

Second, the bill closes a legal loophole by banning the importation of any product containing phased-out HCFCs, beginning January 1, 2010. The importation of bulk HCFCs for use in new products is already banned on that date.

Third, the bill establishes a mechanism for destroying ozone depleting substances such as those that currently exist in refrigerators and air conditioners before they are released into the atmosphere. The legislation takes a bifurcated approach to ensure the destruction of these chemicals. Beginning January 1, 2010, any person seeking to produce or import an amount of a phased-out ozone depleting substance, considered to be a class I substance under the Clean Air Act, must offset this production or importation by destroying or securing the destruction of three times this amount of ozone depleting substances based on an ozone-depletion potential equivalent basis.

The bill takes a more graduated approach with regard to substances deemed to be class II substances under the Clean Air Act, or HCFCs. Beginning January 1, 2012, any person seeking to produce or import an amount of a class II substance must offset this production or importation by destroying or securing the destruction of 1.2 times this amount of ozone depleting substances based on an ozone-depletion potential equivalent basis. The offset ratio for class II substances is increased to a two-to-one ratio in 2015.

Another mechanism for addressing banks of ozone depleting substances is the creation of the Refrigeration Environmental Management Council. This nonprofit organization will have a board of directors composed of industry representatives, government officials, and public citizens. It will collect an assessment of 30 cents per pound on new refrigerants in order to provide a \$1 per pound incentive for destroying, recycling, or reusing existing ozone depleting substances.

Finally, the bill requires the EPA Administrator to promulgate regulations extending existing recycling requirements governing CFCs and HCFCs to substitutes for these chemicals. The effect of this provision will be to require EPA to finalize the June 11, 1998, proposed rule on this subject.

Collectively, these provisions will have a tremendous impact. The bill addresses ozone depleting substances that have yet to be produced as well as existing banks of substances that may yet be emitted into the atmosphere. The bill addresses older CFCs as well as newer HCFCs. And the bill addresses international negotiations as well as domestic initiatives.

According to the Alliance for Responsible Atmospheric Policy, an industry coalition made up of some 50 companies and trade associations, the proposed refrigerant management program is projected to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 81 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. It will also annually reduce approximately 6,000 tons of ozone depletion potential. By 2015, it is projected to generate approximately \$1 billion to fund incentives for recovery, reclamation and destruction of refrigerant compounds. In its entirety, the legislation should deliver greenhouse gas emissions reductions greater than the global reductions required by the Kyoto Protocol.

The Alliance for Responsible Atmospheric Policy has been extremely cooperative and

creative in this process, and I am grateful for their support. This industry has been an important player in the global ozone protection effort for more than two decades. The members of the Alliance have played a critical role in making the Montreal Protocol and implementation of Title VI of the Clean Air Act the successes that we are celebrating this year. The Alliance's support for efforts like the Refrigerant Environmental Management Council indicates a willingness to help achieve important environmental goals in economically sensible ways.

I'd also like to commend the Natural Resources Defense Council. As a premier environmental group with expertise in both the Montreal Protocol and climate change issues, their expertise was invaluable in developing this legislative proposal.

The dramatic benefits from this consensus, balanced bill are the result of a process that started with state-of-the-art science and then explored common-sense, cost-effective measures.

There are a few matters that came up during our discussions that are worth noting for the record. First, as is clear under section 601 of the Clean Air Act, the definition of "produce," does not include substances that are entirely consumed in the manufacture of other chemicals. This definition is important in understanding which chemicals will require destruction offsets under Section 5 of the legislation.

Second, the recycling requirements under Section 6 are not intended to apply to foam, which is evident from the plain language of the legislation.

Finally, the fire suppression provision in Section 4 is intended to address a specific problem that applies to one chemical that is used for fire suppression. It is the stakeholders' understanding that a fire suppression chemical which is currently used in aviation applications is scheduled to be phased out in 2015. Unfortunately, the alternatives to this chemical are currently much worse from a climate change perspective. Since this application represents only 22 ozone depletion potential tons from 2015 to 2030, the legislation would grant the Administrator the authority to permit its continued use as long as no better alternatives are available.

Global warming is an enormous challenge. To fight global warming, we will need to examine every sector of our society. We'll need to increase energy efficiency. We'll have to reduce emissions from transportation and electricity generation. We'll need to move away from the dirty technologies of the past and embrace new, clean technologies.

I hope my colleagues will support the Global Climate and Ozone Layer Protection Act of 2007 so that we can begin to take those steps.

LEGISLATION ENCOURAGING
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation encouraging teacher development in the schools the most in need of quality instruction.

Five years ago, we passed the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) with the goals of closing the achievement gap and improving academic performance overall. Schools have found some success during those five years, but I believe we need to make a number of changes to NCLB to make it more supportive for educators. We need to invest in our teachers.

Madam Speaker, our teachers are the most important element in our educational system. It is our teachers who connect with our children and inspire them to achieve.

I am introducing the Support Our Schools With Quality Teaching Act of 2007 to provide professional development opportunities for our teachers in struggling or at-risk schools.

Specifically, this legislation authorizes federal grant funding for schools to invite the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) to implement its Targeted High Need Initiative (THNI) in schools in need. The NBPTS trains teachers to become professionally certified.

Under the THNI program, teachers at struggling schools undergo a portion of the rigorous curriculum to become a professionally certified teacher. The training comes from certified teachers who provide mentoring and training.

Once the program is over, teachers at the school site have the option of going on to complete professional certification without cost to them when they agree to remain at the high-need school.

The Support Our Schools With Quality Teaching Act targets funding to the schools the most in need of quality teaching, such as those falling into Program Improvement under No Child Left Behind or those with high student populations from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support professional teacher development in the schools that could benefit from the best possible instruction.

HELSINKI HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today marks the 32nd anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, which ushered in civil and political liberties for millions of oppressed Europeans. Most importantly, the Helsinki Final Act created a strong international framework that continues to promote liberty and peace in a region that extends beyond the traditional boundaries of Europe. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the U.S. Helsinki Commission, which I am privileged to chair, serve as invaluable institutions which ensure that countries honor their Helsinki Final Act commitments. The U.S. Helsinki Commission is proud of our role as the conduit between both Houses of the U.S. Congress, the Executive Branch, foreign governments and civil society.

As President Gerald Ford said during the Helsinki Accords, "History will judge this conference not by what we say here today, but by what we do tomorrow, not by the promises we make, but by the promises we keep." We continue to respect this profound statement and