

expenses such as books, lesson materials, math flash cards, crayons, and countless other items that help children learn. H.R. 6111 provides teachers with tax relief that will help defray the significant out-of-pocket cost of educational items for their students and classrooms.

Regarding clean energy, this legislation will extend tax credits for renewable electricity production from sources such as wind, biomass, and landfill gas. It will also extend incentives for commercial and residential use of solar power. Greater tax credits and deductions will help lessen the higher costs typically associated with these types of clean energy. These incentives will also help expand consumer acceptance of renewable energy. And, without consumer demand, businesses are reluctant to develop the technologies to harness these energy sources. H.R. 6111 will extend current tax policies that will foster the development and use of clean energy.

I appreciate Chairman THOMAS' hard work in bringing this legislation to the floor. His skill and dedication to putting together good tax policy will be missed. It has been an honor serving with him on the House Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to vote in favor of H.R. 6111 and am confident that these incentives will help more Americans keep more of what they earn while further stimulating our already robust national economy.

MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY  
CONSERVATION AND MANAGE-  
MENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT  
OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5946, a bill to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This bill is critically important as it will improve the management of our Nation's fisheries, providing a better future for tomorrow. Among other things, the bill ensures that the role of science in the fishery management decision-making process requires annual harvest limits at sustainable levels for virtually all U.S. fisheries and sets out a clear process for ending overfishing where it is occurring. These strict conservation measures are already in effect in the fisheries of the northwest—I am pleased that our management successes will now be replicated in all other regions.

Another key advancement for our Nation's fisheries in this bill is Congress' clarification that certain processes going through the Council process currently will not be negatively affected by the positive changes in current law. Specifically, the cap and trade systems will improve the economics of fishing and enhance the safety of our fishing fleets. Our existing cap and trade programs for sulfur dioxide—which have cut down on acid rain—are being replicated within our fisheries management systems. These programs have helped in curbing some of the effects of global warming, they will now improve fisheries conservation.

I am also pleased that the new legislation will not disrupt the ongoing efforts by the Pacific Fishery Management Council to enhance the management of its ground fish fisheries. The Pacific Council is working diligently to develop a cap and trade or "rationalization" program for its ground fish fisheries. This process has been underway for more than 3 years, and is nearing completion. While the bill requires the Pacific Council to implement an appropriate ground fish management program within 24 months from the date of enactment, and to meet other requirements in law, it does not require the Pacific Council to begin anew in developing that program.

Yet another important provision included in this legislation will create a study on the effects of ocean acidification within the National Research Council. Research into the impacts of high concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the oceans is in its infancy and needs to be developed rapidly. This study is a first step in understanding the problems our oceans will face.

The provisions included in this bill requiring the scientific and statistical committees to provide Councils with recommendations for allowable biological catch, preventing overfishing and achieving rebuilding targets are perhaps the most important. I will be closely following the performances of the regional fisheries councils, their decisions regarding harvest, and their operation and utilization of their respective scientific and statistical committees, as well as the council's use of their scientific and statistical committees' recommendations.

The oceans are absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and this is causing chemical changes by making the oceans more acidic (that is, decreasing the pH of the oceans). In the past 200 years the oceans have absorbed approximately half of the CO<sub>2</sub> produced by fossil fuel burning and cement production. Future generations will benefit greatly from the governments research into this subject.

Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act is a positive step on the road to the healthy management of our ocean systems. I look forward to working with the Resources Committee in the 110th Congress on other positive steps to ensure that our oceans are safe and healthy for future generations.

MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY  
CONSERVATION AND MANAGE-  
MENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT  
OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The pending measure, as passed by the Senate, may be one of the last items on our schedule this Congress, but it is certainly not the least important. The bill would reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in order to guide the management of our marine fisheries through 2013.

We would not be here today if Senators TED STEVENS and DANIEL INOUE had not extended

an olive branch. I am extremely appreciative of the hard work that they and their staffs put into this legislation. I also commend our colleague TOM ALLEN who worked tirelessly on behalf of the fishermen in his district to improve this legislation.

While the pending measure does not do everything I would have liked, it does not roll back the conservation principles in this important fisheries management law. The legislation actually strengthens the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

For the first time, regional fishery management councils will be required to establish catch limits that may not exceed the recommendations of the councils' scientific and statistical committees. We expect the scientific committees are to take into account a wide range of scientific opinions when making their recommendations.

