

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the policies and standards put forth by the House Appropriations Committee and the GOP Leadership, I place in the RECORD a listing of the congressionally-directed projects I requested in my home State of Idaho that are contained in the Conference Report accompanying H.R. 3288, the FY2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

DIVISION A—FY2010 TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Project Name: Buses and Bus Facilities, Idaho Transit Coalition

Amount Received: \$1,000,000

Account: FTA/Buses and Bus Facilities

Recipient: Community Transportation Association of Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 10480 Garverdale Court, Bldg. 4, Ste. 804A, Boise, ID 83704

Description: Funding for this project will be used to support essential transit systems in rural and urban areas of the State of Idaho. This project meets the criteria of the FTA's Section 5209 Capital Program and has been funded by the Committee since FY 2002.

Project Name: Custer County Economic Development Initiative in Custer County, ID

Amount Received: \$500,000

Account: HUD/EDI

Recipient: Custer County, ID

Recipient's Street Address: 802 Main Street, Challis, ID 83226

Description: At almost 5,000 square miles, Custer County is larger than three states, and it has just over 4,000 people. Unfortunately, it is burdened with a high proportion of public lands with over 95 percent of the county's 3.4 million acres administered by federal agencies. The county's tax base, or more specifically the lack thereof, is inadequate to support the services required for such an expansive county. This grossly disproportionate public ownership causes a severe strain on their resources. Funding would be used to construct a community center which would serve a number of purposes for the county.

Project Name: I-84, Broadway to Gowen Road Widening, Boise, ID

Amount Received: \$400,000

Account: FHWA/Interstate Maintenance Discretionary

Recipient: Idaho Transportation Department
Recipient's Street Address: 3311 West State Street, Boise, ID 83707

Description: This project will add a third east and westbound lane to I-84 between Broadway Avenue and Gowen Road on I-84. The FY10 earmark will fund the design of this project. The project will be ready for construction in FY11 in conjunction with the Connecting Idaho—GARVEE, bonding—projects in this area. This project is required to alleviate congestion and safety issues caused by the continued fast growth in the Treasure Valley. This project is included in the I-84 Boise Corridor Study adopted by the Idaho Transportation and Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho, COMPASS, Boards in October of 2001 and part of the COMPASS Regional 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan, approved in 2006.

Project Name: Trail Creek Highway/Forest Highway 66 Reconstruction, Mackay, ID

Amount Received: \$3,750,000

Account: FHWA/Public Lands Highways

Recipient: Lost River Highway District

Recipient's Street Address: 213 South McCaleb, Mackay, ID 83251

Description: Trail Creek Highway/Forest Highway 66 runs through the Salmon-Challis National Forest from U.S. Highway 93 west to Sun Valley, Idaho. The road is maintained entirely by the Lost River Highway District and includes 17 miles of unpaved road that is used extensively for commerce and recreational purposes by tourists and homeowners. The high traffic volume—500 cars per day and expected to grow—and poor road conditions cause safety concerns for those traveling along the highway. Funds would be used to complete study and design work and upgrade the road by paving 5.5 miles of gravel road from the end of existing pavement near the West Bartlett Point Road—MP 11.750—to the Copper Basin Turn-off, MP 17.250.

DIVISION B—FY2010 COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES

Project Name: Boise Center Aerospace Laboratory, BCAL, Watershed Modeling Utilizing LiDAR at Idaho State University

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Account: Department of Commerce NOAA

Recipient: Idaho State University

Recipient's Street Address: 921 South 8th Avenue Stop 8007, Pocatello, Idaho 83209

