

INTRODUCTION OF THE GEORGES
BANK PRESERVATION ACT**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I am introducing the Georges Bank Preservation Act today because America's most valuable fishery and one of the Nation's most important marine areas, Georges Bank, will be in the crosshairs of the oil and gas industry when the moratorium on offshore drilling expires October 1. Georges Bank is a fragile environmental region that is already recovering from other recent pressures like over-fishing. Allowing oil and gas drilling in Georges Bank could forever destroy this ecosystem and our nation's most important fishery.

This legislation would prohibit the Federal Government from issuing any lease authorizing exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas in Georges Bank. Keeping protections against drilling in Georges Bank would affect less than 2 percent of Federal land on the outer Continental Shelf. The legislation would also protect any areas designated as marine national monuments or national marine sanctuaries, including the Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Massachusetts. The language in the Georges Bank Preservation Act is identical to what was included in H.R. 6899, which has already passed the House in an overwhelming, bipartisan vote of 236–189.

The Northeast fishery landings are valued at approximately \$800 million annually and Georges Bank is the key to the region. New Bedford, MA is by far the most productive fishing port in the United States, in terms of value of catch. Its \$268 million catch in 2007 was nearly equal to the combined value of the catches of Dutch Harbor, AK and Kodiak Harbor, AK—the second and third most valuable fishing ports in the Nation. New Bedford has been number 1 for 8 straight years. Last year, commercial fishing brought nearly \$350 million into Massachusetts alone.

There has been a moratorium on fishing in areas of Georges Bank for over a decade and we are seeing signs of recovery. If we were to allow oil drilling at this critical time in the recovery of Georges Bank, it would be disastrous to the full restoration of this critical marine habitat.

Canada—which has a claim to approximately one-fifth of Georges Bank—recognizes the region's importance and fragility and has a moratorium on drilling in the area through 2012. We need to send a signal to Canada that we too will keep in place the protections against drilling in this unique marine ecosystem.

Georges Bank is geologically and biologically unique. Warm and cold currents come together and circulate to help make the shallow water's depth, temperature, and nutrient content perfect for life. Georges Bank is home to more than 100 species of fish and shellfish, including cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder, herring, and sea scallops.

While I will continue to fight for a full extension of the moratorium on offshore drilling on the east and west coasts of the United States, I am introducing this bill today—along with my colleagues in the Massachusetts delegation, to

highlight the vital importance of protecting the Georges Banks and other particularly sensitive offshore lands from the environmental hazards associated with oil and natural gas exploration and production.

We must not let Big Oil claim one of New England's most important economic and environmental treasures. The Georges Bank Preservation Act will prevent the oil and gas industry from invading America's most precious fishery and one of our Nation's most unique marine habitats.

HONORING CHARLES WILSON
ANDREWS**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Wilson Andrews of Blue Springs, MO. Charles is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1205, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Charles has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles Wilson Andrews for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Speaker, as per the requirements of the Republican Conference Rules on earmarks, I secured the following earmarks in H.R. 2638.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LOBIONDO.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Air Force, Military Construction, Air National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: 177th Fighter Wing.

Address of Requesting Entity: 400 Langley Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234.

Description of Request: Provide \$8.4 million for the construction of Phase I of a two phase Operations and Training Facility for the 177th Fighter Wing at the Atlantic City International Airport in Egg Harbor Township, NJ. The facility will house key wing administrative functions to better enable the 177th to perform its Air Sovereignty Alert mission in defense of the homeland.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LOBIONDO.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Army—Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: (1) Drexel University, (2) Waterfront Technology Center.

Address of Requesting Entity: (1) 3141 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, (2) 200 Federal Street, Suite 300, Camden, NJ 08103.

Description of Request: Provide \$3.2 million for Applied Communications and Information Networking (ACIN). ACIN enables the warfighter to rapidly deploy state-of-the-practice communications and networking technology for warfighting and National Security. This funding will build on funding from previous years to fully develop this technology.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LOBIONDO.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Air Force—Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Accenture.

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Federal Street, Suite 300, Camden, NJ 08103.

Description of Request: Provide \$1.6 million for Distributed Mission Interoperability Toolkit (DMIT). DMIT is a suite of tools that enables an enterprise architecture for on-demand, trusted, interoperability among and between mission-oriented C4I systems. This spending will build on funding from previous years to allow DMIT to be extended to Joint and coalition requirements, and address current weaknesses in Air Force management years ahead of current schedules. Adoption by major programs and commercial entities would lead to savings in the \$100 millions on current and future DOD programs.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LOBIONDO.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Army—Other Procurement.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: L-3 Communications Corp.—East.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1 Federal Street, Camden, NJ 08103.

Description of Request: Provide \$2.4 million for Battlefield Anti-Intrusion System (BAIS). BAIS is the U.S. Army's type standard tactical Unattended Ground Sensor (UGS) system for physical security/force protection. The system uses Seismic/Acoustic Sensors (SAS) to detect and classify potential threats for forward intelligence collection or perimeter self-protection. To date, 773 systems plus spares have been fielded representing less than 10% of the Army's Acquisition Objective, yet approved fielding requirements for small unit protection and perimeter security exceed 8,933 systems. This \$6.0 million will provide 270 additional BAIS units to the Army.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LOBIONDO.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Navy—Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: McGee Industries.

Address of Requesting Entity: 9 Crozenville Road, Aston, PA 19014-0425.

Description of Request: Provide \$2.0 million for Improved Corrosion Protection for the ElectroMagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) for the CVN-21 class of carriers. The environment around aircraft carrier catapults is among the most corrosive (i.e. seawater spray, heat, deck contaminants) with which the Navy must contend. No reliable corrosion or fracture data exists for the new EMALS configuration and