareness gave us the opportunity to highlight the issues and concerns that minority cancer patients and their families face on a daily basis. It is important that we acknowledge the challenges present for minorities who suffer with cancer so that we can take the necessary steps to alleviate these barriers.

Cancer patients endure chemotherapy, radiation therapy, surgical operations and other forms of medical treatment to fight the numerous types of cancer. The medical community continues to conduct research to find cures for cancer and develop more effective ways to treat individuals struggling with the disease. Unfortunately these medical advances are out of reach for many minorities dealing with cancer. The American Cancer Society has documented that the advances in cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment has evaded minority groups:

Minority populations often face numerous obstacles receiving equal access to prevention, early detection, and quality treatment and tend to receive lower quality health care than white patients even when insurance status, income, age, and severity of conditions are comparable.

Racial and ethnic minorities may lack health insurance, earn lower incomes, and experience language barriers, racial bias, and stereotyping which can affect interactions between patients and physicians and contribute to miscommunication or delivery of substandard care.

Eighteen percent of African Americans and 35 percent of Hispanic/Latinos are uninsured, while only 12 percent of whites lack health insurance.

I applaud the American Cancer Society and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network for bringing national awareness to the issues faced by minority cancer patients and for their efforts in celebrating National Minority Cancer Awareness Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT BRANDON HADAWAY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, Sergeant Brandon Hadaway, 25, of Valley, Alabama, died on May 30, 2007, in Afghanistan. Sergeant Hadaway was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 82nd General Support Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Sergeant Hadaway was serving on his third tour when his helicopter took fire from enemy combatants, He was a proud graduate of Valley High School and will be dearly missed in his community. As a testament to his sacrifice, the City of Valley has already declared a flag day in his honor.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Sgt. Hadaway, like other brave men and women who have served in uniform, died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty. Indeed, like those who have served before him, he was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve our nation. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the House's remembrance at this mournful occasion.

FREEDOM FOR ANTONIO RAMÓN DÍAZ SÁNCHEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Antonio Ramón Díaz Sánchez, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Díaz Sánchez, an electrician by profession, is a member of the Christian Liberation Movement and a peaceful pro-democracy activist who desires to exercise his basic human rights and who supports freedom, democracy and the Rule of Law for the people of Cuba. Unfortunately, the nightmare that is the totalitarian regime continues to oppress the men and women of Cuba, especially those who work to shed light on the vicious crimes committed against the Cuban people by the tyrant.

In March 2003, as part of the tyrant's condemnable crackdown on peaceful, pro-democracy activists, Mr. Díaz Sánchez was arrested simply for expressing his opinions. Mr. Díaz Sánchez was subjected to a sham trial where he was ''sentenced'' to 20 years of confinement in the infernal totalitarian dungeons of the brutal regime.

Mr. Díaz Sánchez has continued to advocate for freedom and justice while locked in the hellish squalor of the dictatorship's gulag. He has participated in various hunger strikes to draw attention to the horrific conditions that political prisoners are subjected to in the gulag. He is routinely denied medical treatment although he currently suffers from painful colitis and has been denied a biopsy for a rapidly growing tumor on his prostrate.

According to Mr. Díaz Sánchez's nephew, NGOs have offered Mr. Díaz anti-inflammatory medications to relieve his symptoms but as of yet neither he nor his family have received any such medications to relieve his symptoms. The burden of the cruel treatment he has received and the physical strain of the subhuman conditions in which Mr. Díaz Sánchez is forced to live have completely drained him of his desire to nourish himself. He survives on barely on a few spoonfuls of putrid food each day.

