

any ecosystem level adaptation planning efforts.

In developing this legislation, we have been privileged to work closely with our colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee, including Chairman WAXMAN and the Dean of the House of Representatives, JOHN DINGELL to include this bill in larger, so-called "cap and trade" legislation. We support having this measure included in the larger package and appreciate the support of the Energy and Commerce Committee in this effort.

This legislation is the product of multiple oversight hearings and extensive negotiations in the Natural Resources Committee. A serious and sustained commitment to fighting climate change is a significant priority for the Members of our Committee and we ask our colleagues to join us in this effort.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 627) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes:

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights, which will provide real relief to Americans who are being hit hard by unfair credit card practices.

Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY has been fighting for three years to bring these predatory practices to light, and I commend her tireless efforts.

Mr. Chair, college students are particularly vulnerable to credit card targeting and marketing. As they walk through campus, they come across offers ranging from free food to clothing just for filling out a credit card application. But after the free gifts, too many students are left with piles of debt and nowhere to turn.

For too long, credit card companies have had special deals with universities to let them market to students. Through these deals, schools receive large cash payments in exchange for handing over students' personal information and providing access to their campuses. Right now, with their families at home struggling, more students are turning to credit cards to fill the gap between their tuition bill and student loans. As a result they are racking up debts that take years to pay off. A Sallie Mae study recently reported that college seniors are graduating from school with an average of more than \$4,100 in credit card debt.

I strongly support today's bill, but as it progresses I hope to see a provision included to bring accountability to the deals credit card companies make with schools. We should require that companies report the terms and conditions of agreements with schools and call for a GAO report to show the impact these agreements have on overall credit card debt. I offered a bipartisan amendment with Congressman PETRI from Wisconsin to do just that, but unfortunately it fell to procedural hurdles.

This provision would provide much needed transparency—and hopefully help prevent students from falling too far behind before they graduate. I hope as this bill makes its way through Congress, our amendment will ultimately be incorporated.

Mr. Chair, this bill is an opportunity to do what's right for American consumers. I will continue to look for ways to provide more transparency to these practices—something that the American people are desperate for right now.

With this bill, we are taking a large step toward decreasing credit card debt. I urge my colleagues to keep the debt of college students in mind as this bill moves forward.

KORI MCKEOUGH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kori Mckeough who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kori Mckeough is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kori Mckeough is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kori Mckeough for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2009 SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES FROM THE 21ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I want to congratulate the 2009 Service Academy nominees from the 21st Congressional District who have accepted academy appointments:

John Boone Shandera Baker, Salisbury School, Naval Academy;

Jordan Bernard Brickman, Clarke High School, Naval Academy;

Thomas Logan Chilton, Westwood High School, Naval Academy;

John Michel Paquette, Texas A&M University, Naval Academy;

Steven Charles Scott, Texas Military Institute, Naval Academy;

Nicholas Edward Espinoza, MacArthur High School, Air Force Academy;

Brent Tucker Hancock, Leander High School, Air Force Academy;

Cameron Neil Harris, International School of the Americas, Air Force Academy;

Benjamin John Matthewson, Northwestern Preparatory School, Air Force Academy;

William Thomas Stover, Central Catholic High School, Air Force Academy;

Thomas J. Wilkinson, Cedar Park High School, Air Force Academy;

Preston Joseph Horejsi, Medina High School, Military Academy;

Thomas Prioleau Ball, IV, Alamo Heights High School, Merchant Marine Academy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIBERTY AMENDMENT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Liberty Amendment, which repeals the 16th Amendment, thus paving the way for real change in the way government collects and spends the people's hard-earned money. The Liberty Amendment also explicitly forbids the Federal government from performing any action not explicitly authorized by the United States Constitution.

The 16th Amendment gives the Federal government a direct claim on the lives of American citizens by enabling Congress to levy a direct income tax on individuals. Until the passage of the 16th amendment, the Supreme Court had consistently held that Congress had no power to impose an income tax.

Income taxes are responsible for the transformation of the Federal government from one of limited powers into a vast leviathan whose tentacles reach into almost every aspect of American life. Thanks to the income tax, today the Federal government routinely invades our privacy, and penalizes our every endeavor.

The Founding Fathers realized that "the power to tax is the power to destroy," which is why they did not give the Federal government the power to impose an income tax. Needless to say, the Founders would be horrified to know that Americans today give more than a third of their income to the Federal government.

Income taxes not only diminish liberty, they retard economic growth by discouraging work and production. Our current tax system also forces Americans to waste valuable time and money on compliance with an ever-more complex tax code. The increased interest in flat-tax and national sales tax proposals, as well as the increasing number of small businesses that question the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) "withholding" system provides further proof that America is tired of the labyrinthine tax code. Americans are also increasingly fed up with an IRS that continues to ride roughshod over their civil liberties, despite recent "pro-taxpayer" reforms.

Madam Speaker, America survived and prospered for 140 years without an income tax, and with a Federal government that generally adhered to strictly constitutional functions, operating with modest excise revenues. The income tax opened the door to the era (and errors) of Big Government. I hope my colleagues will help close that door by cosponsoring the Liberty Amendment.