

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua Keith Dutcher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING HARRY SERAYDARIAN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harry Seraydarian, who is retiring this year from his position as the Executive Director of the North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) in Corte Madera, California. Mr. Seraydarian has worked tirelessly throughout his long and productive career to protect watershed resources and natural spaces in our region, both with the NBWA and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

A lifelong advocate for the environment, Mr. Seraydarian spent most of his working years in government. In his decades of service with the EPA, Mr. Seraydarian distinguished himself as a Director of the Water Management Division, Director of Toxics & Waste Management, and an Associate Regional Administrator in the EPA's Region 9. In his final role, he served as an in-house "neutral," using his extensive problem solving skills and technical knowledge to resolve disputes.

If there's a challenge unsuited to Mr. Seraydarian, it may be retirement. Following a 33-year federal career, he retired in 2002, but quickly reentered the workforce in 2004 as the NBWA's Executive Director. Under his leadership, the NBWA has funded 36 projects the North Bay, totaling nearly one million dollars. The Association, a consortium of 16 regional and local public agencies in Marin, Sonoma, and Napa counties, has encouraged collaboration across different levels of government, and, in no small part to Mr. Seraydarian's efforts, has enhanced stewardship efforts in the North Bay watershed.

Mr. Seraydarian's varied and significant talents, particularly in environmental mediation and conflict resolution, will not soon be forgotten. Our local environment is a better place today thanks to his technical abilities, managerial experience, and dedication to results-driven conservation.

Mr. Speaker, Harry Seraydarian's enduring commitment to improving our watersheds and environment is admirable and worthy of our recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to him on his retirement and our best wishes to him on his next adventure.

NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8) to modernize

energy infrastructure, build a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce, bolster America's energy security and diplomacy, and promote energy efficiency and government accountability, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the crude oil export amendment.

In the past 10 years, the United States has undergone an energy revolution.

But due to our success in places like Texas, North Dakota and Colorado the price of oil has fallen from \$100 per barrel to \$40.

Gasoline prices have fallen from almost \$4 per gallon to less than \$2.

All of this has benefitted our economy and the consumer.

I support crude oil exports.

But I want to protect our domestic manufacturing jobs, including refining.

We have the resource, we should use as much as possible here at home and sell what is left.

The crude oil export ban has been in place since 1975.

In the 1970s, the United States put the ban in place to protect our national interests.

That's more than 40 years of legislative history.

Before we do away with that history, we should make sure we have a policy that will make sense for the next 40 years and perhaps beyond.

Crude oil is a valuable national resource and the government should have some oversight as to where and when we send crude overseas.

I was hoping we could craft language that would create a process at the Bureau of Industry and Security, within the Department of Commerce, that would establish an authorization and reporting requirements for crude oil.

We should have some basic requirements at the Department of Commerce to oversee crude.

Unlike LNG, crude is a raw commodity and raw crude doesn't have value added.

If exporting crude is the right policy, then let's do it correctly.

Let's maximize the benefits for the United States.

Let's make sure U.S. crude doesn't end up in the hands of North Korea or any of our other foes.

The Department of Commerce has approved every application to export oil in the last five years.

Now, I agree that the Department could approve permits more efficiently but that's something we can legislate.

That's a "fix" I can support and believe would help our upstream producers.

Unfortunately, we were unable to find that compromise.

I do not want to oppose this language but without changes it is not in the best interest of our country.

The time to address exports is now but we cannot just open the tap and hope for the best.

I do not want the United States to become a resource nation.

I look forward to working on this issue again and hope that a reasonable, commonsense approach can be reached.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1177,
STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which seeks to replace the broken No Child Left Behind law. While I still have concerns with some provisions in this legislation, I believe this bill will serve our children better than the status quo. For example, the current waiver system has allowed states to ignore schools that are failing students. That is unacceptable and cannot continue.

I am concerned by the lack of federal oversight in implementing and enforcing many provisions of this bill. For example, states are left to determine how and when to intervene in schools that are failing children. We must guarantee that there is substantial federal role in ensuring states meet their obligations. Further, we must guarantee state and district implementation boards are inclusive, diverse, and adequately represent students of all needs and circumstances.

Despite shortcomings in the bill, I was pleased to see that states will now be required to collect and report data on incidences of bullying and harassment in school—an issue I have been working on for many years. It is a small, but powerful step in ensuring all children feel safe at school.

I voted for this bill because No Child Left Behind is simply not working. In four years, I look forward to revisiting reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to achieve an even more effective long-term policy.

IN HONOR OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IMMIGRANT WELCOME CENTER

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. I rise today to honor the Immigrant Welcome Center, whose tireless work over the past ten years has blessed countless Hoosiers in my hometown of Indianapolis.

The Immigrant Welcome Center was founded in 2005 by Mayor Bart Peterson and First Lady Amy Minick Peterson who sought to discover ways the City of Indianapolis could be more welcoming to its newest residents. Serving as a trusted liaison between newcomers and the community at large, the Immigrant Welcome Center provides a strong and positive voice for the foreign-born newcomers who represent 120 different nationalities and speak more than 90 languages. Today the organization continues to build connections between immigrants and the city's social, cultural and business communities, making Indianapolis a more diverse and innovative place for all residents.

The Immigrant Welcome Center is built on a model of empowerment that trains immigrants