

of transparency, in conjunction with an increasingly active civil society, can help create more stable, democratic governments, as well as stable business environments.

It's a well-known, and well-bemoaned, fact that the United States is becoming more and more reliant on imported energy to fuel our economy. We are the world's largest consumer of oil—we account for an astounding 25 percent of global daily oil demand—despite having less than 3 percent of the world's proven reserves. And we source that oil from some unstable and unfriendly places in the world such as Nigeria and Venezuela.

In the context of today's discussion some of you may wonder why the United States should care what is happening in Turkmenistan or Kazakhstan, when we don't rely on these countries for our energy supplies. Russia is only number eight on our list of top ten oil suppliers and Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan don't even make it into the top twenty.

The answer is that unlike natural gas, oil is a commodity, so regardless of where we source our oil, what happens in other oil-rich countries impacts the stability of our price and our supply as well. Truly, no one country can achieve energy security without global energy security.

I think we can all agree that relying on a country as a source of energy can distort a bilateral relationship. I'm sure you can imagine how drastically different our interactions with some countries would be if we did not rely so heavily on these countries' resources. I think it goes without saying that we would have more leverage to promote democracy and civil society. Clearly oil constrains, if not drives, our foreign policy.

So while it is imperative that we work to limit our dependence on foreign oil and change the dynamic of supply and demand, it is just as important to create more stable and reliable sources of energy. One of the key ways the international community has sought to counteract the political and economic instability inherent in the resource curse is through programs that seek to instill transparency and accountability into the resource payment system.

As legislators, there is a lot that we can do to further the cause of transparency in the extractive industries.

As Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I have held hearings and briefings on energy security and transparency that call attention to problems and advocate for solutions. I have also written letters—co-signed by a number of my congressional colleagues—on this topic to the Executive Branch to advocate for specific policy stances related to U.S. participation in EITI. Drafting and passing legislation is also important, and in 2007 we were successful in passing legislation that spells out the importance of extractive industries transparency in U.S. foreign policy and directs the U.S. State Department to actively promote EITI.

I also co-sponsored legislation that would require oil, gas, and mining companies registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to publicly disclose the payments they make to foreign governments for the extraction of natural resources. The information would be included in financial statements already required by the SEC and would apply to both American and foreign companies listed with the SEC, which includes 90 percent

of the world's largest oil, gas and mining companies. I'm hopeful that we will see that legislation pass in this Congress.

Another tool is direct communication with the Executive Branch. One thing we have already started discussions with the Obama Administration on is how we can play a responsible role—not dominant—in EITI. I strongly believe that the best thing we can do to help boost EITI is to follow the lead of other OSCE member states such as Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Norway and become a Candidate Country with the goal of becoming fully compliant with EITI standards. Right now we think that can be accomplished without any legislative action by the Congress, but if we do need to make some legal changes, then that is something we will work on.

If there is one word that has gotten us in this problem, it is greed. This needs to be said so that we as legislators can do something about it. As we are talking about hedge funds, and all these other mechanisms for moving money, we can't ignore the impact of the shadow economy. It is something that we need to address because it fuels crime and instability.

Madam Speaker, in the Dublin meeting there were many opinions about the roots of the crisis and potential solutions. However, one clear message I took away from that meeting is that we must work together to find a global solution to a global crisis.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 3, 2009*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, June 2, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" on Roll Call vote #292 (Motion to suspend the rules and Agree to H. Res. 421), "Aye" on Roll Call vote #293 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.J. Res. 40), "Aye" on Roll Call vote #294 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 489)

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#### UPON THE CHANGE OF COMMAND AT THE PORT OF BALTIMORE

### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 3, 2009*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Captain Brian Kelley, who has served as the Commander of Coast Guard Sector Baltimore since June 2006. He is transferring out of this assignment on May 29.

As Captain of the Port of Baltimore, Captain Kelley oversaw all Coast Guard operations at this major port, currently ranked 12th in value of foreign cargo handled and 14th in foreign tonnage handled.

During his tenure, Captain Kelley conducted Major Control actions or detentions of 23 for-

eign vessels for safety violations—ensuring the safety of vessel operations in the Port of Baltimore. He also managed more than 1,100 search and rescue cases that saved the lives of more than 250 mariners in distress.

Captain Kelley oversaw a major effort to improve environmental conditions at Sector Baltimore and directed the clean-up of the abandoned vessel Sea Witch, preventing the release of more than half a million gallons of oil into the environment.

Captain Kelley's next assignment will be as the Deputy Commander of the Coast Guard's Personnel Services Command. As such, he will assist in managing all personnel services for all of the Coast Guard's nearly 42,000 active duty military members and in supervising the Coast Guard's recruiting efforts.

Since graduating from the Coast Guard Academy in 1982, Captain Kelley's assignments have included service as the Commander of cutters ATTU and POINT FRANKLIN. He also served as Chief of the Strategic and Business Planning Division at Coast Guard headquarters and was a Federal Executive Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

On a personal note, I have known Captain Kelley to be an extraordinarily conscientious leader—and have appreciated his personal hospitality during numerous events at Sector Baltimore.

I have also appreciated his diligence in keeping me and my staff fully informed of developments at Sector Baltimore, including the Sector's evaluation of the proposed LNG terminal at Sparrow's Point in the Port of Baltimore.

Captain Kelley is an outstanding officer who embodies the highest ideals of the Coast Guard and I commend him for his dedication to excellence in the service of our nation.

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#### HONORING THE WORK AND SERVICE OF JACK E. SINGLEY

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 3, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jack E. Singley and the 43 years he spent in service to Irving Independent School District.

Jack Singley began his career in 1965 by teaching Math at MacArthur High School in Irving, Texas, and rose through the ranks of the school district to become superintendent in 1988. He served in that role for nearly 21 years making him one of the longest serving school administrators in Texas. Earlier this year, he announced that 2009 would mark the end of his remarkable career, and his determination, strength of character, and wisdom will be greatly missed.

Throughout his career, Mr. Singley saw the transformation of Irving ISD from a small suburban school district to the large vibrant school district it is today. During his tenure as superintendent, eight schools were added to the school district and the number of employees serving in Irving ISD nearly doubled. One of Mr. Singley's most impressive successes was the creation of The Academy of Irving ISD. This high school opened in 2001 and is considered to be at the forefront of technological innovation and educational philosophy.