

US 23 corridor, including Lakota School, relies on private wells for water supply. Recent testing of groundwater indicates petroleum hydrocarbon contamination in several area wells. This project will greatly impact the environment by improving drinking water and fire protection in the Village and surrounding area. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA

Bill Number: H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: U.S. Department of Energy; Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Bowling Green State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 106 University Hall, Bowling Green, OH 43403

Description of Request: \$1,000,000 for the Coastal Ohio Wind Project: Removing Barriers to Great Lakes Offshore Wind Energy Development. Funding would be used to support a workforce for Bowling Green State University to undertake the design parameter data gathering while the University of Toledo undertakes development of the advanced concept offshore Wind Turbine Generators (WTG). The long term goal is to reduce the cost of installation, operation and maintenance of WTG's on Lake Erie, in order to jumpstart offshore development of the Great Lakes and to support the transition from rust-belt to green-belt manufacturing. The project will build on a proven two bladed, teetered hub WTG design. This phase of the project will design a foundation and tower structure capable of surviving the severe wind, wave and ice loading conditions on Lake Erie. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

#### TRIBUTE TO SAI YANG

### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 17, 2009*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Sai Yang, a passionate and determined woman, a wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Sai was the matriarch of the Chang family and influential in the lives of not only her own children and grandchildren, but that of her entire community. Sai was also the mother-in-law of my good friend, Senator Mee Moua of St. Paul.

Sai was born in 1934 to Cha Doua Yang and Ying Kue in the remote jungle village of Nhu Ka in Laos.

After the United States left Laos in May of 1975, Sai and her family sought refuge in the jungles and remote villages of Laos for several years before finally arriving on freedom's shore in Thailand in 1979.

After six months in a Thai refugee camp, Sai's family was granted political asylum to the United States and arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii on February 1, 1980. A year later, her family moved to Minnesota.

In her new life in the U.S., Sai learned how to read and write in her native Hmong language and in conversational English. In 1997, she became a U.S. Citizen. She subsequently voted in five presidential elections and helped

to elect her daughter-in-law Mee Moua to the Minnesota State Senate; the highest among elected officials in the United States.

In 1995, Sai was chosen as part of the delegation of Hmong American women who attended the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

Sai Yang passed away on July 7, 2009 in St. Paul and is survived by five sons, three daughters, 39 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, a brother, a sister, and the extended Chang and Yang families in Minnesota, across the U.S. and other countries.

Sai Yang enriched many lives and she will be missed dearly by all who knew her.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARK E. STRATTON, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, OF STAFFORD, VIRGINIA

### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 17, 2009*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Mark E. Stratton, United States Air Force, of Stafford, Virginia, for his service and supreme sacrifice for our nation.

Lieutenant Colonel Stratton graduated from Foley High School in Foley, Alabama, and then went on to attend Texas A&M University. There, he served as a member of the Corps of Cadets and graduated with a degree in Political Science. Following graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

Throughout his remarkable career, Lieutenant Colonel Stratton served with honor and distinction as a communications officer, pilot, senior navigator, and staff officer. Some of Lieutenant Colonel Stratton's duty assignments include executive assistant to the 55th Wing commander in Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, student at the Joint Advanced Warfighting School, Taiwan desk officer on the Joint Staff, and executive assistant to the deputy director for Asia. In addition to his professional military career, Lieutenant Colonel Stratton was an active member of Stafford Baptist Church in Stafford Virginia, where he served as a beloved Sunday school teacher.

Tragically, on May 26, 2009, Lieutenant Colonel Stratton made the ultimate sacrifice for this great nation while serving as the Commanding Officer of the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan. Just as many of America's heroes have taken up arms when the nation needed them, Lieutenant Colonel Stratton dedicated himself to the cause of our values, freedoms, and way of life. His valor and determination cost him his life, but his sacrifice will endure forever among the many dedicated heroes the United States has sent abroad to preserve liberty and freedom.

Lieutenant Colonel Stratton is remembered by his friends and family as a man of unquestionable character and loyalty. He was excited about the initiative he was leading in Afghanistan. In an e-mail to a friend he described the work of building roads, schools, canals and clinics as the best job of his Air Force career. It is easy to see why his friends describe him as someone who loved God, his family, his

friends, and his country fervently. This is the caliber of a man that truly leads our nation's men and women in uniform with passion and purpose.