Description: ISU's Department of Geosciences has developed free spatial analysis tools available to the public for remote sensing and geographic information sciences, GIS. The remote sensing tools include a downloadable toolbox for analyzing light detection and ranging, LiDAR, data. LiDAR is an imaging method using a laser mounted on an aircraft to determine precise vertical information, topography, of the earth's surface—15 cm precision. Commonly, this information is translated into high-resolution digital elevation models, DEMs. LiDAR can provide both a bare earth surface and the vegetated—or built—surface. LiDAR can also provide topographic data below water. Specifically to the concern of NOAA and the State of Idaho, LiDAR can provide up to date and precise flood plain maps for rivers with built environments—such as the Boise River—to guide decisions on flood insurance coverage and land use restrictions. These predictive maps can also aid in evacuation of people and livestock during an impending flood. This project will leverage existing infrastructure and expertise at ISU to develop state-of-the-art watershed modeling tools for NOAA and other federal agencies. These tools will enable better management of watersheds through improved topographic analyses for prediction of runoff, floods, and water storage capacity. Hyperspectral analysis—soils and vegetation—will be coupled with the LiDAR data for a full characterization, spectrally and spatially of the landscape. These analyses will allow for studies of vegetation structure, dependence of vegetation, soils, and earth processes, e.g. fire, erosion, on topology—slope and aspect, drainages, surface roughness. The goal of this research and its resulting algorithms and tools is to significantly benefit NOAA in its ability to convert LiDAR data into usable derivative datasets for environmental and safety applications in Idaho and elsewhere.

Project Name: Idaho Meth Project

Amount Requested: \$1,000,000

Account: Department of Justice COPS Meth

Recipient: Idaho Meth Project

Recipient's Street Address: 304 N. 8th Street, Room 446, Boise, Idaho 83702

Description: Methamphetamine trafficking and abuse in Idaho has been on the rise over the past few years and, as a result, meth is having a devastating impact in many communities throughout Idaho. Meth is the number one illegal drug of choice in Idaho and the State's leading drug problem. The financial and social consequences of meth abuse in Idaho are devastating. It is a contributing cause for much of the crime in Idaho, costs millions of dollars in productivity, contributes to the ever increasing prison populations and adversely impacts families. The Idaho Meth Project is a large-scale, statewide prevention and public awareness program designed to reduce the prevalence of first-time methamphetamine abuse in Idaho by influencing attitudes through high-impact advertising. The Idaho Meth Project is focused solely upon prevention and, to achieve this goal, is active in three areas: public service messaging, community action and public policy. This includes a pervasive media campaign reaching the target population through TV, radio, billboards, print, and the Internet.

Project Name: Idaho State Police to participate in the Criminal Information Sharing Affiliation Network, CISAnet

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Account: Department of Justice COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Recipient: Idaho State Police

Recipient's Street Address: 700 South Stratford, Meridian, Idaho 83642

Description: In 2006, the Idaho State Police, ISP, developed and deployed, on a limited basis, a web-based Case Investigative System, CIS. This tool allows investigators to collect, use and share critical law enforcement information across the state. CISAnet provides a bi-directional information-sharing network within and between state and local law enforcement agencies. CISAnet provides ISP and law enforcement across Idaho with real time access to criminal intelligence information shared by law enforcement partner agencies within the states of Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. This ten state area is regarded as one of the most vulnerable to our Nation's security—a "soft spot" through which illegal Mexican immigrants filter, illegal drug trafficking passes and terrorists move freely. It is believed that securing this porous border with Mexico is an effective way to protect American citizens. The CISAnet system provides an effective means for law enforcement agencies to share information across state lines on known or suspected criminal activity. Together, access to CISAnet, Idaho's Fusion Center and remote access to CIS will ensure that Idaho state and local law enforcement officers have the best information available in a timely manner. In today's environment, these systems are an effective way to monitor illegal drug and terrorist activity and identify, target and locate potential terrorists. These systems are important components of an overall prevention strategy and are crucial to protecting the citizens of Idaho and the United States' homeland security. The Criminal Information Sharing Alliance network, CISAnet, FY2010

federal funding will be used to continue the integration of CIS into the CISAnet infrastructure, to expand its capabilities by adding a Geo coding module and by integrating CIS, RMS and CISAnet into Idaho's Criminal Intelligence Center.

Project Name: NCOMS Medical and Mental Health Sharing Software Development

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Account: Department of Justice Byrne Discretionary Grants

Recipient: Idaho Department of Corrections
Recipient's Street Address: 1299 North Orchard, Suite 110, Boise, Idaho 83706.