In the face of such horrific mistreatment, the regime's henchmen refuse to provide Mr. Díaz or his family with medical diagnoses. Madam Speaker, let me be very clear, Mr. Díaz Sánchez is suffering at the whim of a monstrous regime just 90 miles from our shore, although he has done nothing other than desire that his children and the long-suffering people of Cuba live in freedom with fundamental human rights and dignity.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Díaz Sánchez has courageously risked his life in order to bring a semblance of humane treatment to those confined in the nightmare that is the totalitarian gulag. His example shines a light of courage on the abominable disregard for human rights in that oppressed island. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Antonio Ramón Díaz Sánchez and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING BOB PERKINS FOR ADVANCING JAZZ THROUGH HIS BROADCAST AND WRITING CAREER

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Bob Perkins, an outstanding Philadelphian who has devoted more than four decades as a radio host and commentator to the advancement and enjoyment of Jazz.

''B.P. with the G.M.'' has been the radio signature for Bob Perkins bringing the Good Music of Jazz to grateful Philadelphia listeners for the past ten years from WRTI–FM, the Temple University flagship station.

Bob Perkins has entertained and informed listeners for 42 years as a radio newscaster, commentator and jazz host, 37 of those years in Philadelphia, while writing opinion pieces and jazz commentary for numerous local publications.

Bob was born and raised in South Philadelphia, where he listened night and day to the radio that was on constantly in the Perkins household. His career took him briefly to Detroit, but by 1969 he was back in Philadelphia at WDAS as newscaster, news director and editorial director. Meanwhile he was hosting a popular Saturday night Jazz program on public radio's WHYY–FM.

Ten years ago Bob moved to WRTI–FM, where he shares his encyclopedic knowledge of Jazz, and the men and women who perform it, with his devoted audience. It is programming that brings prestige and listeners to WRTI–FM while keeping alive this unique and indigenous American art form.

Bob Perkins has been the deserving recipient of more than three dozen awards for journalistic, broadcast and community excellence. He is the recipient of a Mellon Jazz Community Service Award and the Kal Rudman Milestone in Radio Award. In 2003, he was inducted into the Philadelphia Broadcast Hall of Fame. He and his wife Sheila live in Philadelphia's West Oak Lane section.

At age 73, Bob continues his weeknight and Sunday broadcasts, offering his insights, his stories, and his love on ''the G.M.'' And so I rise in recognition for a lifetime of achievement. On behalf of all your grateful fans, thank you Bob Perkins, native son and Philadelphia civic treasure.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS VALUE-ADDED INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Agricultural Producers Value-Added Investment Tax Credit Act of 2007, which is designed to give agricultural producers an incentive to invest in value-added enterprises. Through such investment, agricultural producers would not only realize a greater share of the profits generated by their products, but would also further economic development efforts, particularly in rural areas like my Central and Northern New York Congressional District.

Specifically, the Agricultural Producers Value-Added Investment Tax Credit Act would provide a 50-percent tax credit, up to $30,000 annually, for producers who invest in value-added enterprises. To allow for the cyclical nature of farm incomes, this legislation would allow the tax credit to be applied over a 20-year period. In the case of a farmer-owned entity, the credit would be allocated on a pro rata basis among eligible persons holding qualified interests in the entity.

Sadly, American farmers often get the smallest portion of the profit generated by the raw product they produce. As the agricultural product is transported, processed, and marketed before it arrives on the grocery shelf, several middlemen cash in on the product. By offering this tax credit, we can provide farmers and farmer-owned entities with an added incentive to produce value-added products and move toward greater financial independence. They will be able to earn more by reaching up the agricultural marketing chain to capture more of the profits their product generates. In addition, producer investment in value-added enterprises will help American farmers adapt to the challenges of marketing their products in an increasingly global economy.

Finally, the Agricultural Producers Value-Added Investment Tax Credit Act would further economic development efforts in and help stem migration from rural areas. This aspect of the legislation is very important to all of my constituents as seven of the 11 counties I represent have poverty rates greater than the national rate of 12.7 percent. In addition, five of my constituent counties have experienced a decrease in their populations since 2000.

Thus, it is my hope that my colleagues will join with me to enact this important legislation. It not only would help American farmers, but it would provide yet another tool in our effort to further economic opportunities and increase the quality of life in our nation's rural areas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREENHOUSE GAS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2007

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Greenhouse Gas Accountability Act of 2007. This legislation can serve as an essential first step in a comprehensive policy to combat climate change.

