

I believe that the reductions in funding levels for the core renewable energy programs are ill-advised at a time when the need for a secure, domestic energy supply is so crucial. Clean energy technologies have a critically important role to play in promoting public health and enhancing the energy security of the nation by promoting fuel diversity, harnessing safe and abundant domestic resources, and expanding the use of small-scale, dispersed technologies.

Overall, the bill provides necessary funding for some important Army Corps of Engineers projects and for DOE's Office of Science and non-proliferation programs. It also includes critical funding for defense environmental management programs—in particular, funding for Rocky Flats, the former weapons production site in Colorado. Funding in this bill keeps Rocky Flats on track for finishing cleanup and closure by the end of 2006.

So on balance, Mr. Speaker, I believe this bill contains more good than bad. Although I am not satisfied with the levels of funding in this bill for DOE's clean energy programs, I will continue to work to increase funding for these programs in years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICE OF OUR VETERANS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month our Nation took the time to honor and recognize the tremendous sacrifice our veterans have given to protecting our freedom and safeguarding democracy for us all. During this special time, it is important we remember all our veterans and thank them for their service.

Today, however, I would like to specifically recognize our Korean War Veterans and their service to the United States.

The Korean War resonates deeply with many Minnesota families. Through the duration of the conflict, close to 95,000 Minnesotans served their country with honor and courage, with 749 paying the ultimate sacrifice. Countless others lost their lives training for service in Korea. One hundred seventy remain missing. They were our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters. Their service was integral in ensuring that the long arm of communism would stretch no farther than the 39th parallel and their sacrifices enabled countless numbers of Americans and Koreans to raise their families and live their lives in freedom.

As we reflect on their service, it is important to remember that the armistice ending military action in Korea signaled an end to the fighting, but not the war. Today, 37,000 U.S. military personnel remain in South Korea to supplement the 650,000-strong South Korean armed forces. These men and women serve to protect America's economic and political interests in the region, while ensuring our national security by providing a counter-balance to North Korea. The dangers our U.S. soldiers in South Korea face are very real and the merits of their courage is tested everyday.

In Minnesota, the Korean War veterans remain very active. They visit hospitals, are active in their local VFW and American Legion

and participate in parades. Many take time to visit schools in their area, talking to students about the Korean War and answering questions about military service. Recently, a large group ascended on Washington, D.C. to participate in Veterans Day events and to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. In D.C., they participated in the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington Cemetery and took a tour of the U.S. Capitol, among other things. I am inspired by their continued patriotism and commitment to their families, the United States, and each other.

As a former Minnesota State Legislator, I had the distinct privilege to help enable the creation of a memorial to Minnesota's Korean War veterans, that stands today at the Minnesota State Capitol. Near this grand memorial is a time capsule, to be opened 100 years after its burial. In it lie a U.S. flag, pictures and other memorabilia commemorating our war veterans and the important news of our day. The capsule also holds a letter to future generations of Americans. The letter asks those who read it to never forget the events of the past, and expresses hope that when the capsule is opened, our nation and the world will be at peace. I, like all Americans, share the optimism that when this letter is next read, the hope of its authors has become reality.

I ask all Americans to never forget those of the "forgotten" war in Korea. At a minimum, Congress should grant the Korean War Veterans Association a Federal Charter, allowing the Association to expand its mission and further its charitable and benevolent causes. Specifically, it will afford the Korean War Veterans Association the same status as other major veterans organizations and would allow it to participate as part of select committees with other Congressional chartered veterans and military groups. While they seek no recognition for what they have done, it is important their story is told and the debt of their service is remembered.

Thank you to all our Korean War Veterans. Your commitment to our country is greatly appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS, CALIFORNIA

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to the City of La Habra Heights, California, as their community celebrates 25 years of cityhood this year.

Since incorporating on December 4, 1978, La Habra Heights has succeeded in maintaining a quality environment for its residents by providing excellent municipal services and keeping a strong community spirit alive. The citizens of La Habra Heights continually demonstrate their enthusiasm for their City by actively participating in local government and future city planning. It is indeed my honor to represent the residents of this beautiful city, who have contributed much of their time towards the betterment of their community.

Mr. Speaker, on this very special year for the City of La Habra Heights, please join me in commemorating their twenty-fifth anniversary.

THE PASSING OF REGINALD ARTHUR STONE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Reginald Arthur Stone who passed away on November 12th at the age of 67. Mr. Stone was a loving husband to his wife Judy, the father of two and the grandfather of five. In addition to being a community leader, Mr. Stone was known as a person who could create compromise out of chaos.

