

needy, shelter and clothe the homeless, and provide services to at-risk youth. Others like the Manenngon Foundation and Pa'a Taotao Tano work to preserve our Chamorro culture. Given their limited resources and the matching fund requirements, their access to federal funding is critical to their success.

Therefore, I remain hopeful that federal agencies will apply the waiver not just to grants awarded to the territorial governments, but also to non-profit organizations and other eligible nongovernmental entities in the territories.

Furthermore, while I recognize that current law, for good reason, allows any federal agency or department to consolidate grants to the territories, I would hope that this authority would not be used to reduce the number of grants that would otherwise be subject to the matching waiver requirement. Federal agencies should not consolidate grants to escape the full application of the matching waiver requirement, or to reduce the waiver's impact on what would otherwise be separate grant awards. This is the intent of the authors of this bill. This has specific application to Guam, where disaster public assistance grants to separate Government of Guam agencies should each receive the waiver of the local matching funds that are required for their individual disaster assistance, rather than one waiver for the whole Government of Guam for all public assistance grants.

This legislation will also require the Secretary of the Interior to study and report on its implementation. I trust that, if enacted, the Secretary will pay particular attention to these concerns and that the report will address the application of the waiver with respect to non-profit organizations and the consolidation authority.

This legislation is important for the economic development of the territories because it will make access to federal grants easier for cash-strapped governments.

I want to recognize the hard work and valuable contributions that my predecessor, Robert Underwood, made on this issue. Mr. Underwood worked alongside our colleague from American Samoa, Mr. FALEOMAVEGA, in crafting this legislation in the 107th Congress. Although the bill was reported out of the Committee on Resources last year, it unfortunately did not make it to the floor.

I am grateful we have reached that point in the process today and I look forward to timely consideration in the other body. I want to commend my colleague from American Samoa, ENI FALEOMAVEGA, for his persistence in promoting the interests of the territories and in particular for his introduction of this legislation. I also want to recognize the contributions of Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN from the U.S. Virgin Islands on this bill. This has been a unified effort by the Delegates from the insular areas. Finally, I want to thank Chairman RICHARD POMBO and Ranking Member NICK RAHALL for their help in moving this legislation. The territories have benefited from their leadership in the Resources Committee.

## INTEREST GROUPS RALLY TO SUPPORT H. CON. RES. 330

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, my friend and distinguished colleague from Connecticut, Rep. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, and I recently introduced H. Con. Res. 330. On the occasion of the introduction of our bill, we were joined by several important representatives from the NGO community, who eloquently expressed the wide support our legislation has already received. I would like to include their outstanding statements at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, with my deepest gratitude for their support and advice.

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL HEFLIN, DIRECTOR, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA OUTFRONT PROGRAM

On behalf of Amnesty International I would like to commend Congressmen Tom Lantos and Christopher Shays for their strong leadership on this issue as well as the more than forty other members of Congress who have agreed to be original co-sponsors of this historic resolution. Amnesty International and other human rights organizations have documented the widespread abuse of the fundamental human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people throughout the world. These abuses include the imprisonment, torture and in some cases killing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people by their own governments. Some 70 countries still criminalize homosexuality. Sentences for conviction under these statutes vary, but often include lengthy jail sentences and in some cases include torture or even imposition of the death penalty as a legally sanctioned punishment. As we sit here this morning, there are many who sit in jail cells and face the prospect of torture simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. In Egypt, for example, over the past two years, Amnesty International and other human rights groups have documented the arrest of over 100 men simply on the basis of their alleged sexual orientation. Ironically, Egypt is one of the few countries in the Middle East that does not explicitly outlaw homosexuality but has charged the men under a vaguely worded law prohibiting "habitual debauchery." Many of these men report having been brutally tortured while imprisoned. We also believe this number is only the tip of the iceberg and there are probably many cases that we have not yet documented. Of those arrested, some have now been freed but the arrests continue. At this moment, Amnesty considers at least 15 men in Egyptian prisons to be "prisoners of conscience" in jail solely on the basis of their alleged sexual orientation. Egypt is not alone and similar arrests have also been made in many other countries in recent years including Malaysia, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Saudi Arabia, just to name a few. Even when not criminalized, discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people by both governmental authorities and civilians remains widespread throughout much of the world. Too often states fail to hold the perpetrators of such violence accountable, creating a climate of impunity—in violation of international human rights standards that require states to protect the human rights of all of their citizens. In recent years, Amnesty International has documented patterns of violence including murder and physical assault, particularly targeted against

