

improving the condition of his fellow man for nearly 50 years.

**POPCORN WORKERS LUNG
DISEASE PREVENTION ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2693) to direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue a standard regulating worker exposure to diacetyl:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Popcorn Workers Lung Disease Prevention Act.

Bronchiolitis obliterans frequently referred to as popcorn lung is a serious and debilitating lung disease, which has resulted in severe illness and even death of workers in popcorn and flavor production. This irreversible disease has been linked with exposure to the artificial butter chemical, diacetyl. However, despite this knowledge, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has not issued a single regulation for diacetyl. In fact, OSHA has not issued a single worker safety standard in the last 7 years, except for one ordered by a court.

This legislation requires OSHA to issue an emergency standard within 90 days to minimize worker exposure to diacetyl in popcorn and flavorings manufacturing plants. It also requires OSHA to develop a permanent and more comprehensive standard within the next 2 years to regulate diacetyl exposure in all workplaces.

The Popcorn Workers Lung Disease Prevention Act is supported by a wide range of organizations including the Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association, the AFL-CIO, the American Society of Safety Engineers, and the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

All workers have the right to a safe and healthy workplace. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 2693.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE STATE
VIDEO TAX FAIRNESS ACT OF 2007**

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the State Video Tax Fairness Act of 2007. This legislation will ensure that video competition remains robust, states retain the ability to raise revenue through sales taxes, and, most importantly, consumers are not harmed.

Discriminatory sales taxes harm consumers. It is well-established that robust competition for substitutable products generally benefits consumers by yielding lower prices and greater quality.

A number of states, however, have enacted what may be deemed to be discriminatory sales taxes on DBS service, with no burden or a lesser burden placed on cable subscribers,

and more states are threatening to do so. These states impose a higher sales tax on nationally distributed DBS subscribers than they do on cable or other types of video providers.

The legislation that I am introducing today will ensure fair taxation to all consumers, and I hope to conduct hearings and request a GAO study of this issue.

The State Video Tax Fairness Act of 2007 would prohibit discriminatory taxes against any pay-TV service and apply the non-discrimination principle to taxes on both services and equipment.

State revenues would not be impacted. The Act would allow states to tax pay-TV providers or their subscribers, provided that such taxes are applied equally to all such services, including cable and DBS.

Consumers Union and Media Access Project, in separate letters submitted to this record, point out that artificial cost increases to the consumer imposed on one category of service provider can undermine the consumer benefits of competition. A discriminatory sales tax placed on one type of provider but not another is such an artificial cost.

National Taxpayers Union, in a letter submitted to this record, points out that, at the very least state and local governments should not discriminate among products or services by disadvantaging one with heavier taxes. Discriminatory sales taxes against DBS subscribers set a dangerous precedent for picking and choosing winners and losers in a marketplace based on who receives the most favorable sales tax treatment, rather than who provides the best value to consumers.

I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

**COMMENDING SIDNEY PHILLIPS,
OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS
SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II**

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Dr. Sidney Phillips of Mobile, Alabama, for his courageous service during World War II. At just 17 years of age when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, young Sidney Phillips signed up for the Marines.

After training, Pvt. Phillips was assigned to H Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and taught to operate the 81 mm mortar. He went overseas in the spring of 1942 first to New Zealand, and then to the Solomon Islands that August where he participated in the landings on Guadalcanal. He survived four months of combat on the island and fought in many battles, including the Battle of the Tenaru.

At the end of 1943, he was sent to New Guinea for training and participated in the invasion of Cape Gloucester, on the western tip of New Britain. In 1944, he was sent back to the United States for the V-12 naval officer training program. He was still in training when the war ended, and was able to return to Mobile.

His story is told in the Ken Burns' documentary series "The War." He is now a retired physician living in Theodore. In 1997, Dr. Phil-

lips penned his war memoir entitled, "You'll Be Sor-reel!"

Madam Speaker, the recognition of Dr. Sidney Phillips in "The War" documentary is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Dr. Phillips and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

**IN HONOR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF HOOPER,
WA**

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the town of Hooper, WA, as they celebrate their 125th anniversary this year. This town has come a long way since four McGregor brothers, John, Archie, Peter and Alec, established the McGregor Land & Livestock Company in Hooper over a century ago. Hooper joins a long list of small communities in Washington State that have found a way to strive and succeed over the years through the trials and tribulations of an ever changing agriculture industry.

Through the efforts of the community, Hooper has come to symbolize the importance of working together to restore and preserve a rich history. The citizen's commitment to revitalizing the buildings and grounds of the area is outstanding. Seeing refurbished early 20th century buildings like the Hooper Hotel, Hooper Store, and U.S. Post Office conjures memories of simpler times in Washington State's history when rough herdsman, seasonal workers, and aspiring immigrant farmers would come out west in search of the American Dream.

The legacy of these brave individuals will echo for centuries. Due to the hard work and diligence in breaking out land and experimenting with agriculture methods in this part of the country, we now enjoy one of the most successful agriculture industries in the nation. More than 120 families in Whitman County alone have farmed and ranched here for a century or more. Whitman County is the leading wheat producing county in the United States; the Hooper area contributes greatly to this impressive statistic.

What a thrill it must have been to enjoy the company of nearly 400 past and present residents of Hooper during their celebration in August. I am certain we will all be in awe as the beautiful restoration continues in Hooper. This town has been a diamond in the rough for Whitman County since 1882.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the town of Hooper and people who have made it such a wonderful part of Washington State history over the years. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the community of Hooper, WA as they celebrate 125 years together.