Members of the scientific committees will be required to file financial disclosure forms with the Secretary. This requirement will enable the general public to use the Freedom of Information Act to ascertain whether the scientists are truly independent.

For the most depleted fisheries in our country, the legislation will require the Secretary of Commerce to prepare and implement a rebuilding plan that puts an end to overfishing immediately. This is a significant improvement in the law. Studies have shown that the clearest cause of the lack of progress in rebuilding is the failure of many plans to reduce overfishing on those critically depleted stocks. H.R. 5946 addresses this concern.

Notwithstanding efforts by this Congress to undermine the National Environmental Policy Act, H.R. 5946, as amended, requires full compliance with the law. The Secretary of Commerce is directed to update the procedures for complying with NEPA, but these new procedures will not supercede existing NEPA regulations and guidance issued by the Council on Environmental Quality.

Additionally, H.R. 5946 places a 10-year limit on permits, known as limited access privileges, which are issued to fishermen to harvest a quantity of fish. On this issue, I commend our colleague TOM ALLEN, who worked to ensure that the limited access privilege program conserves fisheries, is accountable, and protects small fishermen from those who would like to consolidate fisheries. The privileges are to be held by fishermen who are actively engaged and substantially participate in the fishery. The regional fishery associations are to maintain free and open markets for fishermen to sell their catch, and are not to force fishermen into unwilling or involuntary arrangements.

H.R. 5946 also encourages the conservation of coral reefs. The bill directs the Secretary to map the locations of deep sea corals for the councils, monitor activity occurring where deep sea corals exist, and develop technologies to assist fishermen in reducing the interactions that fishing gear has with corals.

Finally, the bill authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to undertake activities to reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in international waters. This will assist domestic fishermen who bear the costs when fish harvested illegally result in degraded fish stocks and depressed prices worldwide.

In summary, H.R. 5946 will promote the conservation of our fisheries. The bill does not include everything on my wish list, but it improves upon existing law.

By reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Act in the 109th Congress, we will have more time in the 110th Congress to devote to other ocean issues, including considering the recommendations of the Joint Oceans Commission Initiative.

It is a rare day that I agree with our President, but several months ago he said, "Overfishing is harmful. It's harmful to our country and it's harmful to the world." I agree wholeheartedly and understand that this legislation takes corrective action to curtail overfishing, especially in our most depleted fisheries.

I support the bill, encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

POSTAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND  
ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, as I noted during the December 8, 2006, debate on H.R. 6407, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, this legislation reflects the final version of H.R. 22, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act as passed by the House and Senate.

H.R. 22 passed the House on July 26, 2005 by a vote of 410–20, and the Senate then passed H.R. 22 with an amendment by Unanimous Consent on February 9, 2006. Given that H.R. 6407 is the blended result of the two Chamber's versions of H.R. 22, I believe it is important to make note of the Committee on Government Reform's report on H.R. 22, 109–66, part I, as reported on April 28, 2005.

This committee report is relevant to understanding the provisions of H.R. 6407, particularly because many of the provisions of H.R. 6407 are unchanged from H.R. 22 as reported by the Government Reform Committee. For those looking for additional legislative history on H.R. 6407, the Government Reform Committee report accompanying H.R. 22, 109–66, part I, will provide useful explanations and information.

HONORING MS. GERMAINE  
BROUSSARD

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 27, 2006*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor on behalf of Rep. TOM DAVIS and myself to recognize Ms. Germaine Broussard of McLean, Virginia, for her dedication to sending many cookies and other packages to U.S. troops overseas.

Ms. Broussard is known as the Cookie Lady to those who have benefitted from her kindness. She has already baked and shipped over 51,000 cookies to servicemembers. She has dedicated many hours of her free time and her own resources toward baking cookies to thank U.S. troops.

I am proud to call attention to the dedication of Ms. Broussard. I would also like to share a recent article from *The Stars and Stripes* which describes Ms. Broussard's hard work.

[From the Stars and Stripes, Nov. 21, 2006]

VA. WOMAN COOKING UP EATS GALORE FOR TROOPS

(By Kirsten Brown)

Washington.—When Lt. j.g. Gregory Trach, 34, received an e-mail from Germaine Broussard two years ago asking permission to send cookies to his ship, he thought little of it.

"Thank you for your support of the U.S. military," he responded, then dismissed the request as a thoughtful but meaningless gesture.