transgender people and gay men in a number of countries, including for example, Honduras, Guatemala, and Ecuador. In many of these cases the police were complicit or did nothing to investigate these crimes or hold those responsible accountable. Lesbians often face a double layer of discrimination and abuse resulting from both their gender and their sexual orientation. These violations are often particularly difficult to document because they most often occur in the community and the family, but include forced marriage and sometimes even rape employed as a method to cure lesbians of their deviant sexuality. The United States has not been a leader either at home or abroad in advancing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender human rights. While this resolution recognizes the need to continue to make progress in this country toward the full recognition of the basic human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, it also spells out the U.S. government's obligation to combat human rights violations against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people around the world. Despite the U.S. government's overall lack of leadership on these issues, some progress is being made. Over the last few years the State Department has begun to document some of these abuses in its annual reports. We hope that this resolution will encourage the State Department to continue to make improvements in its documentation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights abuses around the world. We also believe much more can and must be done by the U.S. government if it is to play a leadership role in protecting global lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender human rights. Through this resolution, we are calling for the U.S. government to develop a comprehensive strategy for combating these abuses. This strategy must include the U.S. government's taking a positive and proactive position in favor of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender human rights when these issues are discussed and debated in international forums. It is only through adoption of the recommendations of this resolution, including development of such a comprehensive strategy, that the U.S. government can begin to fulfill its obligations under international human rights standards to advance the human rights of all people.

STATEMENT BY CHRISTOPHER LABONTE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR LEGISLATION, HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

Good Morning. It has often been said that with great power comes great responsibility. As one of the most fortunate and powerful countries on the planet, the United States has a tremendous responsibility to speak out and protect those who may not be able to protect themselves. It's sad to say that there are currently 80 countries within our global village that have enforceable laws against GLBT people, many resulting in inhumane punishment including imprisonment, torture and even execution. In many of those countries—Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Mauritania and Iran—GLBT people face possible execution simply because of who they are, and who they love. Today, the Human Rights Campaign is proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with our friends Representative Tom Lantos and Representative Christopher Shays, who have introduced a resolution condemning all violations of internationally recognized human rights norms based on the real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity of an individual. The resolution also recognizes that the protection of sexual orientation and gender identity is not a special category of human rights, but is fully embedded in the overall human rights norms set forth

in international law. Finally, the resolution calls on the Department of State to improve its own documentation of human rights abuses on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, to give these violations the same consideration as other human rights abuses and to develop a comprehensive strategy to combat such abuses abroad. This nation was founded on the principle that all people were created equal and had the same right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. When we speak out as a nation against the torture, violence and cruelty that plague so many of the world's GLBT people, we are fulfilling the truest vision of our nation. At the Human Rights Campaign, we look forward to a day when resolutions like this will not be necessary—when the world's GLBT people will be free to live their lives openly and honestly, as any other citizen of the world does. In the meantime, we hope that Congress will act to adopt this important resolution to take a stand against the violent mistreatment that GLBT people face within our global community. Thank you very much.

RECOGNIZING THE GRUNDY COUNTY COURTHOUSE FOR THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 25, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Grundy County Courthouse in Trenton, Missouri.

In 1901, county officials secured \$60,000 to build a new courthouse and jail. Plans were laid out and the building was erected at the same location as the original courthouse, built in 1840. In December 1903, the Cornerstone Ceremony marked the completion of the Courthouse. The building has stood for 100 years as the Grundy County temple of justice. There have been nine judges that have served the Grundy County Circuit Court since the courthouse opened in 1903.

On December 19, 2003, county officials will open a time capsule, placed in the cornerstone in 1903. These artifacts will tell of the county forefathers and leaders of the community. A new time capsule will be placed in the courthouse yard to commemorate the 100th Anniversary and to mark this momentous occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Grundy County Courthouse in Trenton, Missouri, for their 100th Anniversary and for their many contributions to the 6th District and the State of Missouri.

H.R. 6—CONFERENCE REPORT

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 25, 2003*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, while I voted for the conference report on the omnibus energy bill, H.R. 6, the final version of this bill is far from perfect. We need a comprehensive energy policy that increases our national security by decreasing our dependence on foreign oil and improving public health and the condition

of our environment by promoting clean, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency technologies.

