

discovered; as the Washington Post reported last week, since the list of allowable non-organic substances was created in 2002, the number of such non-organic substances has ballooned from 77 to 245, and only one such substance has been removed.

As noted in the Washington Post article, the program's lax standards are undermining the program and the law, prompting the author of the law, Senator LEAHY, to state pointedly that "it will unravel everything we've done if the standards can no longer be trusted . . . if we don't protect the brand, the organic label, the program is finished." Indeed, the explosive growth of the industry itself requires us to increase our vigilance accordingly. Therefore, I thank and commend Chairwoman DELAURO for her support and leadership on this issue, and for including my amendment in the bill.

This bill funds many important nutritional and agricultural programs, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution of inquiry directing the attorney general to transmit to the House information in his possession relating to the attempted transfer of detainees held at Guantanamo Bay into the United States.

Congress has a well-established and essential obligation to provide robust oversight of executive branch agencies. When agency officials obstruct congressional efforts to conduct this oversight, the resolution of inquiry provides members of the House a tool to compel consideration of this request for information.

I have respectfully asked Attorney General Holder on three occasions—March 13, April 23, and May 13—for specific information about his intentions with regard to the transfer of detainees to the U.S. and how he would protect communities surrounding detainees held in the U.S. I do not believe that these were unreasonable requests.

As ranking member of the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee—which funds the Department of Justice—this information is particularly relevant given the subcommittee's jurisdiction over the department's spending.

However, when it came to my attention that Mr. Holder attempted to orchestrate a secret transfer of Uyghur detainees to northern Virginia for release earlier this spring, it became clear that he had no intention of informing Congress of his intentions.

According to Newsweek magazine, "As part of their efforts to shut down the Guantanamo Bay detention center, Obama Administration officials were poised in late April to make a bold, stealthy move: they instructed the U.S. Marshals Service to prepare an aircraft and a Special Ops group to fly two Chinese Uyghurs, and up to five more on subsequent flights, from Gitmo to northern Virginia for resettlement. In a conference call overseen by the National Security Council, Justice and Pentagon officials had been warned that any public statements about Gitmo transfers would in-

flame congressional Republicans, according to a law-enforcement official who asked not to be named discussing internal deliberations."

The article reported that efforts to transfer and release these detainees in the U.S. were scrapped when members of Congress became aware of the operation.

Once it became clear that the Justice Department's intended modus operandi were clandestine transfers, I began speaking out publicly on the House floor about my serious. I also offered an amendment to the fiscal year 2009 supplemental appropriations to prohibit the transfer of any detainees into the U.S. during the current fiscal year—allowing Congress the time needed to get additional information from Mr. Holder about his intentions.

Still I continued to wait for answers to very basic questions from my three letters.

After waiting 118 days for a response, I received only a cursory letter from the Justice Department's Office of Legislative Affairs last Thursday that failed to answer a single question. Worse, the information included was nothing more than summary and rehash of old DOJ press releases.

I can come to no other conclusion than the attorney general intends to continue to stonewall the American people. This is unacceptable.

During his May 21 speech at the National Archives, President Obama stated, "I ran for President promising transparency, and I meant what I said. That is why, whenever possible, we will make information available to the American people so that they can make informed judgments and hold us accountable. . . . In this system of checks and balances, someone must always watch over the watchers."

The attorney general's failure to respond to legitimate congressional inquiries is a disservice to this president and the American people.

This resolution would hold the attorney general to the president's public commitment to transparency and accountability.

I urge my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to move quickly to consider this resolution and direct the attorney general to furnish this important information.

Madam Speaker, I also submit a copy of my resolution.

H. RES.—

Resolved, That the Attorney General is directed to transmit to the House of Representatives, not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, copies of any document, memo, or correspondence of the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigations and United States Marshal Service, or any portion of any such document, memo, or correspondence, that refers or relates to—

(1) any guidance, recommendations, or logistical preparations made since January 20, 2009, for the transfer or release of the detainees held at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, into the United States;

(2) the identities of any detainees that have been cleared for release into the United States and as any information about the capture, detention, and threat assessment of such detainees;

(3) the countries that have been contacted by Government officials to request their acceptance of detainees currently held at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and

(4) the legal guidance regarding the transfer, detention or release of detainees held at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, into the United States.

COMMENDING JAMES E. BRADFORD ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to commend James E. Bradford, a former Jackson Parish Police Juror of District 10, on the occasion of his retirement.

A man of many dimensions, Bradford's career includes 39 years with Smurfit-Stone Container Corp., where he most recently held the position of Central Regional Manager of Government Affairs. In addition, he spent five years as a high school teacher, totaling 44 years of career service.

Over the past few decades, he has been heavily involved in citizenship activities and community organizations. Among his many civic accomplishments, Bradford founded the Jackson Parish Community Action Center (now Pine Belt Multi-Purpose Community Action Agency), and served as the President of the Grambling State University National Alumni Association from 1992 until he retired from that position December 31, 2006. He has received numerous recognitions and awards for his invaluable leadership and dedication to his community.

Bradford also served as a member of the Jackson Parish Police Jury, District 10, where I had the opportunity to work alongside this devoted public servant. Not only did I have the privilege of calling him a colleague, but it was here, that I first had the honor of knowing him as a friend.

Beyond his professional career, Bradford and his late wife, Mae Calahan Bradford, have three children, Roderick, Berkita and D'Andra. They are the proud grandparents of William and Kiara, and their great-grandson, Kameron.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James E. Bradford, a man who has served the people of Jackson Parish for many years. His commitment, compassion and leadership warrant this laudable recognition.

IN HONOR OF LITTLETON P. "LIT"
MITCHELL

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart but great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Littleton P. Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell, a man of great compassion and understanding, was a life-long advocate for human and civil rights. His influence and contributions have reached far and wide, both within and beyond our state and continue to have an effect on all of Delaware's communities.

Born and raised in a period when Delaware offered but one high school for black students, Littleton would hitchhike to Wilmington's Howard High School—a distance of more than 60 miles from his hometown of Milford. At a young age and upon the encouragement of his mother, Littleton joined Delaware's chapter