

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, President Obama recently unveiled a new plan to reduce foreign oil imports by one-third over the next decade, which is timely given the instability sweeping across oil producing countries in the Middle East. To achieve that goal necessarily involves more fully developing renewable energy which his Administration and the Congress are committed to achieving. In my district, I am pleased that over a dozen new solar and solar-related companies have opened in the last three years, creating hundreds of jobs while reducing our reliance on foreign sources and protecting our environment.

The Department of Energy's Loan Guarantee Program is a critical factor in our country's effort to be a world leader in renewable energy. I would like to place in the RECORD a recent article in the Huffington Post on the importance of DOE's loan guarantee program and the potential loss of thousands of megawatts of bankable electricity and the tens of thousands of jobs if it is not allowed to continue.

A WIN-WIN FOR CLEAN ENERGY

(By Uwe T. Schmidt)

The nuclear tragedy in Japan and the disturbing upheaval in Libya and the Middle East have dominated the headlines, but it also serves as a haunting reminder that America's own energy security may be in peril unless we accelerate efforts to more fully develop energy alternatives that are reliable, safe and sufficient to meet our future needs.

Achieving energy independence has been a laudable but daunting goal since the first energy crisis in 1979. Fortunately, the Obama administration and Congress have embraced policies intended to spur investment and development in renewable energy projects, but it will take a major effort by the private sector and the support of government at all levels.

The private sector is doing its part. They have invested heavily in new, innovative technologies, assembled the engineering and technical support, arranged the necessary financing, and have been engaged at all levels to secure the Federal and local permitting and ultimately the requisite utility and distribution outlets.

Solar Trust of America (STA) is one of many American companies that are investing millions and utilizing proven technology to achieve California's ambitious goal of 33 percent renewable energy by year 2020. Such goals are unlikely without private-public collaboration. It is our job to harness the solar potential in areas like STA's thermal solar project site near Blythe in Southern California, utilizing our parabolic trough technology that will ultimately produce 1,000 megawatts of bankable electricity that is sufficient to supply 300,000

households with electricity, avoiding over 2,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

Our business model is unique in that it encompasses the entire American-based supply chain that involves engineering and technology specialists, financing through private equity funds, creating new demands for steel and other metals, project development and construction of the facilities, and management and operation of the plants.

Finally, it is a job producer. The first two of our four MW Blythe plants will employ 1,000 union construction jobs, another 7,500 supply chain jobs throughout the country, 100 on-going plant operations and post construction positions and, of course, the residual economic benefits to the local communities.

What is the government's role and how can it partner with STA and other companies to achieve these goals? Congress previously authorized a renewable energy loan guarantee program which is vital to securing the necessary financing to build large scale, sophisticated solar power plants and other renewable projects.

Without it, U.S. companies will be confronted with the sudden reversal of a national policy that two years ago encouraged them to invest in energy alternatives. Our Blythe plant is one of several major solar projects that has advanced through a diligent DOE review process for over a year and has met all the Federal and state permitting requirements.

STA and other solar companies have commenced preliminary site work just as Congress is considering legislation that would all but eliminate the loan guarantee program. Ironically, the House of Representatives passed a spending bill last month that would delete the loan guarantee program for renewable and clean coal technologies but left untouched loan guarantees for building nuclear plants.

This is not a government grant but simply a guarantee to facilitate the financing on loans to bring advanced technology to the market. Every dollar appropriated by Congress to DOE's Loan Guarantee Program spurs \$13 dollars in private investments and indeed whatever taxpayer funds are involved are repaid in full with interest.

The DOE loan guarantee is a "win-win" for government and the companies involved and will not only advance the cause of energy independence but will create hundreds of thousands of jobs across the country.

Yet all this is at risk if Congress rolls back the program and put into jeopardy the enormous amounts of private capital already committed and the tens of thousands of sustainable jobs involved in the construction and operation of the plants. Apparently there are no guarantees when the Congress acts in a politically charged atmosphere.

For our nation to fully develop renewable energy, it is clear that neither the private sector nor government can do it alone. It requires a partnership.

As we advance into this new millennium, it is now understood that our raw resources are finite, the planet is fragile, and that energy consumption to sustain growth globally is our greatest challenge. The answer to all this is renewable energy. There are no boundaries or limits to what we can accomplish if we work together.

HONORING OUR NATION'S NURSES

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our nation's nurses, and in recognition of the exemplary healthcare they provide to patients all across our country. Nurses represent the largest group of healthcare professionals, standing at the front lines of our nation's healthcare system. They are our brothers, our daughters, our neighbors and friends. My own sister was a nurse and my mother was a nurse's aide, and I remember the dedication and sense of service they brought to their job every day.

I'm sure that everyone in this chamber can remember one time, if not many, when a loved one needed medical help or felt ill. Often, a nurse is the first person by our side when we need it most. Often, their compassion, their expertise, and their decisions make all the difference.

Recently, my office had the chance to welcome my constituent Grace Paranzino, as a part of the Nurse in Washington Internship Program. She spoke of her experiences in nursing, and how we as a nation can better serve the needs of those who so often serve ours. For all the vital services they provide, nurses are severely short-staffed across the country: 2.5 million nursing positions are currently waiting to be filled. The Health Resources and Services Administration predicts that by 2030, that number could climb even higher to nearly 30%.

Nurses across this country need our help. They need lawmakers here in Washington to enact smart policies that don't impede their ability to save lives and ease suffering. They also need us to encourage qualified, professional, and educated citizens like themselves to take up the profession of nursing.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me today in applauding these nurses from my home state of Michigan and across the country.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NATIONAL MATH AND SCIENCE INITIATIVE

HON. CHAKA FATAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. FATAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of my colleagues to the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI). This initiative, focusing on recommendations put forth by the National Academies of Science's 2005 report, "Rising above the Gathering Storm," seeks to enhance science and technology enterprise in the United States. Specifically, NMSI and the National Academies argue

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