

projects to improve the safety and efficiency of fossil fuel production technologies like deep-water drilling. It only makes sense that this legislation preserves the National Energy Technology Laboratories' role in conducting research on a subject on which they have so much knowledge and experience.

I am pleased that Chairman GORDON has confirmed that it is the Committee's intention that the National Energy Technology Laboratories will continue their important work on deepwater drilling research under the Safer Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Technology Research program addressed in this legislation.

I commend the Chairman, Ranking Member, and members of the Committee for drafting legislation to shift the focus of the Department of Energy's deepwater drilling research to prioritize safety and environmental protection. It's clear from the Deepwater Horizon tragedy that there's a pressing need to dedicate more resources to this important goal.

COST ESTIMATE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE FOR THE BILL H.R. 5503

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I submit the following.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI, *Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Please find enclosed the cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office for the bill H.R. 5503, the "Securing Protections for the Injured from Limitations on Liability Act." This cost estimate was not made available at the time the Committee Report (111-521, Part 1) was filed on June 30, 2010. The Committee respectively requests that this cost estimate be printed in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

JOHN CONYERS, JR.,
Chairman.

Enclosure.

H.R. 5503—Securing Protections for the Injured from Limitations on Liability Act

H.R. 5503 would amend several laws related to private liability that apply to injury or death incurred by workers on ocean-going vessels or on certain other facilities located in the ocean. The act also would amend the bankruptcy code to require any purchaser of a bankrupt company to pay any obligations of the firm that stem from damages caused by an oil spill. CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

Enacting H.R. 5503 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The act would expand both the Death on the High Seas Act (DOHSA) and the Jones Act to enable the surviving family members of a deceased worker to receive monetary compensation for nonmonetary damages as a result of the death of a relative on an ocean-going vessel or certain other facilities located in the ocean (such as oil-drilling rigs). H.R. 5503 also would extend the distance from shore that would make ships subject to the provisions of DOHSA, and it would repeal the Limitation of Liability Act, a law that limits the value of certain damages that can

be charged to vessel owners. H.R. 5503 also would allow state attorneys general to bring suit for remedial action under the Class Action Fairness Act. Because those provisions would affect the liability of private firms, CBO estimates that enacting them would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

H.R. 5503 would amend the bankruptcy code to require any purchaser of a bankrupt company with obligations related to an oil spill to pay those obligations that are owed to victims of the oil spill. Based on information from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC), CBO estimates that this provision would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

HR. 5503 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

By making unenforceable agreements that restrict individuals from disseminating information regarding the discharge of oil or other contaminants into waters off the shore of the United States, the act would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA. The legislation would limit the ability of parties connected with such spills to prevent their employees, or others with whom they have agreements, from providing information about matters related to a spill. CBO estimates that the aggregate direct cost of the mandate would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA for the private sector (\$141 million, in 2010, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Sarah Puro (for maritime issues), Martin von Gnechten (for bankruptcy), and Marin Randall (for the private-sector impact). The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

HONORING ROBERT EDWARD STEINHAEUER OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert Steinhauer, who is being honored as the Napa County Farm Bureau's 2010 Agriculturalist of the Year.

Mr. Steinhauer and his family have a long and storied history in California agriculture. He first found his way to the Napa Valley in 1971, serving as Vineyard Manager for Napa Valley Vineyard Company. In 1979, he joined Beringer Blass Wine Estates and served as senior vice president of vineyard operations for over 25 years. During his tenure, he was responsible for farming operations on over 10,400 acres of vineyards in five counties. He also managed grape purchases from over 400 growers for one of the Napa Valley's legendary wine companies. Today he is president and part owner of Wineland Consulting and is still a farmer; he owns 20 acres of raisin vineyards in Fresno.

Mr. Steinhauer's 2010 Agriculturalist of the Year Award is one of many he has earned during his distinguished career. He was the recipient of the 1983 Foremost McKesson California Vintner Award, 1978 Fresno State Viticulture Alumni Award, Copia 2004 Winegrower of the Year Award, 2005 Wine Integrity Award

and the 2008 Merit Award from the American Society for Enology and Viticulture.

Robert is known as one of the kindest and most generous people in the industry. His legacy will be carried on by his daughter Anne, who continues the family agricultural tradition with the Napa Valley Vintners Association. This honor is long overdue and I am fortunate to be able to call Mr. Steinhauer a friend.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize my dear friend Robert Steinhauer for his countless contributions to California agriculture. The Napa Valley and the entire agricultural community owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. He is a true giant in the industry. I join his wife Verna, daughter Anne and son Erik in wishing him continued success and fulfillment.

CONGRATULATING BUGEYE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bugeye Technologies, Inc., located in Pacific Missouri, for their efforts in upgrading the AS9100 Quality Management System Registration. Bugeye Technologies is a leading provider of replicated hardware for the simulation industry, and produces flight controls, visual display systems and simulated cockpits for military applications.

Bugeye Technologies recent upgrade will increase productivity and enhance their competitive position in the global marketplace. This upgrade will also benefit the Ninth Congressional district and Missouri by spurring local economic development by creating and sustaining manufacturing jobs.

I would like to take this time to commend Bugeye Technologies for all their hard work, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Bugeye Technologies, Inc., for a job well done.

LETTER FROM PAUL DEBRI, OF GRAND RAPIDS, MI

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I recently received a letter from a constituent, Mr. Paul Debré, who expressed concerns about the welfare of our country. In particular, Mr. Debré decried a lack of responsibility accepted by Members of Congress, and conveyed his anxiety over partisanship. Mr. Debré's letter offered a sobering perspective of how our daily actions in Washington are viewed by the people we are elected to represent.

Of note, the correspondence which I received included a copy of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD (Cong. Rec. 1 Sept. 1950: A6328) from Friday, September 1, 1950 and the extended remarks of my predecessor, the Honorable Gerald R. Ford, Jr. The attitude toward Congress expressed by Mr. Debré was shared by his grandfather, Mr. Irwin Koropas, who