Lieutenant Colonel Stratton is survived by his wife, Jennifer Stratton and his children, Delaney, Jake and A.J. My condolences and prayers go out to Mark's family, and I offer them my deepest sympathies and most heartfelt thanks for the service, sacrifice, and example of their hero, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Stratton.

LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 40TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 17, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the city of Lakewood, Colorado on their fortieth birthday.

For forty years, the city of Lakewood has celebrated its birthday in an arts and music celebration appropriately named Lakewood on Parade. Families from all parts of the city and surrounding areas come together with their friends and neighbors to enjoy this celebration. I, myself, along with my family, have attended Lakewood on Parade for many years. I am honored to recognize the Lakewood on Parade birthday celebration for helping Lakewood bring families together to enjoy this beautiful city.

Lakewood is the fourth largest city in Colorado and is located just west of Denver, in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. It is home to many historical sites of the old West making it a city rich in history. Families, friends, and neighbors truly live in a special place in Colorado and it is reflected in the Lakewood on Parade birthday celebration.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the city of Lakewood for achieving their fortieth birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE PETE GEREN

### HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 17, 2009*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of our former colleague Pete Geren as he steps down as Secretary of the Army.

Secretary Geren, a quiet and thoughtful leader, fulfilled the duties of his office with superb competence and compassion. Of his many achievements, his initiative to combat military sexual trauma deserves particular recognition. Secretary Geren called the epidemic of rape and sexual assault within the ranks of the Army "fratricide." He viewed its elimination as of equal consequence to the challenge of racially integrating the armed forces.

Last year, Secretary Geren launched the I. A.M. Strong campaign, a five-year program designed to eradicate rape and sexual assault in the Army. Secretary Geren was unwavering in his efforts to tackle this important issue. As he explained, "we're the United States Army and we live our values."

Prior to joining the Defense Department, Secretary Geren represented Texas' 12th District for four terms. During that time, we worked together on the Armed Services committee, where he served with distinction. He also served on the Science & Technology and the Public Works & Transportation Committees.

Secretary Geren's strength of character and visionary leadership has resulted in a better Army and a safer nation. I thank him for his extraordinary service to country, and look forward to applauding whatever new and exciting chapter he now begins.

HONORING GERALD GAW

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 17, 2009*

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable leader in the Clinton Community, Gerald Gaw.

Gerald Gaw, Superintendent of Clinton Public Schools, will be retiring this week after 32 years of service to the children of the Clinton Public School District. Gerald dedicated his career to serving his community, beginning as a middle school math teacher at the age of 27. Throughout the past thirty years, Gerald nurtured students as both a middle and high school teacher before serving as principal of first the Clinton middle school and then Clinton High School. In 2004, Gerald was recognized for his outstanding work when he was selected for the position of Superintendent of Schools, where he has helped the school district thrive.

Gerald was born and raised in the small Clinton community. Throughout his many years in the school district, he would often find himself teaching children whose parents had been his students or interacting with school committee members who had cared for him as a child. Gerald was committed to playing his part in the small community too, nurturing the children of Clinton for the futures that lay ahead of them. Educating children is Gerald's passion, a passion that thousands have benefited from during their time in Clinton schools.

Gerald was one of the first principals to work in the new Clinton High School and was largely responsible for the transformation of the new building into a state-of-the-art educational facility. As the MCAS standardized testing was initiated across Massachusetts, Gerald promoted high achievement throughout the school, implementing new programs intended to prepare students for success.

Among Gerald's many talents, foremost was his compassion and his ability to connect with students. Reaching out to students from difficult backgrounds or those who needed just a little extra help was a mission Gerald added on to his already long list of responsibilities as an administrator. Whether it was talking with students during lunch hour, encouraging them in the classroom, or working out with them in the gym, Gerald was known for befriending children who needed a positive presence in their lives. As principal, Gerald coached a Pop Warner football team, and even as superintendent he tried to spend as much time as possible with the children. As he enters retirement, Gerald is looking forward to going back

to the classroom as a math teacher at a college.

Gerald will be missed by the faculty and thousands of students whose lives he shaped in a multitude of ways. I wish him and his wife Carol, along with their three sons, many happy years in a well deserved retirement.

