

TARGET PRACTICE AND MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2019

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong hunter and clay shooter at the Ettrick and Holmen shooting ranges in Wisconsin, I have enjoyed passing on the Wisconsin hunting tradition to my two boys, and I know firsthand how important these traditions are for many Wisconsin families. That is why I'm concerned about the decline in access to target ranges and gun clubs throughout the nation over the last few decades. Target ranges promote safe hunting and responsible gun ownership, and they are often used to sight in hunting rifles before a hunting season begins.

I also believe it is important to ensure our federal programs are working with hunters and state fish and wildlife agencies to ensure that we can preserve local wildlife and their habitats for generations to come. However, this goal is threatened by a decline in hunters throughout the country—a recent study found that the number of hunters had declined approximately 16 percent since 2011. Hunters have generated billions of dollars for wildlife restoration and hunter safety programs through Pittman-Robertson (PR) funds, which come directly from excise taxes on hunting and shooting equipment. With fewer hunters, there is less money available for protecting our habitats.

As a long time member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I am a proud champion of legislation that supports sportsmen's issues, and as a former member of the House Natural Resources Committee, I have built a strong record of voting to protect our natural heritage. This bill supports both causes by giving states more flexibility to use their allocated PR funds to recruit and retain more hunters and recreational shooters through the development and maintenance of public shooting ranges. Under current law, there is a 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal cost share for all projects covered under Pittman-Robertson. This bill would adjust that cost share to allow states to use PR dollars to fund as much as 90 percent of the costs of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range. It also allows PR funds to remain available to states for up to five fiscal years (compared to two fiscal years under current law) for the use of acquiring land for expanding or constructing a public target range.

I will be pleased to see it pass the House of Representatives unanimously. The bill will go to the President's desk, where I am confident he will sign it into law.

HONORING DR. EDMUND SCHWEITZER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Edmund

O. Schweitzer III. On May 2, 2019, he will be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for inventing the world's first practical microprocessor digital relay for the power grid.

Before his breakthrough invention, utilities relied on bulky relays made of springs, magnets, and coils. Dr. Schweitzer turned these cumbersome and old systems into precise and reliable ones with a digital relay that is one-eighth the size, one-tenth the weight, and best yet, one-third the price! His multifunctional digital relay not only protects power systems, it also records data and identifies faults. As a result, he's inspired even more inventions that have become the standard features for protective data relays around the globe.

In short, Dr. Schweitzer revolutionized our power grid with computer-based protection and control equipment. Of course, what I'm most proud of is that Pullman, Washington, is home to his great success story. It's where he earned his doctorate at Washington State University in 1977.

It's also in Pullman where Dr. Schweitzer built his company, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (SEL), which has created thousands and thousands of jobs in rural Eastern Washington since 1982 and is now a 100 percent employee-owned ESOP.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Schweitzer's professional work is electrical engineering, but his greatest invention is truly in human resources. He's led to create a culture of innovation, opportunity, and respect that has empowered people in my district to have an opportunity for a better life. Right now, SEL employs 5,200 people who develop and manufacture a suite of products that make electric power safer, more reliable, and more affordable for utility companies, mines, factories, hospitals, universities and data centers in 164 countries around the world.

I'm proud to call Dr. Schweitzer a friend and a mentor. It's not an exaggeration to say that his work is the fulfillment of the American Dream. He's a living example of the wonderful accomplishments that are made possible when the seeds of invention are able to grow freely without federal regulations holding them back.

This week, Dr. Schweitzer will have the amazing honor of joining Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse, Nikola Tesla, and Hedy Lamarr in the National Inventors Hall of Fame. On behalf of the 116th United States Congress and Washington's Fifth Congressional District, I'm proud to congratulate him and thank him for his ingenuity that will inspire many Americans for decades to come.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING JOSEPH WAKELEY FOR HIS SERVICE AS CRAWFORD COUNTY TREASURER

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Joseph V. Wakeley for his retirement as Crawford County Treasurer. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to his community, Joe has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Joe has dedicated more than 45 years to the people of Crawford County and the state of Michigan. Since first taking office in 1973, Joseph has shown a constant vigilance in his stewardship and responsibility for the tax dollars of the citizens that put him in office. From starting as the youngest county treasurer in the state of Michigan to eventually becoming the longest serving, Joseph has never failed to put the needs of his fellow Michiganders first during his service. The trust that the citizens of Crawford County have in Joe is clear—not once during his 45 years in office has he faced a challenger during elections.

Outside of his service as Crawford County Treasurer, Joe has provided valuable support and expertise in other areas, including Rotary, the Jolly Redskin Canoe Livery, the AuSable River Canoe Marathon committee, Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church, Grayling's Project Rising Tide committee, the Beaver Creek-Grayling Townships Utility Authority, and the Michigan Association of County Treasurers. His impact on the people of Northern Michigan cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Joseph Wakeley for his decades of service to the people of Crawford County. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated public servant. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Joe all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ANDREW WEIBRECHT FOR HIS INDUCTION INTO THE SKI AND SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Andrew Weibrecht on his induction into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.

Andrew was a valuable and successful member of the U.S. Ski Team for 16 years. His foray onto the world stage began in 2006 at the Junior World Ski Championships where he earned a bronze medal. He then went on to the World Cup where he was on the podium twice and placed in the top-ten eleven times. Andrew captured his first Olympic medal, a bronze at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, and followed-up with a silver in the 2014 games. He won second place in the 2016 World Cup and soon thereafter announced his retirement. While participating in global competitions, Andrew would proudly wear the Lake Placid brand on his helmet as an official ambassador, demonstrating his pride in the North Country for the world to see.

Andrew Weibrecht's long and successful career is certainly deserving of recognition. He has always been a hometown hero to the residents of the Tri-Lakes region and certainly makes the North Country proud. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to congratulate Andrew on his induction and wish him the best moving forward.