

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the people of El Salvador as they head to the polls this weekend to elect a new president.

Over the past years, the people of El Salvador have shown great resilience as they transformed their economy. From the privatization of state enterprises, to trade and financial liberalization, to the adoption of the United States dollar as its official currency, El Salvador and its people have chosen freedom and prosperity over communism and repression.

Madam Speaker, the relationship between the people of El Salvador and of the United States has been a strong one. The Salvadorian government was a faithful ally in the war in Iraq where they once had as many as 6000 soldiers supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

We in the United States also have stood by our friends in El Salvador. For example, through the Millennium Challenge Corporation, El Salvador is currently receiving \$461 million of investment in projects including education, public services, agricultural production, rural business development, and transportation infrastructure.

In addition, El Salvador receives nearly \$4 billion a year in remittances—almost 20% of its annual gross domestic product—from several million Salvadorans living in the United States.

And, even more important for our national security interests is that El Salvador is host to the United States Navy's primary Forward Operating Location (FOL) in Central America which is used to monitor and intercept drug traffic.

Madam Speaker, these examples reveal why this approaching election is so fundamental, and why it will have a great impact on the future direction of El Salvador and the relationship with the United States.

The two primary presidential candidates are Rodrigo Avila of the National Republican Alliance (ARENA) party and Mauricio Funes of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) party.

Madam Speaker, the FMLN is a party that was formed from communist guerrillas that fought against the El Salvador government in one of the last battles in the Cold War. Nearly 70,000 people were killed during the 12-year war in El Salvador and brutal atrocities were committed by the FMLN.

Today the FMLN and its communist candidates—with funding from Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez—have fought hard to manipulate the democratic process in El Salvador in order to take at the ballot box what they couldn't by force.

The FMLN has actively worked to undermine United States policy in the region by, among other things, openly supporting terrorist organizations such as the FARC in Colombia. And the FMLN candidate for vice president, Sanchez Ceren, is a known militant and guerrilla commander who staunchly opposes the United States.

Should the FMLN win this Sunday, El Salvador likely would quickly become a satellite and proxy of Venezuela, Russia, and perhaps Iran. While we must always work and stand with our allies in the region, a government in El Salvador that is run by the FMLN and its cronies would clearly undermine the good relationship the current government in El Salvador has with the United States.

Our close relationship with El Salvador is based on mutual respect for freedom and the rule of law. This relationship has allowed our people and our governments to work together in the past several years towards common goals.

As we look to the future, we must weigh the potential ramifications of this election and its impact on our relations—more importantly, the longstanding and open policies related to TPS and the flow of remittances.

Madam Speaker, the stakes are high this weekend for the people of El Salvador. As they go to the polls to select their next president and, more importantly, the future direction of their nation, I urge them to reject the FMLN and the failed ideas of the past.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Elementary & Secondary Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Partnership for Education

Address of Requesting Entity: 3441 North Ridge West, Ashtabula, Ohio 44005 USA

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$285,000 for academic enrichment activities across all seven Ashtabula County school districts. Partnership for Education is a 503(c) organization that was created in 1999 from the collaboration and commitment among local community and stakeholder support groups, primarily the Civic Development Corporation of Ashtabula County, the Ashtabula Foundation, the Ashtabula County Education Partnership, and the Growth Partnership Education Committee, to improve student learning and sup-

port professional development to help schools improve their planning and deployment capabilities. Approximately, \$211,000 is for program implementation, \$66,500 is for materials and supplies, and \$7,500 is for auditing and program evaluation. The Civic Development Corporation of Ashtabula County has pledged \$500,000; the Ashtabula Foundation has committed \$75,000.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009

Member: Rep. MARK SOUDER

Bill: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009

Project Name: Clinton Street Bridge Replacement

Entity: City of Fort Wayne

Address: 1 Main Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Amount: \$2,000,000

Justification for use of federal taxpayer dollars: Fort Wayne is the terminus of U.S. Route 27, known locally as Clinton Street as the highway winds through downtown. As a federal highway and a historic highway as designated by the Indiana House of Representatives, this roadway should be supported with local, state, and federal resources. Each day, almost 27,000 cars drive along Clinton Street and cross over the St. Mary's River on an obsolete 1964 bridge that has growing maintenance costs and a sufficiency rating of 64.6 out of 100, which merits concern. Further, poor decisions during its initial construction have led to debris traps in front of the piers that support the structure, blocking water passage and limiting any possible recreational use of the river. The project is necessary to repair essential infrastructure and the economic development of the region.

Finance Plan: The city will finance 20 percent of the project, a total of \$1.62 million, while additional funding of \$1.42 million was approved in the Fiscal Year 2008 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$8.1 million. These funds will be used for the replacement of the bridge over the St. Mary's River in downtown Fort Wayne.

Member: Rep. MARK SOUDER

Bill: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009

Project Name: Watersystems/Wellcare

Entity: Water Systems Council

Justification for use of federal taxpayer dollars: Clean drinking water is essential for a community to flourish. The use of federal

• 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.