

Utah, and Wyoming hold the equivalent of as little as 1.8 trillion barrels of oil and potentially as much as 8 trillion barrels of oil. In comparison, Saudi Arabia reportedly holds proved reserves of 267 billion barrels. Unfortunately, oil shale is roughly equivalent to diesel fuel and a number of Clean Air Act regulations—such as low-sulfur diesel—and Federal motor fuel taxes, which favor gasoline over diesel fuels—have created a strong financial disincentive regarding the production and use of oil shale fuels. In addition, many of these deposits are on public land making it more bureaucratically complicated to exploit this resource. My bill provides a financial incentive for companies to invest in and produce more oil from oil shale.

Getting more domestic oil on the market is only half the solution. We haven't built a new refinery in this country in more than 25 years because the approval process for new refinery construction is estimated to require up to 800 different permits. While existing refineries have undergone significant expansion over the years, even as others have been shuttered, our aging refinery infrastructure leaves little margin for error. If we begin to produce more domestic crude oil we would need to turn it into home heating oil, gasoline, or diesel through the refining process. The ability to refine oil must keep pace with the demand for gasoline and diesel. My bill would expedite the construction of new refining capacity by streamlining the permitting process and opening up closed military bases for construction.

Clearly, developing new oil fields and refineries will take some time. In the interim my bill will help promote the switch to flexfuel and hybrid cars and trucks; extend important alternative energy tax credits; and provide individuals and truckers a vitally needed fuel price tax relief package. It also opens up land for the production of biofuel crops in order to provide relief from high food prices as a result of ethanol production.

Again, I believe in conservation, I believe in energy efficiency, and I believe in diversifying our energy supply by using wind, solar, coal-to-liquid technologies, ethanol and other renewable energy sources. But the fact of the matter is that oil and natural gas are still going to be a part of our energy mix for a long time to come and we must give our constituents some relief now.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS WATSON  
MOSS, JR.

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, tomorrow would be the 83rd birthday of Thomas Watson Moss, Jr. However, Mr. Moss passed little more than 1 month short of starting his 83rd year. I rise today to offer my condolences and prayers to his family and share the story of a remarkable man. It is an honor to have this opportunity. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a member of the "Greatest Generation" and a unique and notable individual.

Thomas Moss was born in Forsyth County, Georgia, on July 18, 1925, and grew up in the midst of the Great Depression. Like many of his generation, he answered the call of his

country and proudly served in World War II after graduating from Gainesville High School and attending North Georgia College. During his service as a medic in the U.S. Navy, during which he was attached to the Marine Corps, he participated in some of the seminal battles in the Pacific theater, including the invasion of Okinawa. He received two Purple Hearts and a Presidential Military Citation for his exemplary service.

After returning from the Pacific, Mr. Moss joined the family business, Moss Equipment Company, in Buford, Georgia. In addition to his success in business, Mr. Moss was active throughout in his community and state. The dedication to his country and his value of serving others was clear through his time with the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce, Buford Kiwanis Club and the Georgia Farm Equipment Dealers Association. He was one of the founding members of the Gwinnett County Fair Association, served in the Georgia legislature and on the Buford school board.

The tremendous impact he had on his community is incredible and indicative of his generation; where service, duty and honor were the guiding principles. Despite the demands on his time in business and civic activities, Mr. Moss was the pillar of his family and is survived by his wife of 58 years, Martha Smith Moss, two children, Mark and Lisa, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Tom and Martha's daughter Linda preceded Tom in death many years ago.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues and the American people will pause with me in recognition of a life well lived and learn from the example Mr. Moss set for his family, his community and his country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 503 on the Bishop Amendment to H.R. 415, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO  
CLARIFY AUTHORITY OF SEC-  
RETARY OF AGRICULTURE RE-  
GARDING ADDITIONAL REC-  
REATIONAL USES OF NATIONAL  
FOREST SYSTEM LANDS SUB-  
JECT TO SKI AREA PERMITS

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to revise the 1986 law dealing with use of National Forests for ski areas in order to reflect current ways those areas are used and to provide clear authority for the Forest Service to allow additional recreational uses of those areas.

I have long thought it is in the national interest to encourage Americans to engage in outdoor recreational activities that can contribute

to their health and well-being, and that National Forest lands, including ski areas, can play a role by providing opportunities for such activities.

And my interest in the subject was heightened earlier this year when representatives of the National Ski Areas Association brought to my attention the fact that the National Forest Ski Areas Permit Act of 1986, which speaks only to "nordic and alpine skiing," does not reflect the full spectrum of snowsports for which ski areas are now used, and what they described as the absence of clear authority for the Forest Service to permit use of ski areas for other summer, seasonal, or year-round outdoor recreational activities and facilities in support of those activities.

To better understand the matter, I sent a letter asking the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and the Environment whether current law could be clearer on those points. Under Secretary Mark Rey replied that the 1986 legislation indeed did not address those matters and that, if requested, the USDA "would be happy to work with you to amend" the law to provide the Forest Service with clear authority regarding such activities and facilities.

I did request and receive technical suggestions from the Forest Service, and have considered their input as well as suggestions from the National Ski Areas Association and other interested parties in developing the bill I am introducing today.

The bill intentionally uses a number of terms and phrases based on the terminology of the Forest Service's regulations, manual, or other official documents because those terms and phrases are familiar not only to the Forest Service but also to permittees and others with an interest in the management of the National Forests. Thus, as used in the bill the term "developed recreation" means recreation that occurs at an area which has been improved or developed for that purpose—such as camping in constructed campgrounds or developed opportunities for off-highway-vehicle use as well as downhill skiing. Similarly, the term "natural-resource-based recreation" is intended to have the same meaning as when used in the Forest Service manual 2300 (Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Management).

It also should be noted that the bill deals only with the 1986 National Forest Ski Areas Act, and would not in any way affect any other law applicable to management of the National Forests or any permits issued under any of those laws.

Ski area permits under the 1986 law do give their holders a priority with respect to commercial use of the lands subject to the permits, but they do not preclude general use of those lands by the public for compatible, non-commercial uses, and the bill would not change that. In fact, the bill does not affect the status, the duration, or any other provision of any permit already issued under the 1986 law, nor does it provide for any new permits. Instead, it makes clear that the Forest Service is authorized—but not required—to allow a current or future holder of a permit under the 1986 law to provide opportunities for additional developed recreational activities (and to place associated facilities) on the lands covered by that permit if the specified requirements are met and if the Forest Service decides it would appropriate for that to occur.