

In the intervening six months, while two mediation sessions have occurred, the parties report little or no progress toward reaching a mutually agreeable settlement. While opinions may differ on whether Congress should intervene to settle the on-going case, there is little doubt that Congress should step forward to prevent such an arcane dispute from ever again threatening Alaska's energy industry.

For this reason, I am introducing today legislation identical to S. 822, already introduced by Senators STEVENS and MURKOWSKI, to limit the ability of FERC in the future to make retroactive the impacts of future Quality Bank valuation methodology changes. I plan to push for inclusion of this provision in the energy legislation being considered by Congress this year.

By this legislation, after Dec. 31, 2005, FERC still will be able to change the methodology for determining the value of oil flowing through the pipeline but will not be permitted to apply changes to Quality Bank valuation methodologies on anything other than a prospective basis.

I have proposed this provision to prevent this legal nightmare from happening again. This provision will first eliminate the perverse current incentive for all sides to promote further litigation regarding Quality Bank valuations based on the expectation of a retroactive application of changes that would result in a large economic windfall. The retroactive application of valuation methodology changes encourages the sides in a dispute to sue in hopes of gaining a larger benefit in the future. This is a "lottery," however, that Alaskans are guaranteed to lose.

By setting Dec. 31, 2005 as the date that FERC can no longer apply Quality Bank valuation methodologies on a retroactive basis, the legislation will put the FERC and the litigants on notice that the current dispute must be resolved by the end of this year.

Requiring FERC to apply valuation methodology changes in connection with any future disputes on a prospective basis only will eliminate the risk and uncertainty associated with the prospect of nearly unlimited retroactive application of Quality Bank payment methodology changes. That will allow all Quality Bank participants to be able to conduct business with the certainty of knowing that prices received and paid for oil today cannot be altered years down the road. In addition, this will eliminate the strong incentive that currently exists for some parties to engage in endless litigation, in hopes of gaining windfall benefits from retroactive application changes.

While I, along with Senators STEVENS and MURKOWSKI, continue to call on all sides in the current dispute to compromise and settle this case now, this bill will discourage if not eliminate this type of dispute in the future—a benefit for all Alaskans.

HONORING CHRIST MEMORIAL CHURCH WORSHIP AND MUSIC LEADER JOHN BRIGHT UPON HIS RETIREMENT ON MAY 15, 2005

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christ Memorial Church Music and

Worship Leader John Bright upon his retirement. John Bright, who with the enduring support of his wife Marylin, has faithfully ministered for 40 years, including 23 years at Hope Reformed Church in South Haven, Michigan and 17 years at Christ Memorial Church in Holland, Michigan.

John Bright is a true minister of the Word through his music. He turned Wednesday evening choir rehearsals into a worship experience. He evoked passionate singing in all of the choir's music by asking each member of the choir to personalize the message. He faithfully taught the Christ Memorial Sanctuary Choir the power of communal prayer. His choirs will always be remembered for excellence in singing, bringing clarity to the message and praise to the Lord. John consistently sought to coordinate the message of the music with the message of the Word. He used his God-given gifts and talents to provide a worship atmosphere for everyone who attended his choral-led services. Every performance by John's choirs, be it in a worship or concert setting, was conducted in the context of Psalm 115:1, "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."

His smiling personality refreshed the hearts of the saints as described in Philemon 1:7. John Bright emptied himself so that he could serve all. John's life and music always provide encouragement to those most in need. He brought joy to patients in nursing homes throughout the year, leading them in worship and giving them cards and gifts. He tirelessly accepted the many requests to minister with music at countless weddings, funerals and other events.

Let it be known to all on the 15th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2005, that the members of Christ Memorial Church and the Sanctuary Choir do affirm the above and ask for God's fullest blessings on John Bright as he and Marylin move to the next season of their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Ms. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following vote on April 27, 2005. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 140, on Motion to Recommit H. Res. 22, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that American small businesses are entitled to a Small Business Bill of Rights, I would have voted "no."

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MELINDA RIOS, ARLON SEAY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of

Melinda Rios, Arlon Seay Intermediate School Teacher of the Year.

Melinda Rios holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio. She has accumulated an impressive record of accomplishment in her 19 years of teaching.

Today, Ms. Rios teaches Science and Social Studies to sixth-graders at Arlon Seay Intermediate School in the Comal Independent School District.

Ms. Rios believes that teaching is an interactive process that requires adjustments and alterations to fit each individual student. She sees herself as a resource that students can call on as they work to achieve their life goals.

Ms. Rios' commitment to service, and her willingness to learn and grow in her chosen profession, have made her one of her district's most valuable teachers. She is a tremendously valuable resource for her students, and for all of the families of her community. Her hard work prepares her students for future success, and helps to make them well-rounded citizens.

She is a credit to the Arlon Seay Intermediate School, and I am happy to have had the chance to honor her here today.

TRIBUTE TO MIDAMERICA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT RICHARD SPINDLE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished leader in the fields of higher education and community service who soon will be stepping down after 15 years of valuable service as president of MidAmerica Nazarene University, which is located in the Third Congressional District.

Dr. Richard Spindle is a visionary leader who oversaw significant expansion of MidAmerica Nazarene University during his tenure as president, including a major enrollment increase, construction of two new dormitories, the Cook Center and the Bell Family Arena. Founded in 1966, MidAmerica Nazarene University is a private, liberal arts university offering undergraduate and selected professional and graduate degrees. Since the initial semester of operation, enrollment has increased dramatically and now totals approximately 1,400. A Christian community in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition, MidAmerica Nazarene University seeks to transform the individual through intellectual, spiritual and personal development for a life of service to God, the church, the Nation and the world.

During the past 2 years, I have been privileged to work with Dr. Spindle in a successful effort to obtain federal funding for MidAmerica Nazarene's criminal justice instruction program. He has been a major force for positive change and advancement in the Olathe community and throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. I join with many of our neighbors in wishing Richard and Billy Spindle all the best as they prepare to move to Brazil in August in order to consult with Brazilian Nazarene College.

Mr. Speaker, I am placing in the RECORD a recent news article from the Olathe News, which details a celebration that was held in Dr.