

This bill contains \$275,347,000 for the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP), which is based in my Congressional District near Cincinnati, Ohio. The former Fernald Feed Materials Production Center, now the FEMP, was a Department of Energy facility that was part of the United States' nuclear weapons production complex for nearly forty years from 1951 to 1988. The site is heavily contaminated with nuclear waste and other hazardous materials, and has been the focus of extensive cleanup efforts for several years.

H.R. 4060 fully funds the President's request for the Fernald cleanup under the Defense Facilities Closure Account. The Closure Account is designed to ensure the accelerated cleanup of this site under budget and ahead of the original schedule. Accelerated cleanup will not only result in a considerable savings to the taxpayers but also help to protect public health. I would like to point to a disturbing study recently released by the Center for Disease Control that estimates a 1 to 12 percent increase in lung cancer deaths to residents in the Fernald study area as a result of exposure to radon gas emitted from the site's K-65 Silos. The CDC's findings serve to emphasize the need to fully fund the Closure Account, which would ensure that the accelerated cleanup proceeds on schedule to safeguard the residents in the community from future radioactive exposure.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this funding for the FEMP strongly serves the public interest. I commend Chairman LIVINGSTON, Ranking Member OBEY, Chairman MCDADE, and Ranking Member FAZIO as well as their colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee for including these vital funds in the bill. I also want to thank the House for overwhelmingly approving H.R. 4060 by a vote of 405-4.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF JONESFIELD TOWNSHIP

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 1998

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize a distinguished Township in Mid-Michigan as it celebrates its 125th Anniversary. Chartered in 1873, Jonesfield Township was originally known as Green—named after the owner of a local lumber mill. Now a 125 years later, Jonesfield Township has grown and prospered around the quiet community of Merrill. Jonesfield is named after one of its earliest settling families, the Jones' which happened to stumble upon the community after taking the wrong road in the attempt to settle in the area surrounding Grand Rapids.

Jonesfield Township and the community of Merrill are known for the closeness of the residents and their friendly community spirit. Its residents classify the area as a quiet farming community. Today, as the community celebrates its 125th Anniversary it recognizes the excellence of the churches, schools, fire department, and farm families that have helped develop Jonesfield Township into a thriving community. It is the hard work and dedication of many generations that built this community.

This weekend the Jonesfield Township will reflect on its past and the residents can be very proud of their history and growth over the past 125 years. On Saturday, as the citizens of Jonesfield Township reflect on their past—they can be proud of how their community started and where it is today. It is a special, caring community that has grown without sacrificing their special heritage.

SALUTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE INTO LABOR UNIONS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to salute one of our most cherished rights as Americans: the right of working people to bank together and organize into labor unions to achieve higher wages and better working conditions.

When people first go to work for a non-union employer, they do so as individuals. Often times, they are not familiar with the specific conditions of work at their workplace. Sometimes those conditions are acceptable, and provide the sort of income that can support them and their families. But, too often those conditions are substandard and the wages are insufficient. In this situation, workers discover that they have many interests in common. They find that by joining together they can begin to work out responses and solutions to the problems that they face in the workplace. And they find that organizing into a labor union is their best vehicle to better treatment, improvements in working conditions, and expand respect on the job.

Since the massive organizing drives of the 1930s, unions have come to play an important role in American society. Unions contribute to the stability of our economy by helping to ensure that working people have the income to purchase the products and services of industry. Unions give workers a voice on the job. Unions help to close the wage gap between men and women. And unions help to uphold fairness and equality of opportunity for all their members in the workplace.

Unfortunately, the right to organize is increasingly under attack. Millions of workers would decide to join a union if they could be assured that they would not be punished for making that decision. Instead, workers who express their pro-union sympathies are routinely harassed, forced to undergo closed-door meeting with employers, and even fired.

In my own district on the west side of Cleveland, the right to organize is not safe. For example, a company with \$80 million in sales pays its workers at starting wage of \$6.25 per hour, barely above the minimum wage. This is a company that received a tax abatement from the City of Cleveland to construct a new building. The company's sales have been growing, but that growth has not translated into higher wages and benefits, or better working conditions. Most employees support themselves and their families on weekly paychecks of less than \$200. Retiring employees do not have a pension plan they can count on. Safety conditions are terrible. Employees have lost fingers and, in one case, an arm. When fires have broken out in the plant, employees have been required to continue work.

Faced with these low wages and dangerous conditions, these workers turned to the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees—UNITE. After workers contacted UNITE, 60 percent of them signed cards saying that they wanted the union to represent them. A petition for election has been filed with the National Labor Relations Board. Yet in the first two weeks of the union's organizing campaign, the following has happened: the employer has held captive audience meetings to frighten the workers; the company has threatened to close the factory completely; and the company has intimidated vocal union supporters by issuing written warnings against them, some for work offenses that occurred months earlier. The union predicts that this anti-union campaign will continue and become more intense in the next six weeks before the union election.

I wish I could report this sort of behavior is unusual. But often this is typical action by employers to block the right to organize by any means necessary. This sort of behavior is shameful. It is turning the clock back to the 19th Century, when workers had few rights.

To guarantee the stability and prosperity of our democratic society, workers must have the right to choose—freely and openly—whether to join together with their fellow workers and select the union of their choice. I urge my colleague to stand up and declare that:

Workers have the right to organize;

People have a right to a job . . . at fair wages with decent benefit;

Workers have a right to a safe workplace . . . and a right to compensation if they are injured;

People have a right to decent health care; and

People have a right to participate in the political process.

The foundation for all of these rights is the right to organize. To all those workers and employees who are fighting to exercise that right to organize, I salute you. Your struggle is difficult and painful, but you are proceeding in the finest traditions of our American history.

A TRIBUTE TO CLARK BURRUS, VICE CHAIRMAN, FIRST CHICAGO CAPITAL MARKETS, INC.

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to an outstanding leader and businessman, Mr. Clark Burrus, Vice Chairman of First Chicago Capital Markets, Inc., who was recently honored by the First National Bank of Chicago.

Mr. Burrus has served the First National Bank of Chicago for nearly twenty years, constantly contributing his innovative ideas and valuable insight. Before joining The First National Bank of Chicago, Mr. Burrus served the city of Chicago under Mayors Martin Kennelley, Richard J. Daley, Michael Bilandic, and Jane Byrne. Mr. Burrus was chairman of the Transition Committee on Finance for Mayor Harold Washington and co-chaired Mayor Byrne's Pension Study Commission. Starting in 1975, I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Burrus, while I was an Alderman and he was City Comptroller. It was always a