When constructing a comprehensive, economy-wide global warming policy, what is the first thing we have to know? It is what we are currently emitting, who is emitting it, and data on where in the economy it makes sense to regulate. The biggest mistake the EU made in creating its cap and trade system was distributing credits without having a good idea of its emissions first. This resulted in power companies being given more credits they needed. In turn these power companies were able to sell their excess credits and gain a windfall rather than being forced to reduce emissions.

This comprehensive registry will give us all the data we need to craft future legislation and intelligently decide how to allocate credits. I am not suggesting that this legislation act as a substitute to a cap and trade program, however. Speaker PELOSI, Chairman DINGELL and Chairman BOUCHER have all pledged to bring a comprehensive cap and trade bill to the House floor by the end of this year. I applaud these efforts and that is why I am a cosponsor of two of the most prominent cap and trade bills in the House today. At the very least I hope the Greenhouse Gas Accountability Act can become an amendment to one of these worthy cap and trade proposals.

Not only will this bill lay the groundwork for future legislation on climate change, but the bill will serve other important functions as well. For instance, by requiring greenhouse gas reports by entity and by facility investors will be able accurately assess the risks and opportunities of various companies. Currently all investors know that carbon regulation is coming. But despite heroic efforts by the Carbon Disclosure Project, many companies still do not disclose their carbon emissions to their investors. This bill will require all large publicly traded companies to finally let their investors know what they are doing about the climate.

Further, the public will be able to hold companies accountable for their actions to address global warming. Just as we saw with the successful Toxics Release Inventory program, many companies will see the light once they truly become aware of their own impacts. This increased awareness will almost assuredly lead to reduced emissions.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the legislation is that it would require international companies who trade on American stock exchanges to report their emissions abroad as well. No longer will we be in the dark about how foreign operations in developing countries are adding to the world's accumulation of greenhouse gases. This means that we could

finally have a window into what the true emissions of greenhouse gases are in countries that are rapidly developing such as India and China. The disclosures would also provide a strong disincentive for multinationals to relocate facilities abroad just to avoid disclosure or future regulation.

Madam Speaker, in closing I would like to say that we need to accomplish something this Congress to get us on the path toward mandatory emissions cuts. I truly hope that we enact a strong cap and trade bill, but unfortunately the President has made quite clear that he will veto any efforts to enact such legislation. If the President insists on such an unwise decision I hope that at the very least he would consider backing the Greenhouse Gas Accountability Act. Global warming is simply too important for us to play politics with this issue.

INTRODUCING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT OF 2007

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Early Childhood Educator Loan Forgiveness Act of 2007.

We have paid a lot of attention to reauthorizing the No Child Left Behind Act so far this year. One of the disturbing things we often hear in these discussions is how far behind our students are when compared with their peers around the world. Another problem we have talked a lot about is the persistent achievement gap between well-off, White children and everyone else in this country.

Last month Speaker PELOSI hosted a National Summit for America's Children, where we heard from leading child development experts about the importance of providing high-quality early education opportunities to boost success in school and in life.

Science shows definitively that a majority of brain development occurs in the first few years of life, and that influences—positive or negative—in these formative years can last a lifetime. We were reminded at the summit that ''getting it right'' in the early years is ''far more advantageous than trying to fix things later.''

Kindergarten teachers know from first-hand experience what scientists know from their research: Often when 5 year olds enter school, there is already a noticeable achievement gap between those students from more privileged backgrounds and those from disadvantaged households.

Too often, working families cannot afford to send their children to a high quality preschool, so the youngsters end up spending their formative years in the care of family members—often untrained in early childhood development. The resulting hours in front of a television certainly do not stimulate the positive neural activity needed for healthy brain development.

