

Amendment 338, which would zero out funding for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, also known as "DERA."

Studies have shown that diesel emissions are one of the most significant threats to public health. In order to address this problem in a manner that is both responsible to businesses reliant upon diesel engines, and to protect the general public from further exposure to the damaging emission from diesel engines, Congress enacted DERA.

This voluntary program provided federal and state grant funding to retrofit diesel engines to reduce emissions. It has been endorsed by over 500 public health, environmental and industry supporters, including the American Lung Association, Caterpillar, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Retrofitting provides enormous environmental, and therefore health, benefits, but before this program was implemented, there was little economic benefit for vehicle and equipment owners to do so. It is estimated that DERA could reduce particulate matter emissions by 70,000 tons, generate nearly \$20 billion in economic benefit, and return \$13 of benefit for every one dollar invested.

The incentives provided by DERA support voluntary rather than regulatory efforts to assist states meet air quality standards. Zeroing out funding for this program would effectively kill those efforts. It would hamper the development and demand of "clean diesel" technology as well as put a further strain on those workers who manufacture, sell, repair, or retrofit diesel vehicles. This program has great support on both sides of the aisle and should not be eliminated here today.

For those reasons I again urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT CHARLES SIMPSON

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I want to continue recognizing African Americans from throughout Georgia's 11th Congressional District who have a major impact on their community. Today, I rise today to recognize Technical Sergeant Charles Simpson of Marietta, Georgia.

Entering service with the Georgia Air National Guard in 2000, TSgt Simpson has held positions as Security Forces Fire Team leader, Radio Transmission Officer, Squad Leader, and as a Drug Demand Reduction Non-Commissioned Officer with the Georgia Counterdrug Task Force. This program educates children in grades K-12 on the dangers of drug use, and I am proud of the work TSgt Simpson has done in affecting the futures of over 55,000 young students in Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, TSgt Simpson has deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and four times to Afghanistan in support of Enduring Freedom. He has been awarded two Air Force Commendation medals, three Air Force Achievement Medals, the Army Achievement Medal, and has recently been selected to advance to the grade of Master Sergeant.

TSgt Simpson displays a "can-do" attitude in his daily duties and is considered by his su-

periors and peers to be one of the bright stars of the Georgia Air Force National Guard.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Technical Sergeant Charles Simpson for his service to our nation and his commitment to the betterment of his community.

CONGRATULATING CONGREGATION NER TAMID ON THE 50th ANNI- VERSARY OF THEIR FOUNDING

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, 2011 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of Congregation Ner Tamid of South Bay in my congressional district. People of all faiths from throughout the South Bay area of Los Angeles are conveying heartfelt congratulations to all the members and friends of Congregation Ner Tamid on this most auspicious occasion. For five decades Congregation Ner Tamid has upheld a faith-inspired tradition of service in both the South Bay region and beyond. The Congregation's programs for youth, families and seniors cast a bright light of human dignity and compassion across our community.

I also offer a special expression of our esteem to those being honored for their unique and sustaining contributions to Ner Tamid's work in our communities. The people of the South Bay are indebted to the distinguished 50th Anniversary honorees; Ruth & Leo David, Sheil Poucher, Mark Simon and Norm Lefkovich. Each of them deservedly receives the profoundly meaningful recognition of a grateful synagogue family and the community of which Congregation Ner Tamid is such an important part.

The dedicated social responsibility these honorees exemplify is replicated in a hundred programs and projects the rest of the temple members pursue. That is why Congregation Ner Tamid enjoys a valued and respected place in the life and culture of the South Bay region we are fortunate enough to call home.

So, it is with our best wishes that Congregation Ner Tamid of South Bay celebrates their 50th anniversary on March 12, 2011. I am sure the great legacy they have created in these first 50 years will only be stronger and more enduring on the occasion of the Congregation's 100th anniversary!

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise to reluctantly speak against the amendment offered by my friend from New York, Mr. WEINER.

The amendment offered by the gentleman from New York would cut \$298 million from NASA and increase the COPS program by a corresponding amount. While I wholeheartedly support the COPS program, and would like to work with the gentleman to find ways to restore the COPS funding, which was so irresponsibly slashed in the Republican CR, taking this money from NASA would do serious damage to NASA's ability to carry out its programs.

Specifically, the amendment would cut NASA's Cross Agency Support (CAS) account, which funds operations and maintenance of NASA's 9 Centers, component facilities and headquarters, including agency-wide management functions, and safety and reliability activities to assure safety and mission success.

This account also funds the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs at NASA. Cuts proposed by the Weiner amendment would cut the SBIR/STTR program and reduce the number of grants awarded to small businesses. A reduction of \$298M in CAS would represent 10% reduction to the CAS account—equivalent to shutting two of NASA's smaller Centers, for example, Dryden Flight Research Center, Stennis Space Center, or Ames Research Center.

The resulting budget after a \$298M reduction would not be sufficient to provide the minimum Center support required to safely implement NASA's mission. As these reductions would occur so late in the operating year, they would result in thousands of layoffs to on-site contractors, with 50 percent of the contractor workforce at risk. This equates to over 4,500 layoffs across all of NASA Centers.

As I said before, I am an ardent supporter of the COPS program. I am appalled that the Republican Majority has chosen to address deficit reduction by making our communities less safe by cutting the number of police officers on the street. However, I simply cannot support righting that wrong by creating another. At a time when our nation's economic competitiveness is being seriously challenged by our foreign competitors, it would be irresponsible to make further cuts to one of our nation's great innovative research and development agencies.

For these reasons, I must oppose this amendment and urge its defeat.

TRIBUTE TO SHAN COOPER

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I want to recognize African Americans from throughout Georgia's 11th Congressional District who have a major impact on their community. Today, I rise to recognize Shan Cooper of Marietta, Georgia. Shan serves as the Vice President of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics and General Manager of Lockheed Martin's Marietta facility.

She previously served as the Vice President of Human Resources for Lockheed Martin Information Systems & Global Solutions in Gaithersburg, Maryland and oversees the 8,000 Lockheed employees in Marietta.