I voted for the conference report for H.R. 6 because it: excluded drilling for oil and gas in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; mandated more than doubling the use of renewable fuels in gasoline, primarily ethanol, to 5 billion gallons a year by 2012; allowed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, to establish a nationwide electricity reliability standard for power companies to help balance supply and demand in the power grid; and included H.R. 1331, legislation I have introduced the past three Congresses to reduce our country's dependence on foreign oil and reduce natural gas bills by extending a tax credit for production of unconventional fuels. This is of special interest to Kansas. Eastern Kansas has one of the nation's bigger reserves of coal bed methane, possibly two-thirds the size of the Hugoton gas field in southwest Kansas, the nation's largest.

The ethanol provisions in the conference report are estimated to create an estimated \$51 billion in new farm income by 2012, adding as much as 30 cents per bushel to the value of corn. This increase in the value of corn, soybeans and other feedstock will reduce the need for farm payments by an estimated \$5.9 billion by 2012. The ethanol provision functions as a rural economic stimulus package by creating the need for \$5.3 billion in new investment for renewable fuel production facilities in rural America, including Garnett, Kansas. The Renewable Fuel Standard is estimated to create 214,000 new U.S. jobs, mostly in rural America.

Though I wish it did even more, the conference report does encourage the increased use of renewable energy sources such as wind and biomass through tax incentives. The conference report encourages a diversified portfolio for America's energy resource needs including traditional oil and gas, nuclear, and renewable energy like ethanol, biodiesel, wind, hydropower, and biomass. Over the long-term, renewable energy especially will be a huge asset to American agriculture and rural development.

Our founding fathers made compromise one of the most important tools to the legislative process. Compromise is sometimes frustrating. And though I voted for the conference report for H.R. 6, there are several provisions I do not support. One of the most disconcerting is a provision that lets the companies that created and produced the gasoline additive MTBE off the hook for contaminating groundwater. Now, state and local taxpayers will pay cleanup costs for many contaminated sites. The bill nullifies lawsuits by cities, states and others filed on or after September 5, 2003, seeking compensation for contamination of groundwater by MTBE. In the same vein under this bill, taxpayers, rather than polluters, will pay up to \$2 billion to clean up leaking underground storage tanks containing gasoline and other toxic chemicals even at sites where viable responsible parties are identifiable.

This bill also authorizes a \$1.1 billion nuclear reactor in Idaho, with a potential exemption from normal federal project management rules, to demonstrate hydrogen production technologies that are not projected to be cost justified. It also repeals the Public Utility Holding Company Act, the primary statute that protects consumers from market manipulation

and economic concentration in the electricity sector.

Our nation needs to have comprehensive energy legislation enacted into law. Doing so is essential to economic recovery, job creation and environmental protection, as we rebuild our economy while continuing to improve air quality. We have paid for the lack of a balanced energy policy with blackouts and job losses that occurred when natural gas prices doubled. The conference report for H.R. 6 is a good start in easing that pressure by ensuring that fuel diversity remains at the core of U.S. energy policy. As a country, we still need to have a meaningful dialogue to find ways to combat global warming, increase vehicle fuel efficiency and reduce U.S. oil consumption. Although I voted for this legislation, I will continue to fight to ensure environmental protections are not an afterthought in addressing our energy needs.

PROFILE IN LEADERSHIP

**HON. JACK KINGSTON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 25, 2003*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand here today and pay tribute to one of Georgia's truly outstanding citizens. I would like to recognize William Megathlin's contribution to society by presenting this article to the rest of Congress.

[From "Compass", Summer 2003]

PROFILE IN LEADERSHIP—WILLIAM L. MEGATHLIN

Bill Megathlin briefly stretches his lanky frame behind his office desk, pulling his trademark suspenders taut for a moment, then leans forward, making his visitor feel at home. The assistant to the president for strategic initiatives is uncomfortable talking about his leadership skills but not averse to giving a bit of background information.

A native of Miami, Megathlin earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. He went on for a master's degree and a doctorate in counseling at the University of Georgia.

His doctoral dissertation focused on training correctional officers at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary in basic communication skills to better influence inmate behavior. The study, funded by a grant from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, demonstrated such a positive effect on officers and inmates alike that the training method was adopted by other federal and state institutions.

Megathlin launched his academic career at Mississippi State University as an assistant professor of counselor education. During his tenure at MSU, he also worked as a consultant with state and federal criminal Justice agencies.

Though he enjoyed preparing college students to become effective counselors, his heart was in corrections and law enforcement. So when he was offered a position in the highly regarded Department of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University, he and his wife Carol were off to Huntsville, Texas.

In 1971, Megathlin's brother John, suffered a serious head injury in an automobile accident outside Metter. So severe were his injuries that he was rushed to Memorial Hospital in Savannah. Bill and Carol drove through the night to Savannah after hearing of the