Description: States are legally mandated to provide appropriate medical care to incarcerated individuals. These funds will be used to create, modularize and implement the medical/mental health module for the National Consortium of Offender Management Systems, NCOMS. This technology will allow public safety organizations that house offenders to track and record the medical information to ensure that offenders receive proper medical treatment.

DIVISION C—FY2010 FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Project Name: Proof of Concept Center

Amount Received: \$285,000

Account: Small Business Administration Salaries and Expenses

Recipient: Idaho TechConnect Inc.

Recipient's Street Address: 5465 E. Terra Linda Way, Nampa, ID 83687

Description: Idaho TechConnect was created as a state-wide private-public cooperation that would bridge the gaps in the state's innovation pipeline. The Idaho TechConnect Proof of Concept Center will manage innovations from early stage projects to the launch of a viable start-up business or to license the product or service to an existing business. The Proof of Concept Center will work with new and existing businesses as well as the state's colleges and universities and the INL to create new commercial products, goods and services. Concepts will be vetted to ensure significant and efficient marketability and commercialization. These concepts will then be relegated to teams/existing businesses to build or expand successful and profitable businesses. The Center will provide assistance with business models, intellectual property strategy, and access to capital, resulting in more ideas becoming products, creating jobs and companies. During these challenging economic times, this funding will assist businesses and public entities in their efforts to mature their innovative ideas into market-ready products and services to strengthen the economy of Idaho and the region.

Project Name: Research and Economic Development and Entrepreneurial Initiative

Amount Received: \$400,000

Account: Small Business Administration Salaries and Expenses

Recipient: Boise State University

Recipient's Street Address: 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725-1135.

Description: Boise State University will establish research partnerships with business and governmental agencies to aid and assist businesses in an effort to preserve free market enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the local and regional economy. The federal funds being requested will be used to match private and public sector dollars and in-kind contributions to conduct collaborative research that

spurs intellectual innovation, creates jobs, and ultimately leads to the benefit and growth of the business community. The funds will also be used to develop the necessary infrastructure to mine, protect, and assess the commercialization potential of the intellectual property that is developed as a result of these efforts. A healthy businesses climate is critical to the economic strength of the state of Idaho, the region and the nation. The innovation and entrepreneurial spirit that originates from this sector will help the United States compete in today's global marketplace.

DIVISION D—FY 2010 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

Project Name: Bear Lake Memorial Hospital Addition and Remodel

Amount Received: \$300,000

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration Health Facilities and Services

Recipient: Bear Lake Memorial Hospital

Recipient's Address: 164 South 5th Street, Montpelier, Idaho 83254

Description: The Bear Lake Memorial Hospital is a key service provider to all individuals and plays a vital role in the community, as well as provides services to the popular Bear Lake recreation area. The current Emergency Department lacks sufficient space for a waiting room for emergency room patrons. It also fails to meet HIPPA compliance because of a lack of privacy for patients due to a high-use public hallway dissecting the two emergency room locations. In addition, the current diagnostic imaging facilities are scattered throughout the hospital, which makes it more difficult to provide timely and efficient care. By consolidating the services into one wing, the hospital will be able to provide improved patient care and increase overall staff efficiency. Funding provided would be used for the design and construction of a new addition as well as a renovation of the existing facilities in the Emergency Department and Diagnostic Imaging Department.

Project Name: College of Southern Idaho's Pro-Tech Training Program

Amount Received: \$200,000

Account: Department of Education Higher Education

Recipient: College of Southern Idaho

Recipient's Address: 315 Falls Avenue, Twin Falls, ID 83303-1238

Description: This program will enable the College to partner with other agencies to identify training needs and to identify potential candidates for employment. Data provided by Region IV of the State of Idaho Economic Development Agency indicate that manufacturing will be a leading employment area in the Magic Valley and the state of Idaho with over 250 new jobs expected over the next two years. Current trends in manufacturing development necessitate the need for in-depth training in the technological aspects of the design, fabrication, and manufacturing phases of production. CSI is participating in a joint educational venture with Twin Falls High School and local industry that creates a pre-engineering academy at the high school and a Computerized Numeric Controls, CNC/Industrial Networking Program at the college campus. The Pro-Tech program involves students from grade levels 10-14, and allows the students to move from high school into a two-year program at CSI or into an engineering program at one of Idaho's four-year institutions. At the secondary school level, students learn the ba-

sics of computer-assisted design, design physics, and fabrication, with each course offering alighted to the program at CSI through either tech prep or dual credit affiliation. At the post-secondary level students will receive industry-standard training in CNC, automated logic, and industrial networking. This program will train students to meet the educational requirements needed to enable them to enter the high demand fields of the hi-tech manufacturing and engineering sectors.

