

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 210 seeks to express the sense of the House of Representatives that providing breakfast in schools through the National School Breakfast Program has a positive impact on classroom performance. I salute my colleague, Rep. MOORE from Wisconsin, in her efforts to promote the National School Breakfast Program, and to recognize the positive impact that it has on our students. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

It has often been said that the children are our future. As Members of Congress and adults, we must do all that we can to provide their well-being, safety, and excellence in school.

A former U.S. Surgeon General once articulated, "This is expensive stupidity . . . trying to educate children with half starved bodies." While educators, parents and policymakers generally agree that children need breakfast in order to learn, function and grow, the nation still has a ways to go to insure that all needy and at-risk children receive a daily school breakfast. While nearly 100,000 individual schools across the country offer a school lunch, more than 15,000 of them still do not make breakfast available to children who are in need. In some states, only 50–60% of the schools serving students lunch also provide them with a breakfast to start the day.

We must endorse programs aimed to enhance the educational welfare of our children. As President Obama recently stated in his first address to a joint session of Congress, "These education policies will open the doors of opportunity for our children. But it is up to us to ensure they walk through them."

Beginning over twenty years ago, and continuing today, scholarly research has established that the School Breakfast Program significantly improves the cognitive abilities and learning capacities of children. Matched controlled studies, for example, indicate that low-income children who receive school breakfasts do significantly better on a variety of indicators than low-income peers who go without breakfasts. Notably, the better outcomes associated with school breakfast include both educational preparedness (attendance, energy, alertness, memory) and educational outcome measures (math scores, grades, reading ability).

When a child misses even one meal, let alone experiences chronic food shortages, impairments occur whether they are lethargy and inattention, tiredness and distraction, or actual physical symptoms such as stomachaches and headaches. The research from the United States Department of Agriculture shows that feeding children breakfast in school helps to

prevent these adverse outcomes. Children getting breakfast at school also are sick less often, have fewer problems associated with hunger, such as dizziness, stomachaches and ear aches, and do significantly better than their peers who do not get a school breakfast in terms of cooperation, discipline and interpersonal behaviors.

Mr. Speaker, our failure to fully utilize the School Breakfast Program has substantial costs, costs that greatly reduce the return on educational investment in communities and states across the nation. Moreover, longer-term costs also are borne by young children who arrive at school unable to fully participate in the educational process due to lack of adequate nutrition.

We, as Members of Congress, cannot allow for a matter such as child hunger, which we as Congress can help eradicate, to act as an impediment to the education of our children. President Obama articulated very fittingly, that "in a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity—it is a pre-requisite."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 210, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that providing breakfast in schools through the National School Breakfast Program has a positive impact on classroom performance, because the School Breakfast Program represents a key way to protect these children and to get a better return on educational investments as well.

FEDERAL LAND ASSISTANCE, MANAGEMENT, AND ENHANCEMENT (FLAME) ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act, or the FLAME Act.

Last year, our country experienced the devastating effects of catastrophic, emergency wildland fires in California. For the past several years, we have witnessed tragic fire seasons that have put American lives and our treasured public lands in harm's way. Fire seasons are getting longer and more intense due to climate change, drought, and other factors.

As a result, federal fire suppression spending has increased substantially over the past 10 years and projections appear to indicate that this trend will continue into the foreseeable future.

The dramatic rise in these costs is eroding other non-fire programs and impacting the core mission of the Federal land management agencies. In the case of the Forest Service, for example, wildland fire suppression activities now account for approximately 48 percent

of its budget. This creates a sad trend: our Forest Service is turning into the Fire Service.

Furthermore, both the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior have had to "Rob Peter to Pay Paul" by borrowing funds from other agency accounts to cover the escalating costs of wildland fire suppression. In 2007, for example, the Forest Service spent \$741 million more than was budgeted for wildland fire suppression, and the Department of the Interior spent \$249 million more than was budgeted for wildland fire suppression. And in the case of the Forest Service, the costs of catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression activities account for the vast majority of suppression expenditures, as two percent of fires account for 80 percent of costs.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that something needs to be done to resolve this problem. That is why today I am reintroducing the FLAME Act.

The FLAME Act establishes a federal FLAME fund for catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression activities. The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior may declare catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression activities eligible for the FLAME fund by issuing a Suppression Emergency Declaration. The declaration will evaluate the size, severity, and threat of the individual wildland fire incident.

The FLAME Act continues our stewardship of all lands by making funds available for catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression activities on State and private land consistent with existing agreements. Funds will also be available for catastrophic, emergency wildland fire suppression on Indian lands.

The FLAME Act also requires that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit a long-overdue report to Congress containing a cohesive wildland fire management strategy. This report will improve efforts to prevent fires on our public lands, by addressing critical fire prevention issues such as indentifying a system for assessing the level of fire risk to communities, and indentifying a system to ensure that the highest priority fuels reduction projects are being funded first.

