

CDFI, rewards traditional financial institutions that serve the credit needs of distressed communities. The money from CDFI is used to create new jobs, promote small businesses, and build affordable housing.

Congress authorized nearly \$400 million for CDFI between fiscal year 1995 and fiscal year 1998. As part of the budget agreement, the President prevailed in increasing the authorization to \$125 million for fiscal year 1998.

CDFI and BEA have issued one round of awards. Out of 268 applicants requesting over \$300 million last year, CDFI selected 31 community development organizations to receive \$35 million. BEA awarded 38 banks and thrifts \$13.1 million. The demand for increased funding is evident by the level of interest that has been displayed by the increase in applicants and it is apparent that there is a lack of capital in the communities these institutions serve.

It has been alleged that the CDFI fund has no demonstrable record of success and raises questions about its practices in selecting grantees. After reviewing these allegations, the VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee and the full Appropriations Committee dismissed the charges. The subcommittee said in its report "the Committee wholeheartedly endorses the goals of the program" and voted to appropriate the full administration budget request.

I would like to further expand on the merits of the CDFI program by citing an example from the district which I represent. The Shore Bank Corp. received \$3 million from the CDFI program that were matched with \$8 million of private funds. These funds will go toward a new effort for a comprehensive community development bank holding company with a strategic plan to revitalize a well defined investment area on the east side of Detroit. This presents a promising approach to achieve large-scale community revitalization in Detroit.

The Detroit holding company, which is being established in stages, is designed to have three subsidiaries. One, a full service bank in the target area, is providing small business loans and housing loans to minority entrepreneurs and can leverage its equity many times over through deposits. The second a for-profit real estate development company, will initially focus on the development of 500 affordable houses to homeownership in a 30-square block area. The third, a nonprofit enterprise development affiliate, will have three functions—small business assistance to strengthen small manufacturers in the region and businesses in the target area, creation of a labor force development strategy to link potential workers with employers' skill needs, and homebuyer training and prepurchase services for first time homebuyers. Mr. Chairman, these services are much needed in my district, and in fact I wish I could have more financial institutions in my district with the same objective and purpose.

It has also been suggested that CDFI was making awards based on connections to the Clinton administration. In a letter to Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin, more than 220 CDFI's around the country said that recipients of the first round awards include "some of the strongest CDFI's in the field" and called the funds's evaluation process "exhaustive, competitive, and careful, assessing the management strength, systems, and business planning of each applicant."

Shore Bank has pioneered the field of community development finance, for over 25

years. Their work has attracted bipartisan national and international support. Mr. Chairman, I strongly urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose the Foley-Bachus-Miller amendment.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing 11 duty suspensions that should promote international commerce and improve the productivity of our American chemical industry. They include three general product categories. Four of the requests are in the category of antioxidant products which protect against heat damage during the manufacturing of finished products. Five are in the category of photoinitiators permitting the curing of varnishes and paints by ultraviolet light. And the remaining two are in the category of corrosion inhibitors.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FROM THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. STEVEN SCHIFF

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, the following graduating high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders with their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.***HD***Certificate of Merit Award Winners 1997

Albuquerque Evening High School, Jonathan Baird. Bernalillo High School, Melissa Anne Martinez. Cibola High School, Rebecca Wong. Del Notre High School, Jay M. English. Estancia High School, William D. Neish. Freedom High School, Marcio Lujan. Hope Christian School, Geoffrey Luke McKinnon. Albuquerque High School, Albert Leija. Bernalillo High School, Jennifer M. Rivera. Sandia Preparatory School, Leslie Siegal. Eldorado High School, Matt Byers. Evangel Christian Academy, Amanda Brown. Highland High School, Matthew Sullivan. La Cueva High School, John B. Wenz. Los Lunas High School, Sarah Archer. Menaul High School, Jedidiah Garcia Glazener. Mountainair High School, Jessica Dawn Barber. Rio Grande High School, Anthony Baca. Menaul High School, Anna Chrzanowski. Menaul High School, Haven Annette Scogin. New Futures High School, Angelita Garcia. St. Pius X High School, Shabbon P. Walsh.

TRIBUTE TO AN ANGEL

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an angel.

As you are aware, my district in Minnesota has been devastated by blizzards and floods for several months this past spring. The worst damage has occurred in East Grand Forks, the little city in the big flood. I was there when the dikes were breaking and we have been there ever since trying to help this brave community come back from this disastrous event.

The physical damage was an awesome sight and the water refused to recede for day after endless day. Mr. Speaker, I cannot begin to tell you the sadness we felt as we watched their hearts breaking, or the pride as we watched them struggle not to fall into despair.

And when circumstances were still at their bleakest, there appeared an angel. An anonymous donor of such generosity that all of us were astounded by her actions. A gentlewoman from another state gave the citizens of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks a total of \$15 million, to be given out in the sum of \$2,000 to each household that was evacuated by air raid sirens and lost property to the raging Red River. No other criteria. No strings attached. No delay allowed. She asked only that there be no redtape to the process and to remain anonymous.

I will always honor her wishes. So I use this forum to tell our angel, thank you. The impact was beautiful and immediate. The families were and remain moved to tears by your selfless actions. The community itself rose to a new level of courage and strength of purpose because of you. You fed their spirits and restored their souls.

This city will rise again, recover and rebuild and become a finer, stronger community. Of this there is no doubt in my mind. But it will not be because of a new downtown, or a new housing development, rebuilt schools, or a revitalized business sector. East Grand Forks will become a stronger community because you opened your heart to them in their darkest hour. You believed them worthy of a future. They will now believe it themselves. And they have learned from you, angel, they have learned that there is no shame in receiving help, and great joy in giving it. They will remember you for all their lives. As will I.

You have made a difference in our lives, and perhaps that is the highest achievement a person can attain on this earth. So I join the citizens of East Grand Forks in heartfelt thanks to you, our angel. We will never forget you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 307, I was unavoidably detained at the White House.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."