A few weeks later, the USS Shreveport received 12 boxes packed with more than 1,800 chocolate chip, peanut butter, oatmeal and sugar cookies. Shocked, Trach sent Broussard a second e-mail: "We thought you were kidding!"

That was Trach's first brush with "the Cookie Lady."

So far, Broussard, 39, has baked and shipped more than 51,000 cookies to servicemembers. The McLean, Va., resident calls her mostly one-woman program "Troop Treats."

It felt like Christmas to Lt. Col. Skip Goodwillie, 45, each time he and his unit opened a box from Broussard. Goodwillie, who is in the Army Reserves, was stationed northeast of Baghdad at Kir Kush military base when he started getting cookies.

"It was just wonderful to have mail call and hear, 'Hey Skip, the Cookie Lady sent us another box,'" Goodwillie said. "It was wonderful for our morale."

The Cookie Lady does get donations, but she pays for most of it out of her own pocket. After her job as a Smith Barney business development associate, Broussard comes home to start mixing batter about 7 p.m. She pulls the last cookies from the oven between 1 and 3 a.m.

"Some people can be a little hesitant about why am I doing this," Broussard said. "I had wanted to do something, but with the Red Cross, you donate money, and they send the box. But our family has always used home-baked cookies, bread, whatever, to be able to say thank you."

Broussard also sends necessities such as travel-sized shampoo, soap, toothpaste, mouthwash and other treats, including DVDs, Cocoa Rice Krispies and cheesecake mix. "It's a small piece of home," she said.

Embedded teddy bears are also part of her effort. Broussard's six "Battle Buddies" bears are dressed in camouflage and she could fill an album with pictures of beaming soldiers posing with their brown battle buddy.

Broussard will soon launch her second holiday project, "Operation Santa's Little Helpers," which enlists children to write cheery cards to the troops. These notes are tucked in red or blue stockings along with presents such as Slinky toys, Silly Putty, playing cards and, of course, candy.

In junior high school, Broussard earned only a "B" in her home economics class. "I don't use a standard one-cup measuring method," she said. "It's just a little of this, little of that. The home ec teacher went crazy. I'd love to go back to that teacher and say, hmm! Wonder who's right now?"

POSTAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND  
ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as was noted during the December 8, 2006, debate

on H.R. 6407, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, this landmark postal reform legislation reflects the final version of H.R. 22, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act as passed by the House and Senate.

H.R. 22 passed the House on July 26, 2005 by a vote of 410–20, and the Senate then passed H.R. 22 with an amendment by unanimous consent on February 9, 2006. H.R. 6407 represents the combination of the Senate and House versions of H.R. 22. As such, the Committee on Government Reform's Report on H.R. 22, 109–66, Part I, as reported on April 28, 2005 is relevant and necessary to understanding the provisions of H.R. 6407, particularly because many of the provisions of H.R. 6407 are unchanged from H.R. 22 as reported by the Government Reform Committee. For those looking for additional legislative history on H.R. 6407, the Government Reform Committee Report accompanying H.R. 22, 109–66, Part I, will provide useful explanations and information.

TAX RELIEF AND HEALTH CARE  
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, allow me to recite from explanatory material prepared for H.R. 6111, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006.

DIVISION B—MEDICARE AND OTHER  
HEALTH PROVISIONS

Section 1. Short title of division

*Current law*

No provision.

*Explanation of provision*

This division may be cited as the "Medicare Improvements and Expansion Act of 2006".

TITLE I—MEDICARE IMPROVED QUALITY AND  
PROVIDER PAYMENTS

Section 101. Physician payment and quality improvement

*Current law*

Medicare payments for services of physicians and certain nonphysician practitioners are made on the basis of a fee schedule. The fee schedule assigns relative values to services that reflect physician work (i.e., the time, skill, and intensity it takes to provide the service), practice expenses, and malpractice costs. The relative values are adjusted for geographic variations in costs. The adjusted relative values are then converted into a dollar payment amount by a conversion factor. The conversion factor for 2006 is \$37.8975.

The conversion factor is the same for all services. It is updated each year according to a formula specified in law. The intent of the formula is to place a restraint on overall spending for physicians' services. Several factors enter into the calculation of the formula. These include: (1) the sustainable growth rate (SGR) which is essentially a cumulative target for Medicare spending growth over time (with 1996 serving as the base period); (2) the Medicare economic index (MEI) which measures inflation in the inputs needed to produce physicians services; and (3) the update adjustment factor which modifies the update, which would otherwise be allowed by the MEI, to bring spending in line