

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