

was instrumental in establishing the mechanical engineering major at the academy, and earning its accreditation, and has been a mentor to hundreds of cadets—many of whom are now commissioned officers.

CDR Wilczynski has also extended his dedication to teaching beyond the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He has been a tireless proponent of community service programs that are helping to motivate elementary and high school students to pursue technical educations. He has also been teaching today's youth in high schools across the country through the FIRST (For Inspiration of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition.

Mr. Speaker, CDR Wilczynski has reached out and touched the lives of many individuals throughout the nation through his innovative teaching. He has given us 18 years of service as an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, and continues to serve the nation faithfully.

Commander Wilczynski has truly distinguished himself and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy as the 2001 Professor of the Year. And he is the first member of the faculty of any of our service academies to be so honored in the 20-year history of this award.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of the House of Representatives to join me in heartfelt appreciation for the service this dedicated man has provided to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF SENSE OF THE  
CONGRESS CONCERNING THE SECURITY  
OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
IN THE UNITED STATES

**HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2001*

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a sense of the Congress measure related to the very real and present concern for the security of our nuclear facilities in the new post September 11 era.

Throughout my public life I have represented in the Pennsylvania legislature and here in Congress the many neighborhoods and communities surrounding the Three Mile Island nuclear facility. I remember well the infamous incident at TMI in 1979. I served as a state senator at the time and, minutes after the warning came that an incident had occurred, I was at the site trying to gather information and allay public concerns. In the many years that have followed, I have worked consistently to ensure that security at TMI was

beyond reproach, and I think with great effect. Nuclear power plant security has and will always be of paramount importance to me.

It has been twenty-two years since the TMI incident. I believe the security of TMI today remains as tight as ever. However, in light of the terrorist attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center, damaged the Pentagon, and murdered over 5,000 innocent civilians, we must be even more vigilant. A recent credible threat to TMI provoked concerns on the part of many in my District about the ability of TMI and other nuclear facilities to repulse a possible terrorist attack. Happily, the threat to TMI turned out to be noncredible. But the concerns exist. I believe the Nuclear Regulatory Commission handled the incident appropriately. They assure me that future terrorist threats can be dealt with to ensure that a nuclear incident does not occur as a result. Yet, we cannot know with absolute certainty that we are forever safe from such a threat. I firmly believe that a thorough, federal study of the security measures in place now and, those needed in the future, at all of nation's nuclear facilities should be conducted immediately.

There are over 103 nuclear facilities located at 64 sites in 31 different States. Each has a different security plan registered with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, yet the overall responsibility for the security of all such facilities remains a federal issue. My legislation would reconfirm the national responsibility for nuclear plant security, and calls upon the President to order an interagency study of security at nuclear facilities be conducted immediately by the NRC, the Defense Department, the Department of Transportation, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Central Intelligence Agency.

I am pleased with the steps Governor Ridge of the Office of Homeland Defense continues to take to prepare the country for future acts of terrorism. One of those steps was to recently issue, in conjunction with the NRC, an alert to Governors to take necessary steps to bolster security at our Nation's nuclear power plants. Thirty-one States are home to over a hundred nuclear facilities. Twenty-two Governors, after receiving the Homeland Defense security alert, ordered State troopers and local officers to temporarily augment the private security at the facilities in their States. Nine Governors, including Governor Schweiker of Pennsylvania, decided to call up National Guard units to bolster security at their nuclear facilities. However, the use of National Guard forces has raised many questions. Why some States and not others? How large a force will be necessary? How long will they be there? Are they properly trained for such a mission?

Are their efforts coordinated with law enforcement and private security? And, who will fund these units?

My legislation calls upon President Bush to make the use of military forces at nuclear plants a primary focus of the federal interagency study to be commissioned. The Department of Defense and Nuclear Regulatory Commission must move forward with other relevant agencies towards developing standards to ensure that units of the National Guard, Coast Guard, Army and Air Force are used appropriately, are adequately trained, and highly coordinated with law enforcement and private security forces. Moreover, my resolution calls upon the President to recognize the need for federal funding for National Guard units called upon to perform security duties at nuclear power plants nationally. The National Guard has a unique dual role. They serve under State authority or federal authority, depending on their mission. President Bush has recognizing the national importance of protecting our national transportation system by funding National Guard units stationed at airports and train stations across the country. This resolution calls upon the President to similarly recognize the national importance of nuclear plant security by funding those units sent to nuclear power plants.

Additionally, my resolution calls upon the President to direct the FDA, NRC and FEMA to take all necessary steps to begin stockpiling supplies of potassium iodide in communities within the Emergency Planning Zones of each of the 64 nuclear power sites across the country. Potassium iodine can effectively counteract some of the more serious debilitating effects of radiation poisoning. A potential accident at a nuclear facility can result in leakage of radioactive iodine. Studies show that use of potassium iodide tablets can prevent the onset of thyroid cancer, a by-product of radioactive iodine exposure. Stockpiling of potassium iodide tablets simply makes sense. It is another important way we can do everything within reason to make sure our communities are free from the fear of insecurity.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Bush Administration for the actions taken to make America more secure. More will be done. My sense of the Congress resolution helps point the Government in the direction it must move over the next months. I thank Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. PITTS and Mr. PLATTS of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for their active support in joining me in this measure. And, I ask that all Members of Congress and the Senate support our measure.