

1932, he used his influence to encourage black voters to support Franklin Roosevelt, and as a result of his efforts he served in several capacities in the Roosevelt Administration, where he worked to increase African Americans' political power. Mr. Vann used his influence, for example, to push for racial equality in the U.S. armed forces. After leaving the administration, Mr. Vann returned to the Pittsburgh Courier, where he urged African Americans to refrain from making an allegiance with either political party. He believed that African Americans would enjoy greater political power if their votes could not be taken for granted by either political party.

Archie A. Alexander was born in Iowa in 1888. His father was a janitor. Mr. Alexander worked his way through college—studying engineering despite efforts to discourage him from pursuing this profession. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1912 with a B.S. in civil engineering. In 1914, he set up an engineering firm, Alexander and Higbee, at the age of 26. The firm did well. Mr. Alexander continued the business on his own for several years after the death of his partner, but in 1929 he joined one of his university classmates to establish the firm of Alexander and Repass. Their business flourished, and they won and completed large projects across the country. In 1954, President Eisenhower appointed Mr. Alexander Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

John H. Johnson, the noted African American publisher, was born in Arkansas, but his family moved to Chicago when he was 15 years old. His hard work in school led to an opportunity that changed his life. He was selected to speak at the 1936 Chicago Urban League banquet honoring high school seniors. His speech so impressed the main speaker, the president of the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company of Chicago, that he was hired to work in the company's offices. For the next four years, Mr. Johnson worked in the company's offices and studied at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University. When Mr. Johnson completed college, he went to work full-time for Supreme Liberty. In the course of his work, Mr. Johnson realized that many African Americans would be interested in buying a publication containing news about African Americans and the African American community. In 1942, he began publishing and selling a magazine named *Negro Digest*. The demand for this new publication was impressive. Circulation rose to more than 100,000 readers in a few short years. Mr. Johnson followed up on this success with other publications. In 1945, he brought out *Ebony* magazine, and in 1951, he introduced *Jet*. Today, he is one of America's leading publishers.

These are just a few of the more prominent African American entrepreneurs from the past 200 years. Many African Americans have successfully overcome adversity, financial challenges, and discrimination to create successful businesses. Many of these successful black entrepreneurs identified and addressed needs in the African American community that white businesses had ignored or disdained—but others like Paul Cuffee, James Forten, William Leidesdorff, and Archie Alexander competed head-to-head with white businesses quite profitably. In either case, the individuals I have mentioned were able to use their business successes to pursue social or political ends.

The interesting question is how much more these entrepreneurs could have achieved had they not faced the widespread racism and race-based legal restrictions of their times.

Today, opportunities exist both within the black community and within the larger society for African American businesses to develop and grow. As we celebrate Black History Month, I believe that we should rededicate ourselves to the expansion of economic opportunities for African Americans and other minorities. Such efforts must go beyond the speeches we give here today. I believe that affirmative action and government programs that help develop minority-owned small businesses are still needed to create a "level playing field"—they are needed to offset the impact of residual racism in our society, and to offset the effects of decades of discrimination. I urge my colleagues to act to protect, expand, and improve federal efforts to guarantee economic and educational opportunity to all Americans.

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NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE  
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION  
ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 1998*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the amendment to S. 927, The National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1998. I think that it is especially appropriate that we bring this bill before the House early in 1998, which has been designated by the United Nations as the "Year of the Ocean." I can think of no better way to enter into the spirit of this designation than by passing the Sea Grant bill before us today.

Thirty-two years ago, the National Sea Grant College Program was established by Congress to improve our understanding of the nation's marine environment and to manage marine resources better. Since then, ocean and marine science hasn't stood still, and neither should the Sea Grant program. This latest reauthorization bill is the fruit of a bipartisan effort between the Committee on Science and the Committee on Resources to update and reinvigorate the Sea Grant program and to improve the accountability of the program to the taxpayers. I believe this bill achieves both of these goals, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

This five-year reauthorization is not much different from the H.R. 437, which passed the House overwhelmingly last June. It adds and modifies various definitions, clarifies the responsibilities of the Program Director, and outlines the duties of the Sea Grant institutions conducting Sea Grant programs. It also includes merit reviews of grant and contract applications, repeals the Sea Grant International Program, which has never been funded, and ensures peer review of research sponsored by Sea Grant. Moreover, by limiting administrative spending to no more than 5 percent of the lesser of the amount authorized or appropriated each fiscal year, the bill also will help ensure that the taxpayers' money is being spent on research, not red tape.

In addition to the base authorization for the Sea Grant program, the bill includes additional

authorizations for competitive, peer-reviewed research into the problems of zebra mussels, oyster disease, and *phisteria*. I don't have to tell you how these organisms have plagued many communities throughout America and of the economic losses they have caused. This bill will help us get the best scientific minds working to improve our understanding of these problems and to find solutions.

The Sea Grant program has contributed greatly to our knowledge of the marine environment these past three decades and has earned the support of the political and scientific community. I believe the bill the Science and Resources Committees have crafted will put the program on a sound footing for the future and, just as important, will provide the taxpayer with value for money. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Before closing, I would like to commend the gentleman from California [Mr. CALVERT], Chairman of the Science Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment, and the subcommittee's ranking member, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. ROEMER], for their hard work on this legislation. I would also like to thank the ranking member of the Science Committee, the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN], for his support throughout the process.

I also want to take a moment to thank the gentleman from Alaska, the Chairman of the Committee on Resources [Mr. YOUNG], and his colleagues on the Committee on Resources, including the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER], the ranking member of the committee; the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON], Chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Conservation, Wildlife, and Oceans; and the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE], the subcommittee's ranking member. They can be proud of their handiwork.

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IMPORTANCE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE UTILITY RESTRUCTURING DEBATE

**HON. SCOTT L. KLUG**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 1998*

Mr. KLUG. Mr. Speaker, legislation allowing all consumers to choose their electricity provider has been the subject of ongoing discussion during the past two sessions of Congress. It continues to be a topic that engages Congress and the American public. A majority of voters favor Congress requiring electricity companies to use renewable energy sources. In fact, almost 70% favor requiring utilities to invest in energy efficient programs. And, given a choice, 78% of Americans would be willing to pay more for non-polluting, environmentally-friendly electric power.

With this mandate, I was honored yesterday to submit a letter to Chairman BILEY and Ranking Member DINGELL, signed by myself and 105 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, urging that renewable energy remain part of the overall discussion on utility restructuring. I include this letter and the list of co-signors in the record and commend it to your attention. Thank you very much.