

The unnecessary Iraq war has diverted precious resources away from domestic emergencies. Our brothers and sisters here at home are waiting to re-build their lives and homes.

That is why the Green Amendment is so important.

Specifically, the Green Amendment would extend the safety-net of FEMA housing assistance until December 31, 2007 and thereafter transfer eligible households to HUD's tenant-based rental assistance program. Through this amendment, Section 8 vouchers would also be available to households in trailers and mobile homes.

If we do not adopt this amendment, over 120,000 families housed in FEMA-funded trailers, mobile homes and who barely cope in other rental assistance situations could be thrown into further chaos and homelessness when current assistance ends in August. This would further compound the dire affordable housing situation relating to low-income, elderly, and disabled evacuees across the country.

The region is still not back to normal. Consider the fact that there are 51 percent fewer hospital beds in New Orleans than were available pre-Hurricane Katrina according to data released by the NAACP.

Public infrastructure and public institutions are operating below capacity. In New Orleans, only about one-third of the public schools have re-opened. These statistics are staggering.

It is not only a responsibility but a moral duty to do all in our power to restore the dignity and quality of life to all citizens of the Gulf Coast region regardless of their socio-economic, cultural and political status. They are counting on us. I urge my colleagues to support the Green Amendment.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSE
VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1433, The District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act.

I want to encourage my colleagues to vote to extend full representation to the District of Columbia as well as to the state of Utah. The District of Columbia has long been recognized as one of the most Democratic jurisdictions in the Nation. Utah, by contrast, gave President Bush his largest margin of victory in the 2004 presidential elections. Extending rights to both sides of the spectrum would be the most politically neutral way to ensure proper and sufficient representation for all of our citizens.

Regarding the residents of the District of Columbia, they have the full burden of Federal taxation and military conscription. These reasons alone should give the residents of the District of Columbia equal voting rights. In addition, voting rights have been extended to overseas voters, as well as to those in Federal enclaves within a State. Fairness and justice demand that Congress do the same for the citizens of the District, who are subjected to all Federal laws.

Madam Speaker, some argue that the Framers never intended to give the District

voting rights in Congress. In reality, however, the Founding Fathers never actually spoke about the District's rights because it was little more than a contemplated entity at the time. In fact, Congress has plenary power to address the welfare of the District and its residents.

Another concern voiced by those who oppose the bill claim that the residents of the District will demand more rights. This is not necessarily true. However, if the District were to demand more rights, then it would be strictly a legal question and should therefore be reserved for the courts—not the House—to decide what is permissible and what is not.

The District now has a little over half a million people, which was probably never contemplated by the Framers more than 200 years ago. It is my belief that the Framers of the Constitution would probably not support the idea that citizens of the United States are paying Federal taxes without fair and just representation in Congress.

Madam Speaker, it truly is telling and somewhat shameful when several prominent international groups such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the U.N.'s Committee on Human Rights have all advocated for DC residents to obtain equal voting rights. Shouldn't we do the same? I think so. I hope the rest of my colleagues share in this belief and vote favorably on the passage of H.R. 1433.

HONORING LOUISIANA EMPLOYER
BASF-SHREVEPORT

HON. JIM MCCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of a local Louisiana manufacturer. The manufacturer that I am recognizing has demonstrated innovation in manufacturing operations and business growth, as well as, a commitment to community involvement.

BASF-Shreveport, located within my district in Louisiana, was established in 1985 to manufacture and package prescription and over-the-counter pharmaceutical products, liquids, tablets, and creams. Some of their well-known products include ibuprofen, acetaminophen, and silver sulfadiazine burn cream. The economic impact that BASF brings to North Louisiana is significant. The facility employs more than 167 people with an annual payroll of 13.4 million. This local manufacturer has made noteworthy advances in productivity throughout their organization resulting in substantial growth. Because of these accomplishments, BASF-Shreveport will be honored by the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana (MEPOL), with the third annual Platinum Award for Continued Excellence, PACE Award.

MEPOL, a non-profit business resource based at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, serves to provide business and technical assistance to emerging and established manufacturing firms throughout the State of Louisiana. Since 1997, MEPOL, based on a philosophy of education, encouragement, and empowerment, has worked with manufacturers

such as BASF-Shreveport to increase their productivity and profitability.

Working with MEPOL, BASF-Shreveport identified an area of their production that could benefit from the principles of lean manufacturing. Production volume, due to increased demand from their customers, was creating a significant bottleneck in the printing department, where the name of the medication is printed on the tablets. Three days after the printing department completed the quick changeover/set-up reduction training and implementation suggested by MEPOL, the site was able to cut the changeover time required for batches from 2 hours to 17 minutes. This modernization resulted in BASF's increased throughput in the printing areas by 57 percent, allowing it to meet the customer's needs more efficiently. Their dedication to excellence is the reason that they are the recipients of MEPOL's second annual PACE award.

BASF also participates in numerous charity organizations throughout the community including the United Way, March of Dimes and the Salvation Army. I congratulate BASF-Shreveport on being a respected leader in manufacturing whose commitment to advancement and continued success has led to this outstanding achievement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LEONARD K.
PETERS

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize one of the true leaders of the national science community, Dr. Leonard K. Peters. Dr. Peters came to Washington state in 2003 to assume the role of Director of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. During his tenure, the Lab oversaw an impressive growth in business and Len led the world-class PNNL staff to enhance relationships with research universities in the Pacific Northwest. Len has a long history of establishing successful public-private relationships in the science and education sectors.

Dr. Peters came to PNNL from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University where he served as Vice Provost for Research and managed Virginia Tech's ambitious research portfolio with diverse projects ranging from biotechnology to transportation materials. Prior to his time at Virginia Tech, Dr. Peters spent almost twenty years at the University of Kentucky where he served as a professor and eventually as acting Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. Dr. Peters is a distinguished manager and educator and an accomplished researcher in atmospheric chemistry.

As Dr. Peters assumes a new role at Battelle, he will continue to lead and serve in the Tri-Cities area through community outreach programs. He is already actively involved in the region's educational community through his service on the Advisory Board for Washington State University's College of Engineering and Architecture, and the Board of Directors for Heritage University. Locally Dr. Peters chairs the Tri-City Industrial Development Council and serves on the boards of Kadlec Medical Center, the United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties, and Junior Achievement of