Not only does this experience limit the child's potential for success in school, it also hurts our country. Children without a high quality early education experience are less likely to contribute to the economy, more likely to commit crimes, and more likely to experience poverty and the poor health that goes with it.

Scientists, economists, teachers, and parents tell us that we must invest in our country's future by funding increased access to high-quality early childhood education.

And yet, time and time again, I hear from the early education community in Hawaii that even with more classrooms and more money, they could not make real progress toward serving every family who wants to send their children to preschool because they don't have enough qualified teachers.

We know that a highly qualified teacher makes a huge difference for children. We owe it to them to have a teacher who knows what he or she is doing. Unfortunately, there are strong economic barriers to increasing the number of qualified early education workers. When students are choosing a career, it is unlikely that they will decide to take on the thousands of dollars in educational debt for a job that will pay so little. The average preschool teacher makes less than janitors, secretaries, and many other workers with only a high school diploma. As the saying goes, ''it just doesn't add up.''

We can change the equation. We can start by providing loan forgiveness to students who get a degree in early childhood education or a related field and then teach in low income communities, where the real need is, for 5 years. This bill will do just that.

Cost is not the only prohibitive factor for prospective early education teachers. In some places there are simply no training programs available. Our teachers' colleges are not prepared to turn out the number of quality teachers we will need if we are to make a real investment in early education. Further, even with a more robust workforce, States would not have the money they need to implement high-quality early education standards, build the facilities, and run the programs. I am working with Chairman MILLER and others on the Education and Labor Committee to address these problems in other pieces of legislation.

But while we work on all the other issues, we cannot wait to pass this bill. It is a necessary first step because its benefits will not accrue immediately—training new teachers will take time.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill so that we do not miss a chance to make real progress toward closing the disturbing achievement gaps our children face—both amongst themselves and when compared with their peers around the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BLAIR HOLT FIREARM LICENSING AND RECORD OF SALE ACT OF 2007

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Blair Holt Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2007.

I introduce this bill in tribute to a brave young hero, Blair Holt, who sacrificed his life in an attempt to protect the life of a friend. Blair was fatally shot and killed by a young man possessing a deadly firearm and a reckless disregard for human life.

Madam Speaker, the proliferation of guns in our community impacts us all. My son lost his life back in 1999 due to senseless gun violence and my nephew sits in jail today, convicted of fatally shooting someone.

I am sick and tired of shooting and the loss of innocent lives over and over again in our neighborhoods.

In Chicago, since the beginning of this school year alone, over 31 children have lost their life by violence, and the great majority were killed with guns.

This bill will assist law enforcement in tracking the flow of guns and require those who possess guns to be trained in gun safety, handling, and storage.

The purpose of this bill is to restrict the availability of firearms to criminals, youth, and gang members, and to protect the public against the unreasonable risk of injury and death associated with the unrecorded sale and transfer of guns.

I know that the powerful gun lobby will attack this bill for restricting the availability of guns, but all of us who live in the inner cities where our children and family members are losing their lives on a weekly or daily basis understand the need to implement a common sense federal law that will inform law enforcement of where the guns are and who is possessing them.

This bill will implement the same type of system that we have in place for licensing drivers and registering cars. No sensible individual can argue with the fact that with over 200 million guns in the United States, we need a uniform system to keep track of these weapons. Mayors and law enforcement officials across the country have been calling for this type of legislation for years and I hope that we will be successful in making Blair's Bill federal law.

Madam Speaker, the future of our children, our families, and our communities is at stake. I encourage my colleagues to join my efforts to increase accountability in our firearm policy and support H.R. 2666—the Blair Holt Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2007.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 13

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, and Department of Labor cooperation on employment issues.
SD–562

