

to infringe on tribal sovereignty, rather, it is meant to encourage the tribes to work cooperatively with the states in order to formulate a mutually-agreeable compact on the subject of motor fuel taxation. In addition, this bill does not address the issues of gambling or cigarette taxes—it focuses only on the collection and remission of motor fuel taxes.

This bill will yield numerous benefits. First, it would help ensure that states have adequate funds for road maintenance and construction. Second, it would end an inherent unfairness posed by the sale of tax-free fuel on Native American lands. And, third, it would preserve jobs and keep businesses open. Many purchasers of motor fuel, both gasoline and diesel, are likely to travel to Indian lands, because they know they can avoid paying state motor fuel taxes. And, the motive to do this can be great for many drivers. In fact, in some states, the tax on gasoline can be as high as 34 cent per gallon and 28 cents per gallon for diesel.

The sale of tax-free fuel poses serious concerns for retailers who must pay the tax and who are located within a reasonable distance of the Indian reservation, because the Native American retail establishments, by selling gas at a lower price (i.e., without the tax) have the potential to put countless numbers of establishments out of business. For example, avoiding the tax on diesel fuel for a typical truck with a 250 gallon tank could mean a savings of \$70—a sufficiently large amount to justify a trucker traveling to Native American lands to refuel his or her truck. At the very least, a trucker could plan or time his, or her, routes to ensure that they purchase tax-free fuel on Native American lands.

I urge Members to consider the impacts caused by the non-collection and remission of motor fuel taxes on Native American lands and to cosponsor this legislation.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES
SCHODOWSKI AND JOHN RINALDI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles "Big Chuck" Schodowski and "Li'l" John Rinaldi as they celebrate the twentieth anniversary of their television program, "The Big Chuck and Li'l John Show."

First launched in 1978, "The Big Chuck and Li'l John Show" has served as the vehicle to Cleveland's most beloved practitioners of broad comedy, providing late night laughs to generation after generation of Clevelanders. That the show continues to thrive in a competitive late night television landscape dominated by syndicated programming attests to the popularity of Big Chuck and Little John's crazy antics.

Charles Schodowski initially entered into Cleveland television as an engineer at WJW Channel 8 in 1960. By 1963, he was a writer and occasional, if nervous, actor on a popular show hosted by the legendary Ernie "Ghoulardi" Anderson. Big Chuck's problems with stage fright were apparently short lived, however. When Anderson left for Hollywood in 1966, the show's producers tabbed Big Chuck to co-host the show with popular Weatherman

Bob Wells, who was known as "Hoolihan the Weatherman." "The Hoolihan and Big Chuck Show," which featured a movie interspersed with short skits performed before a live studio audience, enjoyed a successful run until Wells' retirement in 1977.

Making his debut as "Bridget the Midget," John Rinaldi became a regular contributor on "Hoolihan and Big Chuck." Li'l John then joined Big Chuck as a co-host of "The Big Chuck and Li'l John Show" in 1978. Today, "The Big Chuck and Li'l John Show," the recipient of numerous Local Emmy nominations, is one of the longest running shows in the country.

My fellow colleagues, join me in congratulating Big Chuck and Li'l John for twenty wild years of ridiculous blond wigs, coconut creme pies, and that distinctive laugh track that is instantly recognized throughout the city of Cleveland. Let us all hope that those laughs keep on coming for twenty years more.

MINNESOTA SMALL BUSINESS
LEADERS RECOGNIZED

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, small business reflects the quintessential element of American creativity, innovation, and free enterprise within our nation's economy. America's 23 million small businesses employ over 50 percent of the private workforce and are the principal source of new jobs. Small businesses generate more than half of the nation's gross domestic product. We will recognize the contributions of our nation's small businesses during the week of May 31 to June 6 through ceremonies in Washington, D.C.

Prior to that national event, ceremonies will occur in our districts throughout the country. On Friday, May 29, I will be privileged to join with others gathered to honor Minnesota's leaders in the small business community, several of whom are constituents and friends.

Sue McCloskey has been named the 1998 Minnesota Small Business Person of the Year. This award, determined by the U.S. Small Business Administration, is based on sales growth, employer expansion, financial strength and response to adversity.

Sue, a personal friend of mine, is the president and founder of Office Plan, a remanufacturer of office furniture. Starting her business in 1991 with three partners and one employee, Sue currently employs 33 personnel and has an annual revenue of \$4.5 million.

Office Plan buys outdated cubicles and work stations from businesses located throughout the country and refurbishes them on a made-to-order basis. Environmental sensitivity is a hallmark of Office Plan. Work fabric is recycled or sent out to be made into industrial rags, and recycled products and environmentally sensitive materials are used in production whenever possible.

Recently, Office Plan faced a major catastrophe. All of the firms computers were stolen and important business information such as clients, billing and orders had to be reconstructed. With Sue's determined leadership, this was accomplished with minimal disruption. Our states and community take great pride in

Sue McCloskey's success and are pleased with this well deserved recognition.

Northland Organic Foods Corporation, under the leadership of Peter Shortridge, has been recognized as the Small Business Exporter of the Year. Northland specializes in exporting organic food including grain, soybeans, buck wheat and whole grains. Focusing on research, marketing initiatives, educational programs and customer service, Northland has opened new markets for U.S. businesses.

A positive benchmark for hallmark of the Northland Corporation has been its outreach to its customers. All staff members speak the language of the customers they work with and are knowledgeable about the respective cultures and business practices of the specific country to which they export.

Charles Jones, a Minnesota resident, employed with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has been named the National Veterans Small Business Advocate. This award is presented to individuals who advance small business opportunities for military veterans.

Charles Jones is a vocational rehabilitation specialist. In that position, he helps disabled veterans to get the training and counseling needed to return to the world of work. Recognizing the potential for self-employment, Charles has worked with the Minnesota Small Business Development Centers to help disabled veterans to start a number of enterprises including: a gunsmith service, trucking, a restaurant and free-lance art. He obviously has worked very successfully to match a wide variety of business ventures to the interest of the vets.

Mr. Speaker, these are the recipients of this year's SBA awards. Thanks to their stewardship and dedication, the spirit of entrepreneurship is alive and flourishing in Minnesota. My congratulations to the award recipients and to all small businesses in the state of Minnesota.

HONORING JIMMY STURR AND HIS
ORCHESTRA NINE TIME GRAMMY
AWARD WINNERS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity today to honor Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra, a musical group whose name in synonymous with polka music in America.

As a Member of Congress with a large Polish American constituency in Western and Central Massachusetts, I have learned firsthand from the people who I represent of this group's popularity and intergenerational appeal, and I am pleased to share their accomplishments with the House of Representatives today.

The rise in popularity of polka music in America is due in large part to the contributions of Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra. Sturr's style of polka music embraces musicianship. This Americanized genre of polka music, which features the trumpet, saxophones and clarinets, is their trademark and is enjoyed by generations around the globe.

Having just recorded their 99th album, the excellence of their recordings has earned the group 9 Grammy Awards and 13 consecutive