

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE KOREAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions of the Korean-American Association of Northern Virginia.

The 11th Congressional District of Virginia is blessed by the significant racial, ethnic and religious diversity of its residents. The entire community is enriched by this diversity and benefits greatly from the sharing of cultural customs and traditions. The Korean-American community is a vibrant part of this tapestry and an integral part of the community.

A large percentage of the businesses in the 11th District of Virginia are owned and operated by Korean-Americans and provide jobs, goods and services to the local residents. The work ethic displayed is consistent with so many immigrant groups who have come before and who have contributed to building the United States of America into a great country. Quite often, members of the Korean immigrant community will work multiple jobs in order to succeed and provide homes for their families. Education is highly prized and sought. Honesty, integrity and dignity are values that are instilled at a young age and continue to develop throughout life.

However, transitioning into a new life in a new country can often be overwhelming. Language, customs, educational systems, even the way a person shops for food, can be confusing and frightening. A guiding hand can help address these difficulties.

The Korean-American Association of Northern Virginia, KAANV, provides assistance to ease this transition. This organization works with members of the Korean community to teach the skills that are necessary to function and thrive. The KAANV provides numerous services, one being the KAANV Vocational School which offers classes in English and Spanish, in vocational trades such as electrical licensing, plumbing and pharmaceutical technician, and in job seeking skills such as resume writing and employment examination preparation. The Vocational School educates roughly 700 people each year and gives them the tools that they need in order to become productive members of society.

In addition to the Vocational School, the KAANV sponsors an Annual Job Fair which brings employers, job seekers and employment counselors together under one roof. This year, the Sixth Annual KAANV Job Fair will include employers from both the private and public sectors and is expected to attract the participation of nearly 2,000 area residents.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Korean-American Association of Northern Virginia for the invaluable services that it provides to the community and for the life changing impacts that its services have on the lives of so many of our family members, neighbors and friends.

LETTER FROM THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COALITION RE: ENERGY AND WATER APPROPS OF 2010

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I submit the following letter:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, July 15, 2009.

Hon. DAVID R. OBEY,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Rayburn House Office Building, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

Hon. ED PASTOR,
Acting Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, Rayburn House Office Building, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBEY AND ACTING CHAIRMAN PASTOR: As members of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC), we thank and commend you for your continuing leadership in making the investments in clean energy and energy efficiency technologies that are essential for a transition to a cleaner, more prosperous and independent American energy future.

As a Coalition we believe firmly in the advancement of the technologies that will provide cleaner, more economically and environmentally sustainable energy to every segment of our economy. Further, as members of SEEC we have fought continuously for investments in research and development of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies that will spawn a new American clean energy economy that will create jobs, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and arrest the progression of global climate change.

In a meeting on June 16th, 2009, Secretary of Energy Steven Chu expressed to our members his desire for a new American energy future. As a part of his visionary plan to bring this future to reality, the Secretary called for the creation of eight "Energy Innovation Hubs" for the advanced research and development of the energy technologies that will allow America to lead the world in a twenty-first century energy economy.

Under the Energy and Water Appropriations, Fiscal Year 2010 legislation, funding has been allocated for the Department of Energy to establish one Energy Innovation Hub. According to the Department of Energy, this Hub would be chartered for the research and development of "Fuels from Sunlight" technologies. While we stand with the Secretary of Energy in supporting the research and development of game-changing, twenty-first century fuel technologies, we would like to express support for the establishment of a second Energy Innovation Hub—using existing funding appropriated to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy—for the research and development of "Energy Efficient Building Systems".

The creation of an Energy Innovation Hub to research and develop advancements in increasing the energy efficiency of buildings is a high priority for the Secretary and the Department of Energy. As a nation, our built environment accounts for 40 percent of our carbon dioxide emissions, and consumes 70 percent of the electricity from our electric grid. A lack of energy efficiency contributes to higher energy prices and greater green-

house gas emissions for homes and for businesses in every state. Greater and more widespread energy efficiency in buildings would result in lower energy prices, less greenhouse gas emissions, and less wasted use of our energy resources. Therefore, we would like to work with the Committee on Appropriations, the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and the Department of Energy to realize the creation of an Energy Innovation Hub to research and develop Energy Efficient Building Systems.

Sincerely,

THE MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COALITION,
Russ Carnahan, Jared Polis, Jay Inseele, Paul Hodes, Paul Tonko, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Betsy Markey, Donna Christensen, Peter Welch, Bruce Braley, Mike Honda, Jim McDermott, Ben Ray Lujan, Jim Himes, David Loebsack, Members of Congress.

CYPRIOI NEGOTIATIONS

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the ongoing negotiations between Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat. I commend their efforts to advance a peaceful resolution to the decades-old conflict in Cyprus, and I encourage the Obama administration, and others in the international community, to continue to support and facilitate these efforts.

After decades of failed attempts to unite Cyprus, leaders Christofias and Talat reopened direct negotiations in September of 2008. They have made notable progress. Most recently, the two communities agreed to the opening of the Limnitis/Yesilirmak Gate. U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Matthew Bryza, described this event as a "concrete contribution to accelerating the efforts of the parties to find a solution."

Confidence building measures such as the opening of the Limnitis/Yesilirmak Gate are very important steps in the negotiating process. As physical barriers to reunification are removed, so to are the psychological divisions between the Cypriot communities.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Bryza stated that "We've never been at a point like this where the Cypriot people themselves, their leadership, have designed the ideas that are on the table, without any outside assistance." He expressed his confidence that a solution by the end of 2009 is possible. The international community must stand ready to assist both parties as this process moves forward.

I am encouraged by the application of these confidence building measures taken by the Cypriot leaders as a means towards a permanent solution. I urge the Obama administration and the international community to do all it can to unify the island.