Madam Speaker, I know all of my colleagues join me in thanking this remarkable man for his many years of dedication to the people of the Clinton.

INTRODUCING A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR HAITIAN NATIONALS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 17, 2009*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution expressing support for temporary protected status for Haitian nationals currently residing in the United States, and for other purposes.

The creation of TPS was intended to serve as the statutory embodiment of a safe haven for those who are fleeing—or reluctant to return to—a potentially dangerous situation in their country of origin.

According to section 244(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1990, TPS may be granted when: there is ongoing armed conflict posing a serious threat to personal safety; it is requested by a foreign state that temporarily cannot handle the return of nationals due to environmental disaster; or extraordinary and temporary conditions in a foreign state exist which prevent aliens from returning.

Haiti has continued to meet all three of these requirements, and yet, not once have Haitian nationals been granted TPS.

Last summer, only a few months after deadly food riots led to the removal of the country's Prime Minister, Haiti was ravaged by four back-to-back natural disasters. Thousands lost their homes, many were left starving and isolated from humanitarian assistance, nearly 800 lives were taken, and over 300 people remain missing.

How dire must the situation in Haiti become before the United States is willing to extend this helping hand to Haiti as it has done for other nations under similar circumstances?

The Haitian government's ability to provide basic governmental services—clean water, education, passable roads and basic health care—remains severely compromised by these natural disasters. Repatriating Haitians at this time imposes an additional burden on government resources that are already stretched too thin and poses a serious danger to deportees' personal safety. Further, with hurricane season well underway, the Haitian people will only slip further into despair when another storm inevitably hits their nation.

Concerning stability and overall safety, Haiti is still in dire need of an adequate policing force to maintain order and halt the escalation in kidnappings that are plaguing the nation.

As of today, the Department of State's current travel warning advises Americans that

current conditions in Haiti make it unsafe to travel due to the potential for looting, the possibility of random violent crime, and the serious threat of kidnapping for ransom.

Madam Speaker, if it is unsafe for our citizens to travel to Haiti, then those same conditions should make it much too dangerous and inappropriate to forcibly repatriate Haitians at this time. It is unfortunate and appalling that our current immigration policies hold such harmful double standards.

I want to make it very clear that I acknowledge and heartily congratulate Haiti's efforts toward recovery and to a stable democratic government. However, President Prival's nascent democratic government still faces immense challenges with regards to rebuilding Haiti's police and judicial institutions to achieve the fair and prompt tackling of the ongoing political and criminal violence.

In addition to safety and human rights considerations, halting the deportation of Haitians is also an economic matter.

Under the law, TPS beneficiaries are eligible to obtain work authorization permits. The ability for Haitian nationals to legally work in the United States puts them in a position to contribute to their country's recovery and development until such time when it is safe for them to return to Haiti.

Madam Speaker, the Haitian Diaspora has always played a pivotal role in assisting Haiti. It is widely known that Haitians residing in the United States often work three jobs to send money back to Haiti each month. Many Haitians in the United States often send remittances to support family members, and others travel home to lend their expertise toward rebuilding and humanitarian efforts.

Designating Haiti under TPS status would preserve and increase remittances—totaling approximately a third of Haiti's GDP—from the Haitian Diaspora to relatives and communities in Haiti that are key for welfare, survival, and recovery.

Haiti is more dependent than any other country on remittances with nearly a billion dollars a year sent home by Haitians in the United States. In fact, remittances to Haiti far exceed foreign aid.

Now, many Haitian nationals in the United States who previously sustained relatives in Haiti through remittances are being deported, further depriving Haiti of an important source of financial aid that is well-positioned to assist when based here in the United States.

Madam Speaker, there are currently five countries that are protected under the TPS provision: Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Somalia, and Sudan. By refusing to give Haiti the TPS designation, our inequitable immigration policies continue to send the message that the safety of Haitian lives is not a priority compared to that of Salvadoran, Honduran, or Sudanese lives.

We must act to change this perception. Our immigration policies have to change. They must reflect fairness and treat Haitians equally to Nicaraguans, Hondurans, and Salvadorans whose deportations are suspended and who are allowed to work and support their families back home.

Granting Haitians TPS is necessary to achieve fundamental fairness in our treatment of Haitian immigrants and remedy the accurate and widespread perception that U.S. policy has discriminated against them.