Reginald "Reg" Stone was the longtime chairman of the Main San Gabriel Basin Water Master Board of Directors, where he was a key figure in negotiations that led to a \$250 million cleanup agreement with industrial companies that polluted the area's groundwater. Because of his gentle, yet determined efforts, thousands of homes will have cleaner water and the health of working families will be improved.

In addition to serving on the Main San Gabriel Basin Water Master Board of Directors, he worked for 43 years at Suburban Water Systems. Starting off as a meter reader, Mr. Stone rose to senior Vice President at the time of his death. More importantly than his title, however, is that he is remembered as a person who was liked and appreciated by all and was able to bring even the most adversarial people together with the belief that you should start to negotiate from common ground.

Reg Stone will be missed by all who knew him and our prayers are with his family during this time of mourning.

HONORING DON LAUGHLIN, FOUNDER OF LAUGHLIN, NEVADA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the founder and namesake of one of the fastest growing, most dynamic communities in my district, Don Laughlin. On Friday the community of Laughlin will join together to celebrate the unveiling of a statue of Don that will greet visitors to the many gaming, entertainment, and recreational opportunities in the city along the Colorado River he created just a few decades ago. Don is a visionary leader, and I urge the House to join with the thousands of residents, and millions of visitors to Laughlin who celebrate his permanent contribution to the landscape and culture of Nevada and our country.

TRIBUTE TO CONAGRA FOODS— LONGMONT FACILITY

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of

ConAgra Foods—Longmont Facility in Longmont, Colorado in the field of occupational safety and health. I also commend Ms. Stephanie Sparks, the Complex Safety & Health Manager for this facility, and her team for their continued excellence.

Recently, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) awarded this facility with the agency's approval as a Merit participant in the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). This exceptional facility joins fewer than 850 worksites under Federal jurisdiction that have received this prestigious award.

To achieve important recognition, ConAgra has demonstrated an exemplary record of workplace safety and health, achieving injury and illness rates well below the industry average.

ConAgra continually exceeds industry performance records and sets extremely high standards for their competition. I am very proud to represent such a commendable Colorado facility. Congratulations to ConAgra for another job well done.

THE IMPACT OF LEFT-WING SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS ON THE JUDICIAL NOMINATION PROCESS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced into the RECORD several memos written by Democratic Congressional staff illustrating how deeply politicized the process of appointing new judges to the Federal bench has become. Today I am introducing two more such memos—which were reported by the Wall Street Journal last week—which further reveal the damage that a handful of liberal special interest groups are inflicting on that process.

The memos show how much influence is being wielded by left-wing fringe groups like the so-called People for the American Way and the Alliance for Justice, and extreme pro-abortion groups like the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL). These groups apparently were called on to dig up dirt on President Bush's judicial nominees, and were allowed to dictate which nominees to oppose and when to schedule them. One nominee was only supported because another liberal special interest group, the trial lawyers' lobby, wanted to remove him from the trial bench to the appellate bench. Taken together, these memos show the unhealthy influence these groups are having on the federal judiciary—a judiciary that is supposed to serve all the American people, and not just a few special interests.

MEMORANDUM

JUNE 4, 2002.

To: Senator Kennedy.
Subject: Meeting with Groups on Judges—
Wednesday, 11:50 a.m.

As you know, the meeting with the groups to discuss the strategy on judicial nominations is scheduled for tomorrow at 11:50. Both Senator Schumer and Senator Durbin will be able to attend. The six principals who will attend are: (1) Wade Henderson, (2) Ralph Neas, (3) Leslie Proll of the NAACP LDF, (4) Nancy Zirkin, (5) Nan Aron, and (6) Kate Michelman. It turns out that neither

Marcia nor Judy can make it tomorrow—Marcia has a board meeting and Judy, a family emergency.

We expect that the agenda will include a discussion of: (1) delaying a hearing for Dennis Shedd, a nominee to the Fourth Circuit, who Sen. Leahy would like to schedule on June 27th; (2) which circuit court nominees should be scheduled prior to adjournment; and, (3) our next big fight.

SCHEDULE

At present, there is only one noncontroversial circuit court nominee (with a complete file and blue slips) who has not already been scheduled for a hearing. This nominee is John Rogers (6th Circuit), who Senator Leahy will likely schedule for a hearing on June 13th. In addition, there have been two recent nominees to the 2nd Circuit and to the Ninth Circuit, whose records are now being researched, and who may prove to be noncontroversial.

Senator Leahy would then like to schedule Dennis Shedd on June 27th, Judge Priscilla Owen after the July 4th recess, and Miguel Estrada in September.

