

As our economy continues to grow, U.S. oil consumption is projected to increase by about one-third during the next 20 years. Our demand for electricity is expected to rise by 45 percent. America is already using more energy than our domestic resources can provide, and unless we act to increase our energy independence, our reliance on foreign sources of energy will only increase. (February 23, 2002 Radio Address to Nation)

Reducing dependence on foreign oil is a significant aspect of America's homeland security strategy, and this will require better utilization of our nation's domestic natural resource fuels. Another critical goal is to minimize risk of terrorist attacks on the nation's critical power supplies, especially at military installations and major financial centers. In my own congressional district, First National Bank has installed fuel cells in its new building in downtown Omaha that can each produce 200 kilowatts of electricity using natural gas. The electricity produced by these fuel cells powers the bank's data center in a secure and reliable manner. The ultra-clean power plant located securely inside the First National's Data Technology Center assures that the facility has less than one second of power downtime a year.

At another popular attraction in Omaha, the Henry Doorly Zoo, a fuel cell has been installed at the Lied Jungle that is a 200 kW unit that serves 50 percent of its power needs. It operates at a 75 percent capacity factor and generates more than 1.3 million kilowatt-hours annually.

This use of distributed stationary power generation is a prime example of what we can do to protect our critical infrastructure facilities like military installations, financial entities, utilities, first responder facilities like firehouses and police stations, and information technology systems from potential terrorist threats. Dispersed networks of decentralized, distributed generation power modules are less vulnerable to attack, and there is a wide range of advanced distributed technology options that can be deployed by U.S. electricity generators in order to fortify America's energy infrastructure.

Improving the reliability of our electric power infrastructure will also help our economy grow. It is estimated that power outages, brownouts, and other voltage disturbances cost U.S. industry up to \$150 billion per year. On the other hand, it is estimated that energy efficient and renewable energy markets account for a \$500 billion annual global market to U.S. companies and could lead to a net increase of 1.3 million jobs over the next 20 years. We need to use new, advanced turbines, fuel cells, and storage technologies to reduce these costly outages. We also need to export these technologies. This will improve both our energy security and our economic security.

My legislation is directed at promoting and encouraging faster deployment of advanced technologies, primarily to protect the homeland, but with the added environmental benefits that come from clean and efficient power equipment. The legislation empowers the Secretary of Energy to administer an Advanced Technology Incentives Program. In order to receive incentive payments eligible owners and operators must submit an application to the Secretary that documents the use of qualifying technologies that reduce system costs, and improve performance and reliability of advanced distributed power generation and energy storage systems. This is a voluntary, not a mandatory program.

The bill establishes two qualifying requirements for eligibility. First it must qualify as a "qualifying advanced technology facility." Facilities meeting this requirement are eligible for payments based on 1.8 cents per kilowatt-hour generated during a fiscal year. If an owner or operator provides power that qualifies as a "qualifying security and assurance power facility" a bonus of 0.7 cents per kilowatt-hour may be earned. The maximum number of kilowatt-hours a single owner or operator may accrue for each year is 10 million kilowatt-hours. There is authorized \$250 million for the first four years of the program and separate appropriations will be required.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is timely. America is engaged in a war with Iraq that may disrupt our access to world oil supplies. Weather in the United States this winter has been unusually cold—raising home heating fuel prices to millions of consumers. Recently, President Bush elevated the threat of terrorist acts to Level Orange—the second highest level. Our national critical infrastructure, including power plants, electric transmission lines, and the nation's information technology system, are all potential targets. Secure, protected, reliable power must be a priority of any homeland security measures undertaken by the new Department of Homeland Security.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I look forward to participating in the Committee's early consideration of this year's version of the "Securing America's Future Energy Act." I also urge my colleagues to consider including provisions that will encourage increased use of advanced technologies like fuel cells and other low emission, high efficiency energy technologies. These innovative advanced technologies must be a part of both our national energy and homeland security plans.

H.R. 1460—VETERANS
ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2003

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 1460, the Veterans Entrepreneurship Act of 2003, a bill to help veterans create, manage, and grow their own small businesses. I am joined by Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. BEAUPREZ, and Mr. MICHAUD as original cosponsors. We believe Congress should accord veterans a full opportunity to participate in the economic system that their military service has helped sustain. Veterans indeed represent a unique national resource and we need to harness their engaging abilities in our economy.

First, this measure would allow veterans to use VA education benefits to enroll in a non-degree, non-credit business course offered by a Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the National Veterans Small Business Development Corporation. The Small Business Administration helps fund 1,000 SBDCs in the United States; Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. SBDCs are operated in partnership with colleges and universities or governmental entities. We have drafted this section so that it

would improve access to pre-entrepreneurship training and skills building for veterans and certain others, as well. Disabled veterans, dependent spouses and children of certain disabled or deceased veterans, and members of the Guard and Reserve, also would be eligible.

Second, the bill would clarify that disabled veterans enrolled in school under a VA vocational rehabilitation program may establish self-employment in a small business enterprise as a vocational goal. The bill recognizes that self-employment is a legitimate rehabilitation goal. It intends to discontinue any current VA practices that could require a disabled veteran to establish that he or she is unable to be employed in another job before being permitted to benefit from the essential entrepreneurship services VA's vocational rehabilitation program currently furnishes. These services include necessary equipment, supplies, and other needs associated with starting a small business. We note VA still could establish certain controls, so that aspiring disabled veterans would have the best chance of succeeding as small business owners. This section of the bill is especially important for disabled veterans who desire to start and grow home-based small businesses.

Third, our bill would give federal agency contracting officers the discretionary authority to create sole source contracts for disabled veteran-owned businesses up to \$5 million for manufacturing awards and \$3 million for non-manufacturing awards. It also would furnish contracting officers discretionary authority to restrict certain contracts to disabled veteran-owned small businesses if at least two such concerns are qualified to bid on the contract. This section of the bill is designed simply to create a "level playing field" for those individuals who have been wounded or injured in defending our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, the smaller business sector is our economy's job generator. Our former servicemembers indeed are engaging and resourceful individuals. Our bill simply gives them additional tools to realize the dream of entrepreneurship.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATING IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

SPEECH OF

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that our young men and women, who are putting their lives on the line in Iraq, have my unequivocal support. I will do everything in my power as a member of Congress to see to it that they have everything they need to win this war and return home safe and sound to their families. We can only hope and pray that this war will end quickly, and a minimum number of American, British, and Iraqi civilian and military lives are lost, destroyed or maimed for the rest of their lives.

While the troops have 100 percent of my support, when appropriate, I will continue to articulate the grave concerns I have about the