10 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider S. 1257, to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives, S. 274, to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, H.R. 1254, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require informationon contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, S. Res. 22, reaffirming the constitutional and statutory protections accorded sealed domestic mail, S. 967, to amend chapter 41 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment and authorization of funding for certain training programs for supervisors of Federal employees, S. 1046, to modify pay provisions relating to certain senior-level positions in the Federal Government, S. 1099, to amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to make individuals employed by the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission eligible to obtain Federal health insurance, S. 597, to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years, H.R. 1255, and S. 886, bills to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records, and S. 381, to establish a fact-finding Commission to extend the study of a prior Commission to investigate and determine facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation to Axis countries of Latin Americans of Japanese descent from December 1941 through February 1948, and the impact of those actions by the United States, and to recommend appropriate remedies.
SD–342

Appropriations
Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.
SD–124

Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine nominations to the Federal Election Commission.
SR–301

2 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Anne Woods Patterson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Nancy J. Powell, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to Nepal, Joseph Adam Ereli, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Richard Boyce Norland, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Stephen A. Seche, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen.
SD–419

Appropriations
Homeland Security Subcommittee
Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.
S–128, Capitol

JUNE 14

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled ''Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act''.
SR–325

Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the impact of rising gas prices on America's small businesses.
SR–428A

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine public safety and competition issues, focusing on the 700MHz auction.
SR–253

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 535, to establish an Unsolved Crimes Section in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and an Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Investigative Office in the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, S. 456, to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, S. 1145, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform, S. Res. 105, designating September 2007 as ''Campus Fire Safety Month'', S. Res. 215, designating September 25, 2007, as ''National First Responder Appreciation Day'', the nomination of Leslie Southwick, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, and possible authorization of subpoenas in connection with the investigation of the legal basis for the warrantless wiretap program.
SD–226

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine importing success, focusing on work-family policies from aboard make economic sense for the United States.
SH–216

2 p.m.
Appropriations
Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.
SD–106

2:30 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

JUNE 19

9:30 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the federal government, focusing on a model public-private partnership accelerating research toward a cure.
SD–106

10 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine rising crime in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
SD–226

JUNE 20

2:30 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending judicial nominations.
SD–226

JUNE 26

10 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending executive nomination.
SD–226

JUNE 27

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
Business meeting to markup pending legislation.
SD–562

POSTPONEMENTS

JUNE 13

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider original bills entitled, ''The Higher Education Access Reconciliation Act'', and ''The Higher Education Amendments of 2007'', and other pending calendar business.
SD–628

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7417–S7495

Measures Introduced: Six bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1585–1590, and S. Res. 230. **Page S7451**

Measures Reported:

S. 457, to extend the date on which the National Security Personnel System will first apply to certain defense laboratories. (S. Rept. No. 110–79) **Page S7451**

Measures Passed:

30th Anniversary of ASEAN–United States Dialogue and Relationship: Senate agreed to S. Res. 110, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN–United States dialogue and relationship. **Page S7494**

Memorializing Fallen Firefighters: Senate agreed to S. Res. 171, memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the day of the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland. **Pages S7494–95**

Measures Considered:

Attorney General Gonzales Sense of the Senate: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 14, expressing the sense of the Senate that Attorney General Alberto Gonzales no longer holds the confidence of the Senate and of the American people. **Pages S7432–41**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 38 nays, 1 voting present (Vote No. 207), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the resolution. **Page S7441**

Clean Energy Act: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 6, to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy. **Pages S7426–32, S7442**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By a unanimous vote of 91 yeas (Vote No. 208), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S7442**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 and that all time during morning business and any adjournment or recess count post-cloture; provided further, that at 2:15 p.m., Senate agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill and then begin consideration of the bill. **Page S7495**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Thomas J. Barrett, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral. **Page S7495**

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Michael J. Burns, of New Mexico, to be Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, which was sent to the Senate on January 9, 2007. **Page S7495**

Executive Communications: **Page S7450**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S7450–51**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7451–54**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7454–59**

Additional Statements: **Pages S7446–49**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7459–94**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S7494**

Privileges of the Floor: Page S7494

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—208) Pages S7441–42

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 7:02 p.m., until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 12, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7495.)

