

According to the best science, under any plausible scenario of future international actions to stabilize the climate, the United States will eventually need to reduce its emissions by about 80 percent.

Fortunately, we have some time to get there, as long as we start reducing our total emissions now. And that's what the Safe Climate Act does. It caps U.S. emissions in 2010, and then gradually reduces them by just 2 percent per year until 2020. This gives us over a decade to deploy the cleaner technologies that we already have but aren't using much, such as hybrid vehicles and wind power. After 2020, emissions must fall under the legislation by roughly 5 percent per year, as more advanced technologies, such as biofuels from waste materials and capturing carbon dioxide from power plants, become widely available.

The Safe Climate Act reduces emissions through a flexible, market-based emissions trading program, as well as complementary requirements for cleaner cars and more electricity from renewable energy and efficiency. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy would oversee these programs nationally, while States would retain their authority to act on the State level. In effect, the Safe Climate Act sets the targets and then unleashes market forces and American ingenuity to solve the problem.

This sounds ambitious, and it is. But it is also completely doable, once we decide to act. Look at what we've already achieved. In just over 30 years, from the passage of the Clean Air Act in 1970 to 2002, the total air pollution from all automobiles was reduced by over 60 percent. We achieved these reductions even as the total number of vehicle miles traveled increased by 160 percent and GDP grew by 166 percent.

From 1990 to 1996, in just 6 years, we ended production of key chemicals destroying the Earth's protective tropospheric ozone layer and shifted to substitutes. Those chemicals had been widely used throughout the economy in applications from air conditioning and refrigeration to solvents and fire suppression.

In each case, entrenched industries told Congress that changes of these magnitudes would be impossible to achieve without massive economic dislocation. And in each case, they were wrong.

Our Nation has made dramatic advances in technology that have transformed our lives. We can do it again in developing new innovations for transportation and energy production. The Safe Climate Act will give the market the incentives necessary to unleash American ingenuity and solve the problem.

We've ignored the threat of global warming for almost too long, but we still have an opportunity if we act now. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this critically important bill, and I urge the committee of jurisdiction to consider it without further delay. We must face and overcome the challenge of global warming, and the Safe Climate Act is the way to do it.

H. CON. RES. 62: SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DAY

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, a National Children and Families Day will encourage families to embrace the qualities needed to raise happy and healthy citizens. For example, families teach children the lessons they must learn to live productive and prosperous lives. They care for children by giving them love, warmth, and encouragement while providing food, shelter, and financial support. Strong families build trusting relationships by demonstrating commitment to all the members of the family. This includes following through with promises, working as a team, open and honest communication about important decisions and reflections on the passing day. All families experience crisis, but strong and committed families use these experiences to learn and to grow. Family members should spend time together talking, reading, playing games, and participating in outdoor activities. They should always encourage each other and be involved in their neighborhoods and community, where the strength of our Nation starts. A National Children and Families Day will highlight these important activities in which families engage and their positive effects on our nation.

A National Children and Families Day also would focus our attention on the need for citizens and Congress to work toward ensuring that every child has a loving family. It is so unfortunate that there are millions of children in our country who do not have the ability to experience on a daily basis, a regular basis, or even an occasional basis the love and care of a stable family relationship. These include children who are involved in the child welfare system.

A National Children and Families Day will help members of Congress focus on ways to enhance and improve the quality of life for all children and families via the programs under our jurisdictions, whether by supporting family-friendly business policies, quality health care, or quality child care. Strong families help make a strong Nation.

While we honor the 4th Saturday of June this year in recognition of the importance of children and their families, it must not stop on one day. Every day families must work at keeping each other strong and loved. And we as a Nation and Congress as a body must never cease our support for the American family and the children that are the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO AIR EVAC LIFETEAM

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Air Evac Lifeteam in its celebration of National EMS Week.

The Air Evac Lifeteam serves rural communities and has grown to be the largest inde-

pendently owned and operated membership-based air ambulance service in the United States since its creation in 1985. The company has transported more than 100,000 patients in need, serving as the critical link to improved response time and immediate access to medical care facilities for numerous rural communities across 11 states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Illinois. There are five operational bases in Illinois located in Effingham, Marion, Mt. Vernon, Quincy and Springfield which are strategically positioned to serve over forty Illinois counties. Last year the Air Evac Lifeteam air lifted over 2000 critical patients to advance medical centers.

The Air Evac Lifeteam has 1500 employees with significant professional education and experience. A registered nurse and paramedic are on every mission. Registered nurses average 6 years of critical care experience, with a minimum requirement of 3 years experience. Paramedics average 10 years of active pre-hospital experience, with a minimum requirement of 3 years experience. All medical crew members are certified as well. The Air Evac Lifeteam pilots are skilled and certified aviators that meet Federal Aviation Authority approval and have flown, an average, of more than 5,700 hours.

The National EMS Week celebration will be held at the Effingham base on Thursday, May 24, 2007. There will be a meet and greet of EMS Political IDPH Leaders as well as a host of EMS crews, government officials, hospital administration and staff, local and regional media, plus a variety of Illinois healthcare providers.

I am pleased to congratulate the Air Evac Lifeteam on its accomplishments and its service to the rural communities. I also wish the Air Evac Lifeteam well for its week-long celebration and future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 157, 158, 159, I missed due to airline mixup and malfunction. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF RACHEL R. KLAY

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take a moment today to recognize Rachel Klay, a devoted friend and dedicated public servant who retired from the United States Secret Service on January 19 of this year.

I had the pleasure of getting to know Rachel over the course of her 24-year career with the Secret Service—and I can say, with the utmost confidence, that she served our country with dignity and integrity every step of the way.