Project Name: Custer County Purchase of Medical Equipment

Amount Received: \$400,000

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration Health Facilities and Services

Recipient: Custer County

Recipient's Address: 801 East Main Avenue, Challis, ID 83226

Description: At almost 5,000 square miles, Custer County is larger than three states yet has just over 4,000 people. Unfortunately, it is burdened with a high proportion of public lands with over 95 percent of the county's 3.4 million acres administered by federal agencies. The county's tax base, or more specifically the lack thereof, is inadequate to support the services required for such an expansive county. This grossly disproportionate public ownership causes a severe strain on their resources, including their ability to provide access to health services. The influx of tourism and visitors due to the nearby U.S. Forest Service, BLM, recreation and wilderness areas leads to an increased rate of trauma and accidents, placing a large burden on the county. The EMT services and health clinics in the County are in need of renovation and modernization of equipment. This funding would be used to purchase the much needed equipment and technology for the clinics and EMT services in Custer County.

Project Name: Idaho Caring Foundation for Children for dental services for low-income children

Amount Received: \$300,000

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration Health Facilities and Services

Recipient: Idaho Caring Foundation for Children

Recipient's Address: 1211 W. Myrtle, Suite 110, Boise, ID 83702

Description: According to the 2000 U.S. Surgeon General's report, "Oral Health in America", tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease. As a dentist, I understand the importance of proper dental hygiene at a very young age. Poor oral health can affect a child's self-esteem, ability to eat, appearance and ability to communicate. School attendance can also be negatively impacted. Over 35 percent of Idaho children lack dental insurance, which serves as a major deterrent in accessing and receiving needed dental care. According to Idaho Department of Health and Welfare 2005 Smile Survey, 27 percent of Idaho children in grades K-6 had untreated decay. Low-income, uninsured children suffer the greatest incidence of dental decay because their families lack the financial resources to receive regular dental care. The Idaho Caring Foundation will provide access to needed dental services for 600 low-income, uninsured Idaho children. These services will be provided by our network of 140 Idaho dentists from across the state. Eligible children will be identified by working in partnership with Idaho schools, Head Start programs, and

other children's programs, such as the YMCA and the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Project Name: Idaho Early Literacy Project
Amount Received: \$350,000

Account: Department of Education Elementary and Secondary Education

Recipient: Lee Pesky Learning Center

Recipient's Address: 3324 Elder Street, Boise, ID 83705.

Description: The aim of the Idaho Early Literacy Project is to ensure that all children in Idaho are ready to read when they enter school. Stage III includes utilization of the research-based booklets, "Every Child Ready to Read and Every Child Ready for Math", an integrated approach to reading and mathematical literacy, the training of child care providers statewide, both live and on-line, and a direct intervention with parents and children. The training of child care providers includes a face-to-face approach in larger population centers and an on-line approach for remote rural locations. Stage III builds on early literacy training models implemented in 2008–2010 by unifying reading and mathematical literacy and by strengthening the intervention with parents and children. As such, the project assures that pre-school children will receive direct literacy education from child care providers and in special workshops with their parents, creating the "language rich" upbringing necessary to success in school.

Project Name: Idaho SySTEMic Solution

Amount Received: \$400,000

Account: Department of Education Elementary and Secondary Education

Recipient: Boise State University

Recipient's Address: 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725–1135

Description: Idaho SySTEMic Solution is a nationally relevant, hands-on, project-based STEM learning system (science, technology, engineering, & math) designed to spur achievement and confidence among elementary-age learners and their teachers. Proven methods show that long-term student achievement and interest in STEM can be dramatically improved by introducing systemic, contiguous, and engaging hands-on activities at an elementary level before children develop misconceptions, gender bias, math anxiety, or become distracted by cultural influences prevalent at puberty. In 2010 the project will extend into middle school grades where the need for hands-on activities is even greater. Key project components include a comprehensive, continuing teacher training model that includes a one-week summer institute and ongoing site-based follow-up training to boost the ability and confidence of elementary and middle school teachers; implementation into demographically diverse schools of curriculum-aligned learning lab systems that have been shown to improve student scores in math, science, and technology; and research and evaluation of results in accordance with Idaho and national assessment standards.