Last Congress, we worked to ensure House-passage of the FLAME Act. The bill drew support from the five former living Chiefs of the Forest Service, over 40 different organizations, 56 Members of Congress, and the Speaker of the House. However, the Senate did not act upon the measure. This Congress, I am pleased that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman JEFF BINGAMAN and Ranking Member LISA MURKOWSKI will be introducing the Senate companion measure to the FLAME Act. I look forward to working with our colleagues in the other body to ensure enactment of this important legislation in the 111th Congress.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased that President Obama has indicated that he is supportive of working together on this issue. I thank him for his leadership on this issue by addressing it in his Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I also will be working with the esteemed Chairman of the Committee on the Budget, Chairman JOHN SPRATT, to include language in the Budget Resolution to support the FLAME Act.

Madam Speaker, catastrophic, emergency wildland fires can cause tragic loss of life and property. I am proud to be joined in introducing the FLAME Act today by my colleagues Rep. NORM DICKS, Rep. RAÚL GRIJALVA, Rep. MIKE SIMPSON, Rep. GREG WALDEN, and Senators JEFF BINGAMAN and LISA MURKOWSKI. In the other body, I look forward to working together towards enactment this Congress to ensure that our country has the necessary tools to combat catastrophic, emergency wildland fires.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding funding that my district received as part of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009 (H.R. 1105).

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, SRG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Address of Requesting Entity: 700 Experiment Station Red, Lake Alford, Florida 33850

Description of Project: This project will continue vital citrus canker and greening research.

Amount: \$1,217,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lee County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902

Legal Name of Entity Receiving Funds: United States Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Entity Receiving Funds: 441 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20314

Description of Request: The requested funding will be utilized for reimbursement for beach renourishment for the Gasparilla Segment in Lee County, Florida.

Amount: \$191,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: West Coast Inland Navigation District

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 East Miami Avenue, Venice, FL 34285

Legal Name of Entity Receiving Funds: United States Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Entity Receiving Funds: 441 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20314

Description of Request: This funding will be utilized for maintenance dredging along the

Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Lee County, Sarasota County, and Manatee County, Florida.

Amount: \$2,076,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: United States Army Corps of Engineers, O&M

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Collier County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 3301 East Tamiami Trail, Naples, FL 34112

Legal Name of Entity Receiving Funds: United States Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Entity Receiving Funds: 441 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20314

Description of Request: This funding will be utilized for dredging the Gordon River Pass in Collier County, Florida. The dredging is necessary because shoaling has diminished the water depth in the channel.

Amount: \$597,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Justice, OJP-Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Gulf Coast University

Address of Requesting Entity: 10501 FGCU Blvd., S., Fort Myers, Florida 33965

Description of Request: This funding will be utilized for the development of tools for training and processing crime scenes for use by law enforcement and public safety officials. This work will be done at the Florida Gulf Coast University in its Law Enforcement and Public Safety department.

Amount: \$150,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Collier County, Florida

Address of Requesting Entity: 3301 East Tamiami Trail, Naples, Florida 34112

Description of Request: The funding will be utilized for the acquisition of public safety technology equipment for the Collier County Emergency Services Center. The funding is important because it will help to better equip Collier County's emergency service providers to respond to events that could endanger the safety of the citizens of Collier County, Florida.

Amount: \$350,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Environmental Protection Agency, STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lee County, Florida

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 398, Ft. Myers, Florida 33902

Description of Request: The requested funding will be utilized for water and sewer system improvements in Lee County, Florida. The project will help to ensure that Lee County's water and sewer system is environmentally sound and provides the highest level of safety and service to the people of Lee County.

Amount: \$275,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Education, Higher Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Gulf Coast University

Address of Requesting Entity: 10501 FGCU Blvd, S., Fort Myers, Florida 33965

Description of Request: The requested funding will be utilized by the Florida Gulf Coast University in order to conduct a study of how coastal watersheds respond to changing freshwater flow.

Amount: \$333,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Transportation, Buses and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lee County Transit (LeeTran)

Address of Requesting Entity: 6035 Landing View Road, Fort Myers, Florida 33907

Description of Request: The requested funding will be utilized to purchase new buses and replace existing buses in LeeTran's fleet. Buses stand as an important mode of transportation for a large number of citizens in Lee County. As a result, this funding will help LeeTran to better accommodate the crucial need for reliable and environmentally clean mass transit in Lee County, Florida.

Amount: \$475,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Transportation, Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Collier County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 3301 East Tamiami Trail, Naples, FL 34112

Legal Name of Entity Receiving Funds: Florida Department of Transportation

Address of Entity Receiving Funds: 605 Suwannee Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Description of Request: The requested funding will be utilized to improve Interstate 75/ Collier Boulevard/SR 84 in Collier County, Florida. The improvements are necessary to help this important stretch of road meet the requirements necessary to fulfill the regions commercial and transport needs.

Amount: \$570,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Transportation, Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Charlotte County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 18500 Murdock Circle, Suite 536, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Legal Name of Entity Receiving Funds: Florida Department of Transportation

Address of Entity Receiving Funds: 605 Suwannee Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Description of Request: The requested funding will be utilized for design and expansion of the Burnt Store Road to a four-lane divided arterial with shoulders to enhance the overall safety of the road. Burnt Store Road is a very important transportation artery that doubles as an evacuation route.

Amount: \$380,000

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK