

Coal is a critical component of our economy and our energy supply, but unfortunately coal is also a major contributor to climate change. We must find a way to maintain our energy production while decreasing our carbon emissions. Carbon sequestration will be key to that effort.

Carbon sequestration refers to taking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and storing it so that the gas does not re-enter the atmosphere. Right now, companies and governments around the world are enhancing natural carbon storage sources by planting trees and advocating no-till agriculture, among many other activities. But we are still not even close to slowing the increase in greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

Eventually, technology may allow us to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and funnel it underground in long-term, airtight storage areas. But there are many obstacles to the development of technologies and methods that can significantly decrease CO₂ levels in our atmosphere. For example, we still don't know enough about the long-term stability, safety, and reliability of aquifers, coal seams, and other geological formations for CO₂ storage. Nor are we familiar with the technologies to accomplish this on the scale needed to truly decrease global carbon levels.

My legislation will build upon DOE's current carbon capture and storage program created in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. It will improve DOE's regional carbon sequestration partnerships and create seven test projects across the country to learn more about the economics and design of carbon capture and storage technology. It will also help ensure that DOE has the necessary funds to conduct this cutting-edge research.

Although it is already too late to stop the climate from changing, carbon capture and storage—in conjunction with smart energy policies—can help minimize the impact of climate change on future generations.

We must not view taking action against global warming as bringing doom and gloom to industry. Making the right choices about how to address climate change can lead to new technological innovations, a boom in American jobs, and a strengthened economy. But we must begin to make these choices now by investing in the research and development of carbon capture and storage technologies that can address the climate change challenge.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, had I been present on rollcall No. 226 and rollcall No. 227, I would have voted "yea" and "yea."

TRIBUTE TO SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY'S ROTC PROGRAM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great source of pride for my alma mater, South Carolina State University, and our nation's military. The SC State Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) celebrates its 60th anniversary on April 20, 2007. This tremendous program, known as the Bulldog Battalion, has commissioned nearly 2,000 officers in the armed forces, and it has produced nine Army Generals, two Marine Corps Generals and one Air Force General, while contributing a significant number of highly qualified and dedicated soldiers to our nation's military.

Among SC State's notable ROTC graduates are Major General Abraham Turner, a 1976 graduate, who served as the Commanding Officer of Fort Jackson, the Army's largest training base in my hometown of Columbia, South Carolina. Second Lieutenant Jerrette Lee, class of 1983, was chosen during his senior year for the coveted Hughes Award, becoming the first African American and graduate of a Historically Black College or University to receive the honor granted to the top ROTC graduate of the year.

Another proud Bulldog Battalion graduate, Colonel Stephen Twitty, led an infantry battalion into Iraq during the early stages of the war on August 18, 2003. His leadership earned him the Silver Star medal for valor.

The remarkable record of the SC State ROTC is due in part to its rich history and tradition. The program was established in 1947 for the purpose of training infantry officers for the United States Army. In 1949, the program graduated its first class with five of the six graduates receiving Army commissions and the sixth joining the Army Reserves.

In 1954, the program expanded its mission beyond producing only infantry officers. Instead, the ROTC became a General Military Science Program, which enabled graduates to serve in any branch of the Army for which they qualified. From 1947 until 1968, all freshman and sophomore male students were required to enroll in the ROTC program at SC State. Since I am a 1961 graduate, I had the privilege of being part of this tremendous Bulldog Battalion program.

In 1968, SC State partnered with Claflin University, Voorhees College, Orangeburg Technical College and Denmark Technical College to provide ROTC training through SC State's program. The program expanded again in 1972 to allow female cadets to enter for the first time. Today, a total of 254 women have graduated from SC State's ROTC.

Graduates of this prestigious program have participated in every military conflict from World War I to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, representing America with great skill and honor. Today the Bulldog Battalion averages an enrollment of 100 cadets.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring South Carolina State University's ROTC program on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. It is my great privilege to have experienced this wonderful

ROTC program firsthand and to congratulate the program and its graduates today for their extraordinary contributions to our country. America owes a debt of gratitude to South Carolina State for supporting this extraordinary tradition of military excellence and to its graduates for making their alma mater and their nation proud.

THE "KATRINA HOUSING TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2007" H.R. 1562

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1562, the "Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act of 2007," a bill to extend and enhanced credit available for building low income housing under the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005. For far too long the residents of the Gulf Coast have struggled to rebuild their homes, their lives and their communities. They continue to face construction delays that could cost them the Federal assistance promised in the 2005 legislation. I want to encourage my colleagues to support this legislation that will encourage the construction of low-income housing in the areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina while assuring accountability for the tax credits.

The Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 made the affected areas eligible for larger credits to encourage building low-income housing. "GO Zone" benefits are available if the project was built and placed in service before the end of calendar year 2008. H.R. 1562 recognizes the magnitude of the struggle to rebuild the housing stock and it extends the credits for two additional years—2009 and 2010.

As the Member of Congress from North Dakota where 10 years ago the City of Grand Forks was destroyed by a flood and a fire in its aftermath, I know that government can effectively provide Americans help to rebuild our communities when a disaster strikes. The 50,000 residents of Grand Forks were fortunate to have an effective Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) under the leadership of James Lee Witt there to assist them with the momentous task of starting from the ground up after the flood waters receded. Today Grand Forks is flourishing thanks to a well coordinated effort on the part of FEMA. The rebuilding effort drew upon Federal government resources such as Community Development Block Grants which served as a catalyst to encourage accelerated investments in Grand Forks.

This bill permits Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), available because of prior liberalizations, to be combined with all of these enhanced low-income housing credits for affected areas. Under the Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act, qualified projects will not be treated as having below market Federal loans solely by reason of assistance provided under the CDBG. Since many of the GO Zone communities have lost much, if not all, of their economic base, CDBG assistance is vital and will not restrict an otherwise qualifying building from utilizing the higher 9 percent credit. This will encourage builders to deliver more housing to the Gulf Coast communities in desperate need of homes for those who want to return and help rebuild their lives.

Finally, H.R. 1562 would require that the Government Accountability Office submit a report on the allocation and use of these tax incentives in the GO Zone to the Committee on Ways and Means and no later than one year after the date of enactment. I urge passage of H.R. 1562, a common sense bill that brings much relief to the Gulf Region.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN
ACT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, yesterday's decision by the Supreme Court to uphold the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act threatens a woman's right to make her own choices about abortion and consequently choices pertaining to her own body. By upholding the first ever federal abortion ban the Supreme Court has brought us dangerously close to allowing politicians to make decisions regarding the control a woman is allowed over her own body.

The Court has, for the first time since its original ruling in 1973 establishing a woman's right to an abortion, showed no consideration for the health and safety of a woman. The decision is contrary to that of six other federal courts throughout the country. This decision disallows exceptions to be made in instances where a woman's health is at risk. In circumstances where the banned procedure is the safest for the health of the female patient, doctors will be powerless, except under threat of a two year criminal penalty, to do the right thing for their patient. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, representing ninety percent of these medical officials, agrees that the ban causes interference in medical decision making and is detrimental to women's health.

The Court's decision forces us to look at where our society really is in respect to the rights and equality of women. How can we, in good conscience, tell the young women of today that they are equal and able to accomplish their dreams if at the same time society is seeking to control their actions and make decisions with regard to their own bodies? I empathize with the frustration that women around the country are feeling today; I realize the greater restrictive implications implied by the Court's ruling.

I imagine that a woman's decision to have an abortion, under any circumstances, must be one of the most difficult she will make in her life. It is a very private, very personal decision that is to be made by her and may include the support of family, friends and medical professionals. It is not a decision that is made lightly or without consequence. Today's decision has perilously hindered a woman's privacy and safety by allowing politics to interfere in medical decisions.

We must end the divisiveness that surrounds the issue of abortion so that we may begin the long overdue healing process. We must work to limit the need for abortions while at the same time ensuring safety. Access to prenatal and postnatal care through expanded Medicare coverage will be an important component as well as a living wage. I will maintain

my support for social programs, and maternal and child nutrition programs to strengthen vulnerable families. I will continue to stand behind programs that teach sex education, domestic family planning and promote the use of contraception.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY
MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters regarding H. Res. 273, "Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month."