Project Name: Madison County Memorial Hospital Renovation

Amount Received: \$350,000

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration Health Facilities and Services

Recipient: Madison County Memorial Hospital

Recipient's Address: 450 East Main, Rexburg, ID 83440

Description: Madison Memorial Hospital will initiate the implementation of the Electronic

Medical Record, EMR, System into Physician Clinics that feed into Madison Memorial Hospital. Information from the EMR helps the clinician make informed decisions. As the patient status is entered into this EMR, the information increases staff efficiencies through faster transcription times, nursing notes, lab results, radiology and other electronic sources. This system will make it easier for physicians and clinicians to comply with all regulations by enabling them to keep their records up to date. Patient safety will be increased by developing a paperless electronic medical record environment where clinical information can be readily shared via electronic transactions with all entities within the Madison Memorial Hospital network.

Project Name: Purchase of Biochemistry and Microbiology Laboratory Equipment

Amount Received: \$400,000

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration Health Facilities and Services

Recipient: Idaho State University

Recipient's Address: 921 South 8th Avenue, Stop 8007, Pocatello, ID 83209–8007

Description: Modern instrumentation is essential to improving both the Biochemistry and Microbiology programs at Idaho State University, ISU. This request will enable the purchase of the required instrumentation needed for courses in biochemistry courses, chemistry laboratories, and microbiology and biology courses. More than 400 students per year would gain access to state of the art instrumentation through this request, improving both the quality of their educational experience and the quality of research in these scientific fields that can be pursued.

Project Name: St. Luke's Regional Medical Center's Children Health Services Expansion

Amount Received: \$350,000

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration Health Facilities and Services

Recipient: St. Luke's Regional Medical Center Ltd

Recipient's Address: 190 E. Bannock Street, Boise, ID 83712

Description: St. Luke's Health System is home to the only Children's Hospital in Idaho, providing unique full-service tertiary pediatric services between Salt Lake City, Utah, and Portland, Oregon, both more than 350 miles from Boise, Idaho. St. Luke's delivers over 25 percent of the babies born in the State. The Children's Health Services Expansion project provides an essential increase in capacity for Pediatric Medical/Surgical, Pediatric Intensive Care, Neonatal Intensive Care, Pediatric Oncology, and Pediatric Surgical Suites and support area, to meet the needs of the rapidly growing population in the hospital's service area. Prior to the beginning of this multi-year project, each area was frequently full, requiring children to be placed in adult units or diverted to other and often very distant hospitals. The federal funding provided for the expansion project has resulted in expanding all units with state-of-the-art facilities and equipment. Funding received will assist with the purchase of equipment, including electronic medical record hardware and software programs and patient monitor technology for patient support and EMR connectivity to be used in the Medical/Surgical Pediatrics, Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care, Oncology, Surgical Suites and support areas. The hospital is spending millions on the expansion and federal funds will represent only a small portion of the project's total costs.

Project Name: Twin Falls Library Modernization Project

Amount Received: \$100,000

Account: Museums and Libraries in the Institute of Museums and Library Services

Recipient: City of Twin Falls

Recipient's Address: 201 Fourth Avenue East, Twin Falls, ID 83301

Description: The Twin Falls Public Library seeks to obtain a fully searchable database for its local historical newspapers. The Library has on 709 reels of microfilm of local newspapers from 1904 to the present. It is difficult to use the microfilm because of its deteriorating physical condition and outdated format. There is no index; if an exact date is not known, patrons must browse through the microfilm by hand, which is very inefficient. These funds will be used to digitize and index 709 reels of microfilm of the local newspaper dating from 1904 through 2008. The searchable database will replace the deteriorating microfilm with a searchable format allowing patrons to search articles, pictures, and advertisements by keyword; view information in its historical context; preserve the look and feel of the original format; and print or email articles, photos, or ads of interest. The reference staff will be able to serve the community more effectively, both on-site and remotely, by digitizing and indexing the microfilm. This newspaper database will be an historical asset to library patrons and will provide an accessible and unique service to the community.

