

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 6483, THE SWINE WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ACT (THE SWINE ACT)

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the 114th Congress comes to a close, I have introduced the Swine Waste Infrastructure and Natural Environment Act (the SWINE Act, or H.R. 6483). I am hopeful that this bill will provoke constructive discussions and suggestions in the coming weeks from stakeholders in the agricultural and environmental communities, so that I can introduce an improved version early next year.

The SWINE Act builds on efforts in North Carolina and elsewhere to develop new technologies to manage and dispose of waste from animal agricultural production, replacing the current “lagoon and spray-field” method used by many swine producers. In 1999, the environmental impact of lagoon and spray-field waste disposal systems was made particularly acute by Hurricane Floyd, an unusually large storm which caused poorly-regulated hog lagoons to overflow and discharge untreated animal waste into water systems across Eastern North Carolina. But for years prior to the storm, large animal feeding operations had emitted noxious odor and threatened the air and water quality of small rural communities across the Southeast.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd, forward-thinking leaders in North Carolina initiated a process in which industry, academia, and the environmental community worked together to identify waste disposal technologies that would mitigate the worst environmental effects of the lagoon and spray-field system. The effort sparked a vigorous public discussion on issues related to swine waste while fostering a period of technological innovation in waste processing technology. For nearly a decade, I helped secure federal assistance for the research and development of environmentally sound methods of processing swine waste and for technical assistance to producers who sought to adopt such technologies. While this process resulted in significant progress toward a viable alternative to lagoon and spray-fields, the technologies developed thus far fell short of the established threshold for economic feasibility and have thus not been widely adopted by producers.

The environmental and social threats posed by the lagoon and spray-field method are not limited to North Carolina, and thus require a national solution. With additional investments in research and development and incentives for technology adoption, the technologies developed in North Carolina and elsewhere—or new technologies yet to be developed—can be made market-ready, producing an affordable and environmentally superior replacement for lagoon and spray-field. We should not be forced to choose between a clean environment and a successful, innovative animal agriculture industry. With this bill, I believe we can improve the environment while remaining the world leader in animal agricultural production.

URGING PRESIDENT-ELECT TO RESCIND APPOINTMENT OF STEVEN BANNON TO SENIOR WHITE HOUSE POSITION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the President-Elect to rescind his controversial appointment of Steven Bannon as White House Senior Counselor and Strategist.

If the President-Elect takes seriously his Election Night pledge to be a president to “all Americans,” he must immediately renounce his intention to appoint Steven Bannon as White House Senior Counselor and Strategist.

Steven Bannon has a long history promoting racial and ethnic bigotry, sexism, religious intolerance, and misogyny.

He has insinuated that African-Americans are ‘naturally aggressive and violent,’ and under his leadership, Breitbart’s publishing strategy turned to one that has made it the media arm of the racist “Alt-Right” movement, publishing articles promoting popular white nationalist tropes such as “black on white crime” and that “rape culture” is inherent in Islam.

In selecting Steven Bannon as one of his two most trusted White House advisors, the President-Elect is signaling to the American people that the inflammatory, reckless, and insensitive rhetoric and tactics employed by his campaign can be expected to become part of his Administration’s standard operating procedure.

This is not the way to begin healing the wounds opened by the recently concluded presidential campaign and or to bring the American people together.

I strongly urge the President-Elect to reconsider his decision and rescind his controversial appointment of Steven Bannon as White House Senior Counselor and Strategist.

HONORING COMMANDER MONICA
McGRATH

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Commander Monica McGrath, an outstanding and dedicated member of the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office, who is being honored as the recipient of Interface Children & Family Services’ inaugural “Domestic Violence Champion for Change” Award. A staunch advocate, spokesperson, and community role model in the fight against domestic violence, Commander McGrath has played an instrumental role in establishing local law enforcement’s unique and specialized response to domestic violence throughout the region.

Commander McGrath has been a longtime pioneer for women as a member of Ventura County Sheriff’s Office providing passionate advocacy to survivors of abuse and trauma since she joined the organization in 1987. Commander McGrath has served our community with the highest level of commitment to

public safety. Her extraordinary efforts have positively impacted and transformed the lives of many individuals and families.

In February 2015, Commander McGrath was selected as the new Chief of Police for the City of Camarillo. She has worked the majority of her career in Camarillo and is involved in several community-based organizations, including Interface Children & Family Services. Alongside Interface, she has been a true partner in supporting the comprehensive strategies to address, prevent, and ultimately end the cycle of domestic violence within families throughout Ventura County.

Moreover, Commander McGrath has been an invaluable member of the Interface Leadership Advisory Council, which shows her compassionate and caring dedication to victims of domestic violence. She also actively participates on the newly developed Domestic Violence Task Force for Ventura County. Her extensive knowledge, background, and leadership on the issue of domestic violence greatly contribute to her ability to effectively raise awareness and create the necessary change to end this epidemic.

For these reasons, I am pleased to join Interface Children & Family Services in recognizing Commander Monica McGrath for her countless contributions in combating domestic violence in Ventura County.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH
MINOR

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to use this time in recognition of Elizabeth Minor, the beloved Mayor of Winchester, Virginia. Mayor Minor is retiring from her office after twelve years of dedicated service to the people of Winchester.

During her time as Mayor and as a member of the City Council, Winchester has experienced a renaissance that has transformed the city into an extraordinary place to live, work and study. There is no one who has had a greater impact on creating this transformation than Mayor Elizabeth Minor. Always willing to speak at gatherings of Winchester residents, Mayor Minor was always prepared with the perfect message for each occasion. She has tirelessly used her special position in the community to unify and encourage people of all ages, races and incomes.

Elizabeth’s tenure as Mayor has been marked by many successes, including significant improvements to the city’s education system, improvements to the Jim Barnett Park, the transformation of Old Town Winchester and the beautification of the gateways to the city. Additionally, when cities and states across the country are struggling to develop budgets, her stewardship has helped Winchester to win the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for four years in a row.

Elizabeth Minor served as Vice-Mayor of Winchester from 1994 to 2004, and has been a member of the City Council since 1980. Her nearly four decades of selfless service to her community will serve as a benchmark for the