COUNTRYWIDE,

Calabasas, CA, April 12, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Of-
fice Building, Washington, DC.

Re: Support for H. Res. 273.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA AND CONGRESSWOMAN BIGGERT: On behalf of Countrywide Financial Corporation I want to commend you and your colleagues in the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus for the introduction of H. Res. 273, which supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

Founded in 1969 on the belief that all Americans should have the opportunity to own a home, Countrywide has become the largest home mortgage lender in the nation and a leader in providing home loans to first-time buyers, minorities and low- and moderate-income families. Today, Countrywide has grown to more than 54,000 employees with 900 retail offices nationwide. We at Countrywide share the sentiments and concerns expressed in H. Res. 273, and we strongly support the goal of improving the quality and reach of financial education in America, particularly to lower- and moderate-income individuals and families.

To that end, in conjunction with Financial Literacy Month Countrywide has launched its Home Ownership Mortgage Education (H.O.M.E.) program. The H.O.M.E. program is a comprehensive online reference tool, available at www.HomeBvCountrywide.com, providing consumers with information on all aspects of homeownership, from basic personal finance to life as a homeowner. By offering this financial and homebuyer education program, Countrywide supports consumers' ability to make well-informed financial decisions as they pursue the dream of homeownership.

The H.O.M.E. program is a further extension of Countrywide's founding mission and one of several education initiatives that Countrywide supports. In January 2005, Countrywide announced a \$1 million, five-year commitment to the U.S. Conference of Mayors' DollarWise Campaign. As a founding sponsor of the campaign, Countrywide supports Capacity Grants, a component of the campaign that makes grants to cities that are developing or expanding local financial education strategies for consumers. More than 100 cities now conduct local DollarWise campaigns and Capacity Grants have been awarded to the following cities: Pleasanton (CA), Quincy (IL), Bowling Green (KY), Quad Cities (IL, IA), Detroit, Savannah and Miami.

Again, I want to express my personal support and that of our employees for H. Res. 273, and for the goals and ideals of the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus.

Sincerely,

ANGELO R. MOZILO,
Chairman and CEO.

STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES,
Bloomington, IL, April 12, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
Rayburn House Office Building, House of Rep-
resentatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
Longworth House Office Building, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: As a leader in insurance and financial services, State Farm® strongly supports H Res. 273. This resolution in support of the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month clearly illustrates the need for increased efforts to build financial and economic literacy in the United States, especially among young people.

State Farm is committed to promoting financial literacy among Americans of all ages. In 2006, State Farm contributed more than \$1.3 million dollars to financial literacy programs; and, in 2007, we will contribute nearly \$2 million. Our contributions target the issue of financial literacy in many ways, from grassroots efforts that are led by youth, to training aimed at teacher education, to content designed for adults.

On behalf of State Farm, I congratulate you both on your continued leadership of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus. Your commitment to promoting the importance of financial literacy through events like the upcoming Financial Literacy Day on the Hill benefits not only your constituents, but thousands of other Americans seeking access to higher education, homeownership, retirement savings, and other fundamental financial goals.

We look forward to a continued relationship with you as we work to address this very important issue. If State Farm can serve as a resource to you or the Caucus, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. FERNANDEZ,
Vice President, Public Affairs.

CONSUMER MORTGAGE COALITION,
Washington, DC, April 15, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. Judy Biggert,
House of Representatives,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: The Consumer Mortgage Coalition, a trade association of national mortgage lenders, servicers, and service providers, strongly endorses the bi-partisan Congressional resolution, H.R. 273, supporting April as "Financial Literacy Month". We applaud and thank you and all of the cosponsors of this resolution for your efforts to both raise awareness about the critical need for financial education in the United States and encourage the government and the private sector to work towards our common goal on this issue.

Our nation's finance system offers access to capital and mortgage credit to consumers of almost every economic condition. This has contributed significantly to raising our nation's homeownership rate to the highest in history. Homeownership remains the fundamental first step towards an individual's ability to accumulate personal wealth, as