

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Goodlatte amendment. The Goodlatte amendment removes the federal backstops which ensure that states meet their responsibilities under the Clean Water Act to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay is a critical part of Virginia and we are already starting to see the results of successful Bay cleanup efforts. Virginia oysters are booming—last year the harvest was up 25% and passed the 500,000 bushel-mark. That is why Virginia is committed to working with EPA and other Bay states to clean up the Chesapeake. There have been hundreds of millions of dollars invested in this effort and federal backstops play an important role to ensure that all states do their share.

But this amendment puts our investments and progress at serious risk. This amendment suggests that it would preserve the rights of the states to write their own water quality plans. But the Commonwealth of Virginia already wrote its own water quality plan and the Total Maximum Daily Load submission was accepted by EPA. So in Virginia, this is simply not a problem. So to me, this amendment looks like an answer in search of a problem. A problem we do not have in Virginia.

But what this amendment does do is this. It creates a BIG problem for Virginia because it would allow upstream states off the hook. It would allow upstream states to stop their cleanup with no consequences. In Virginia, we would feel—and see—real consequences. We could see increases in dirty water flowing downstream, reversing all of our hard work.

If upstream states stop their cleanups, Virginia would need to double the work and more—and we would still not have a clean Bay. The fact is that this amendment would absolutely undermine the cleanup efforts already underway. It puts at risk future environmental and economic benefits that Virginia would accrue with a cleaner, healthier bay such as more abundant seafood, tourism, recreation, and improved quality of life. As the state at the bottom of the bay watershed, Virginia's success in restoring our part of the Bay is dependent upon what the other states do, or don't do.

This amendment would ensure that other states would write the future of Virginia's waters and the future of our Bay. That is why

I am working with my colleagues CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and BOBBY SCOTT to raise awareness of the dangers of this amendment.

I urge my colleagues to vote NO. It takes away our clean water future and our clean water investments. This amendment is bad for Virginia and bad for the future health of the Chesapeake Bay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I missed a recorded vote on July 10, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "NO" on roll call vote No. 433, H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act.

CONGRATULATING FRANCIS HOWELL HIGH SCHOOL FOR ITS PLACEMENT IN THE TOP 25 MISSOURI RANKED HIGH SCHOOLS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Francis Howell High School for its placement in the top 25 Missouri high schools as ranked by U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you in joining me in recognizing Francis Howell High School for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING U&S SERVICES INC. FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize U&S Services Inc. for its 25th Anniversary of service to our community. With corporate offices centered in the city of Tonawanda in New York's 26th Congressional District, U&S Services has established itself as a leader in building controls services in Western New York.

Founded in 1990 with the desire to be at the very forefront of technical growth in the industry and with a firm commitment to excellence, U&S Services this year celebrates a quarter century of outstanding work in a highly com-

petitive and critically important field. Boasting a highly experienced staff of technicians, engineers, and business professionals, U&S Services offers a vast array of services to its customers. From energy and security systems to fire and life safety monitors and video surveillance, U&S combines traditional approaches with state-of-the-art innovations essential to the smooth operation of business facilities of all sizes throughout its coverage network.

In its 25 year history U&S Services has participated and continues to lead thousands of projects both large and small, including work on several notable Buffalo area landmarks and institutions. From the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport to Roswell Park Cancer Institute, from First Niagara Center to the Darwin D. Martin House, U&S Services' ubiquitous presence demonstrates why it remains an industry leader.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor and recognize U&S Services and I ask that all of our colleagues join me in congratulating U&S Services on a quarter-century of excellence in business, and to commend it for the exemplary work it has done to enrich the communities of Western New York.

177TH ANNIVERSARY OF METROPOLITAN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 177th Anniversary of Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. For 177 years Metropolitan A.M.E. Church has stood at the forefront of the fight for social justice and equality.

Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, often referred to as the National Cathedral of African Methodism, was formed by the unification of Israel Bethel and Union Bethel. The churches united as a reaction to the dissatisfaction among African-Americans over racial segregation at Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church. Their decision to stand together as one body in the face of unwarranted racism and to work for the advancement of the black community was both courageous and heroic.

On July 6, 1838, the Baltimore Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church officially welcomed Union Bethel to the greater community. In 1872, the name was officially changed to Metropolitan A.M.E. when the Baltimore Conference authorized construction of a new church that would be built in "close proximity" to the White House and the United States Capitol.

The cornerstone for the new church was laid in 1881, and a stained glass window was dedicated to each contributing Annual Conference that invested in the church's construction.

• 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.