The groups should be encouraged to propose some specific nominees who can be moved forward before adjournment. Clearly, there are few nominees who are noncontroversial, but the groups should be pushed on whether they would agree on a hearing for some controversial nominees such as Steele, Tymkovich, or Michael McConnell (for whom Leahy has already promised a hearing), on the theory that these nominees are less problematic than others.

SHEDD

Senator Leahy has told the groups that he would like to have a hearing on Dennis Shedd this month. Senator Hollings is supportive of Dennis Shedd's nomination and is, reportedly, pressuring Senator Leahy to move forward on a hearing. The groups have strong concerns about Shedd. He is quite bad on civil rights and federalism issues, and he has hundreds of unpublished opinions that have not yet been reviewed. The groups are opposed to having a hearing on him this month in part because they do not believe that they will be able to do an adequate review of his extensive record by June 27th, particularly given that they are gearing up to oppose Judge Owen.

We believe that you should hear the groups' concerns regarding Shedd, but that you should strongly encourage the groups to work with South Carolina groups and individuals to apply pressure on Senator Hollings. We know that some of the groups, including LCCR and the NAACP will meet with Sen. Hollings on Thursday regarding Shedd, but more pressure will likely need to be applied because Sen. Hollings is quite committed to moving Shedd this month.

Recommendation: Encourage groups to work with South Carolina groups to influence Sen. Hollings.

OUR NEXT BIG FIGHT

The current thinking from Senator Leahy is that Judge Owen will be our next big fight, after July 4th recess. We agree that she is the right choice—she has a bad record on labor, personal injury, and choice issues, and a broad range of national and local Texas groups are ready to oppose her. The groups seem to be in agreement with the decision to move Owen in July.

Recommendation: Move Owen in July.

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Durbin.

From:

Date: June 5, 2002.

Re: Meeting with Civil Rights Leaders to Discuss Judicial Nominations Strategy
Thursday, June 6, 5:30 p.m., Russell 317.

Senator Kennedy has invited you and Senator Schumer to attend a meeting with civil rights leaders to discuss their priorities as the Judiciary Committee considers judicial nominees in the coming months. This meeting was originally scheduled for late Wednesday morning.

This meeting is intended to follow-up your meetings in Senator Kennedy's office last fall. The guest list will be the same: Kate Michelman (NARAL), Nan Aron (Alliance for Justice), Wade Henderson (Leadership Conference on Civil Rights), Ralph Neas (People For the American Way), Nancy Zirkin (American Association of University Women), Marcia Greenberger (National Women's Law Center), and Judy Lichtman (National Partnership).

The meeting is likely to touch upon the following topics:

—Their floor strategy for opposing D. Brooks Smith, who was voted out of Committee 12-7.

—Their concerns with Dennis Shedd, a controversial 4th Circuit nominee from South Carolina—Under pressure from Senator HOLLINGS—who apparently is backing SHEDD because the trial lawyers want him off the district court bench—Chairman Leahy is planning to hold a hearing in late June. The groups would like more time to read through SHEDD's many unpublished opinions, which were only recently provided to the Committee, and to request court transcripts. Based on a preliminary review, this nominee poses a number of problems: he has narrowly interpreted Congress's power under the 14th Amendment (in one instance, he was unanimously reversed by the Supreme Court); he has a long track record of dismissing civil rights claims; he once revoked indigent status for a litigant who used her mother's computer and fax machine to file pleadings; and he has made insensitive comments about the Confederate flag.

—The Judiciary Committee's schedule for the summer and fall. In spite of the White House's intransigence, the Committee continues to schedule hearings at a rapid pace—every two weeks through the end of the session. Bruce Cohen has outlined the following schedule:

June: Rogers (6th Circuit-KY); Shedd (4th Circuit-SC)

July: Owen (5th Circuit-TX); Raagi (2d Circuit-NY)

Sept: Estrada (DC Circuit); possibly Bybee (9th Circuit-NV) (backed by Reid)

Oct: McConnell (10th Circuit-UT)

Leahy has effectively promised that OWEN, ESTRADA, and MCCONNELL would get hearings this year. Like SHEDD, these three will generate significant opposition and controversy. The groups feel that OWEN is vulnerable to defeat, but ESTRADA and MCCONNELL will be hard to vote down in Committee.

—The White House's unwillingness to compromise. On NPR this week, White House Counsel Alberto Gonzalez said:

I'm not sure this [judges] is an area where there should be a great deal of compromise on principle. Regrettably, . . . we may have to be patient and wait to see what happens in the November election. And that may be viewed as a sort of crass political assessment but that is in fact true. One way to get this thing moving is to take back the Senate so that we can at least get our judges onto the full Senate floor.

At the moment, a number of Democrats—Edwards, Graham, Nelson (FL), Levin,