DIVISION E—FY2010 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Project Name: Civil Engineer Maintenance Complex at Mountain Home Air Force Base

Amount Received: \$690,000

Account: Air Force Military Construction Account

Recipient: 366th Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 366 Gunfighter Avenue, Ste 107, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho 83648

Description: The civil engineer functions are currently dispersed among 10 WWII-era wood-frame and Korean War-era facilities. Wood frame facilities have a RAC 2 due to failing roof structures and cracked and spreading concrete foundations that have contributed to failing floors and trusses, presenting risk to squadron members who work in the facilities. Currently, employees must evacuate during heavy snowfall or high winds. The fire safety deficiencies are endemic to all buildings, the patchwork electric wiring is maxed out, which increases fire risk, and the HVAC systems can't keep buildings heated and cooled. The dispersed locations and failing conditions of existing facilities adversely affects all daily Civil Engineering operations and negatively impacts the Wing's mission. This funding will be used for planning and design.

Project Name: Logistics Readiness Center

Amount Received: \$20,000,000

Account: Air Force Military Construction Account

Recipient: 366th Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho

Recipient's Street Address: 366 Gunfighter Avenue, Ste 107, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho 83648

Description: The existing Logistics Supply is a condemned 53-year-old wooden structure beyond economical repair. The roof is held up with temporary structural supports. The building is evacuated and now 60 percent of base

supply functions operate from temporary spaces across base, creating significant delays in troop/equipment mobilization. This negatively impacts the Wing's ability to demolish and relocate from other substandard facilities on base. When funded, the Logistics Readiness Center will provide command and control for all materials in-bound and out-bound, including freight processing, packing, crating, pallet buildup shop, and provide bulk and bin storage. The facility will also support secure storage, an armory, and have administrative areas.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of congressionally-directed projects in my district that have received funding in the Conference Report accompanying H.R. 3288, the FY2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act and provide an explanation of my support for them.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA IN UKRAINE

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of Voice of America's Ukrainian Service, which is on December 11, 2009.

As members of Congress know, Voice of America is the largest U.S. international broadcaster and plays a critically important role globally, broadcasting 1,500 hours a week of programming through various media forms spanning news, information, and educational and cultural topics, and reaching an audience of over 130 million people worldwide. Since 1942, Voice of America has filled a critical gap in regions of the world where freedom of the press is limited or does not exist.

Today, Voice of America facilitates the free-flow of information globally. It is particularly important in Ukraine, where Voice of America will be celebrating its 60 years of service.

Voice of America has been essential to advancing democratic freedoms through the free-flow of information and supporting the development of democratic institutions in Eastern Europe, including Ukraine. On the front lines of international broadcasting, VOA has provided a critical outlet for the dissemination of free, uncensored news and information throughout Ukraine in multiple languages and formats. Today close to five million Ukrainians access Voice of America's services each week. VOA's Ukrainian broadcasts have also provided valuable information to the Ukrainian people as they continue their political, economic, and democratic reform efforts and build a stronger civil society.

Today there are still many countries that do not enjoy freedom of the Press, which is an essential component of a functioning and successful democracy. Unconscionably there are governments that continue to deny their populations this basic liberty, creating conditions in which media and members of the press face censorship, intimidation, persecution, or far worse.

Voice of America is essential to American and international efforts to change the dynamics of press freedom and human rights. To that end, I want to praise VOA and its dedi-

cated staff that have worked diligently in Ukraine, and around the globe, to promote and facilitate the free and unfettered flow of information, opinions, and ideas.

Once again, I commend Voice of America on its 60 years of promoting freedom of information in Ukraine. I also want to congratulate VOA Ukrainian Service for its efforts and leadership in successfully fulfilling VOA's core mission to "promote freedom and democracy and to enhance understanding through multimedia communication of accurate, objective, balanced news, information, and other programming about America and the world to audiences overseas."