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 27 public bills, H.R. 2639–2640, 2644–2668; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 167; and H. Res. 474–477, were introduced. Pages H6234–35

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H6235–36

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 473, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2638) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 (H. Rept. 110–184);

H.R. 2641, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 (H. Rept. 110–185);

H.R. 2642, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 (H. Rept. 110–186);

H.R. 2643, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 (H. Rept. 110–187); and

H.R. 251, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit manipulation of caller identification information, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–188). Page H6234

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Hirono to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. Page H6185

Recess: The House recessed at 12:35 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. Page H6185

Election of committee to attend the funeral of the late Honorable Craig Thomas: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative Cubin to the committee to attend the funeral of the late Honorable Craig Thomas. Page H6186

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Recognizing the year 2007 as the official 50th anniversary celebration of the beginnings of marinas, power production, recreation, and boating on Lake Sidney Lanier, Georgia: H. Res. 354, to recognize the year 2007 as the official 50th anniversary celebration of the beginnings of marinas, power production, recreation, and boating on Lake Sidney Lanier, Georgia; Pages H6186–87

Recognizing the 40th anniversary of Loving v. Virginia legalizing interracial marriage within the United States: H. Res. 431, to recognize the 40th anniversary of Loving v. Virginia legalizing interracial marriage within the United States; Pages H6187–89

Amending title 4, United States Code, to encourage the display of the flag of the United States on Father's Day: H.R. 2356, to amend title 4, United States Code, to encourage the display of the flag of the United States on Father's Day, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 386 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 448; Pages H6189–92, H6204–05

Supporting the ideals and values of the Olympic movement: H. Res. 395, to support the ideals and values of the Olympic movement; Pages H6192–94

Providing that the Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank or the Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank may serve on the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation: S. 676, to provide that the Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank or the Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank may serve on the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 386 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 449—clearing the measure for the President; Pages H6194, H6205

Recognizing and welcoming the delegation of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers from the Caribbean to Washington, D.C., and commending the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for holding the Conference on the Caribbean: H. Res. 418, to recognize and welcome the delegation of Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers from the Caribbean to Washington, D.C., and to commend the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for holding the Conference on

the Caribbean, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 386 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 450;

Pages H6194–98, H6205–06

Recognizing the strong alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States and expressing appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its efforts in the global war against terrorism: H. Res. 295, amended, to recognize the strong alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States and to express appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its efforts in the global war against terrorism;

Pages H6198–H6200

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "Recognizing the strong alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States and expressing appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its contributions to international efforts to combat terrorism.".

Page H6200

Recognizing John Pehle for his contributions to the Nation in helping rescue Jews and other minorities from the Holocaust during World War II: H. Res. 226, amended, to recognize John Pehle for his contributions to the Nation in helping rescue Jews and other minorities from the Holocaust during World War II; and **Pages H6200–02**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "Recognizing American government officials who played a critical role in the creation and activity of the War Refugee Board in an effort to help rescue Jews and other persecuted minorities during the Holocaust.".

Page H6202

Stop Arming Iran Act: H.R. 1441, amended, to prohibit the sale by the Department of Defense of parts for F–14 fighter aircraft. **Pages H6202–04**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To strengthen controls on the export of surplus parts for F–14 fighter aircraft.". **Page H6204**

Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress—Appointment: Read a letter from the Clerk of the House wherein she appointed Mr. Bernard Forrester of Houston, Texas to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress. **Page H6204**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:02 p.m. and reconvened at 6:31 p.m. **Page H6204**

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on pages H6236–40.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6204–05, H6205 and H6206. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2008

Committee on Appropriations: Ordered reported as amended, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2008

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies approved for full Committee action the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008.