A TRIBUTE TO HERO K. TAMAKLOE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hero K. Tamakloe who emigrated from Togo in 1988. Mr. Tamakloe has held many jobs in New York. He's worked as a cab driver, and interned with Woodhull Hospital after working on behalf of the Togo Embassy at the United Nations. Finally, after attending York College, majoring in economics, Mr. Tamakloe decided to apply for work as a teacher with the Department of Education.

Tamakloe was assigned to P.S. 95 Q in Hollis as a substitute teacher, where he worked for two years before taking over YMCA of Greater New York's "Virtual Y" program which serves over 300 students in an after school program. Currently, Mr. Tamakloe is a YMCA of Greater New York employee and is assigned to DYCD (Department of Youth & Community Development) at New York City Housing Authority Beacon Satellite at Bushwick-Hylan and Sumner Community centers in the North Brooklyn area.

Mr. Tamakloe is regarded as one of the strongest off-site YMCA after school Directors in New York City, a reputation complimented by the awards he received. Mr. Tamakloe credits the staff, parents, teachers, mentors and volunteers who helped him to keep the After School and Beacon Programs running smoothly.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the aptly named Hero K. Tamakloe.

IN PRAISE OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE MEETINGS HELD LAST WEEKEND IN NEW YORK CITY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to a successful meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue, TLD, in New York City from December 4-7, 2009. Chairwoman SHELLEY BERKLEY led a strong bipartisan delegation, which included Vice-Chairman CLIFF STEARNS, Vice-Chairman JIM

COSTA, GARY ACKERMAN, XAVIER BECERRA, DENNIS CARDOZA, JOHN DUNCAN, Jr., ELIOT ENGEL, VIRGINIA FOXX, BART GORDON, JAY INSLEE, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, RON KLEIN and LORETTA SANCHEZ. I wish to recognize these members for their thoughtful contributions to an informed and productive exchange of views with Members of the European Parliament.

The Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue serves as the formal response of the European Parliament and the U.S. Congress to the commitment in the New Transatlantic Agenda of 1995 to enhance legislative ties between the European Union and the United States. The TLD involves biannual meetings between American and European legislators in order to foster transatlantic discourse and exchange views on topics of mutual interest. Given the recent adoption of the Lisbon Treaty and the additional powers it provides to the European Parliament, it is even more important that legislators engage in this dialogue in order to seek joint solutions to the pressing issues facing citizens on both sides of the Atlantic.

Participants at the New York meeting held extensive discussions about the financial crisis and international trade. The debate was informed by presentations from the Obama administration, including Michael Froman, Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs, and Mark Sobel, Acting Assistant Secretary for International Affairs at Treasury. The TLD emphasized the need for a strong and coordinated transatlantic policy response, while reiterating the importance of the Transatlantic Economic Council, TEC, as a framework for cooperation.

Considerable attention was paid to foreign policy issues. TLD participants engaged in vigorous debate about the Middle East, hearing the administration's perspective from Jeffrey Feltman, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs. Other foreign policy debates focused on Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Iranian nuclear threat, relations with Russia, and the Balkans. These deliberations were further enhanced by the delegation's meetings on the final day of the TLD at the United Nations with Ambassador Susan Rice and Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs B. Lynn Pascoe.

In addition, the delegates talked about the challenge of climate change and energy security with Jon Wellinghoff, Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. They also discussed a range of civil liberties issues, including American travel regulations and President Obama's efforts to close Guantanamo.

In conclusion, I submit the joint statement that was agreed upon by American and European legislators at the 67th TLD meeting held in New York. This document emphasizes the importance of continued transatlantic dialogue and cooperation in jointly addressing current financial and foreign policy challenges

TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE, 67TH MEETING OF DELEGATIONS FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, JOINT STATEMENT

(By Shelley Berkley, Cliff Stearns, Jim Costa, Elmar Brok, Sarah Ludford, and Niki Tzavela)

We, the Members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives, held our 67th Interparliamentary meeting (Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue) in New York City, from 4-7 December 2009.