TRANSPORTATION, AND HUD, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2008

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies approved for full Committee action the Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2008

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a vote of 10 to 0, an open rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2638) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the Congressional Record. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Finally, the rule permits the Chair, during consideration of the bill in the House, to postpone further consideration to a time designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Representatives Price of North Carolina and Rogers of Kentucky.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Vice Adm. Eric T. Olson, for appointment to the grade of Admiral and to be Commander, United States Special Operations Command, Thomas P. D'Agostino, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, Department of Energy and Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, and Michael G. Vickers, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the Universal Service Fund, focusing on assessing the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the health affects of asbestos, focusing on methods of mitigating such impacts, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine trade enforcement for a 21st century economy, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection, to hold hearings to examine the efficacy of the Foreign Assistance Reform, focusing on successes, failures, and the next steps; to be followed immediately by a full committee hearing to examine the nomination of Reuben Jeffery III, to be Under Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Agricultural Affairs, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine assessing telework policies and initiatives in the federal government, 2:30 p.m., SD–562.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold hearings to examine terrorist ideology, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

House

Committee on Appropriations, to consider the following: Revised Suballocation of Budget Allocations, Fiscal Year 2008; and the following Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008; the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs; and the Legislative Branch, 9 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on the development of the Iraqi Security Forces, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, hearing entitled "Justice Denied? The Implications of the Supreme Court's *Ledbetter* v. *Goodyear* Employment Discrimination Decision," 1:30 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Discussion Drafts concerning Prescription Drug User Fee Act Reauthorization, Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act Reauthorization, Drug Safety, and Certain Pediatric Pharmaceutical and Device legislation, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Poisoned Patriots: Contaminated Drinking Water at Camp Lejeune," 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing on H.R. 1682, Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation and the Subcommittee on Management, Investigations and Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security, joint hearing on National Flood Insurance Program: Issues Exposed by the 2005 Hurricanes, 2:30 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on the Mandatory Arbitration Agreements: Are They Fair For Consumers? 10:30 a.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberty Liberties and the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, joint hearing on H.R. 923, Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, to mark up H.R. 923, Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act, immediately following joint hearing, 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, to mark up H.R. 2286, Bail Bond Fairness Act of 2007, 9:45 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water and Power, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 31, Elisnore Valley Municipal Water District Wastewater and Recycled Water Facilities Act of 2007; H.R. 716, Santa Rosa Urban Water Reuse Plan Act; H.R. 1462, Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and Pathfinder Modification Authorization Act; H.R. 1503, Avra/Black Wash Reclamation and Riparian Restoration Project; H.R. 1526, Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Authorization Act of 2007; and H.R. 1725, Rancho California Water District Recycled Water Reclamation Facility Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to mark up the following: H.R. 2635, to reduce the Federal Government's contribution to global warming through measures that promote efficiency in the Federal Government's management and operations; H.R. 404, Federal Customer Service Enhancement Act; H. Con. Res. 142, Expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be established a National Pet Week; H.R. 2570. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Boardwalk Drive in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the "Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building;" and H.R. 2563, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 309 East Linn Street in Marshalltown, Iowa, as the "Major Scott Nisely Post Office," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider the following: the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008; and the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Fiscal Year 2008, 2 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, hearing on the Globalization of R&D and Innovation, 1 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing on the duPont Aerospace DP–2 Aircraft, 9:30 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing on Deepwater: 120-Day Update, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials, hearing on Amtrak Strategic Initiatives, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on the process of awarding SES bonuses at the Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Strategies to Increase Information on Comparative Clinical Effectiveness, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence, executive, hearing on Chemical/Biological Terrorism: Overseas Threats, 10 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management, executive, briefing on ICM, 1:30 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Tuesday, June 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 60 minutes), Senate will continue consideration to the motion to proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6, CLEAN Energy Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

9 a.m., Tuesday, June 12

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 2358—Native American $1 Coin Act; (2) H. Res. 329—Congratulating the Barton College men's basketball team for winning the 2007 NCAA Division II Men's Basketball National Championship; (3) H.R. 2637—To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act, with respect to civil penalties for child labor violations; (4) H. Res. 474—Recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day; and (5) H. Res. 455—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Internet Safety Month. Consideration of H.R. 2638—Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008 (Subject to a Rule).

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