

In other words, the conveners at COP 21 seek to protect our precious earth, address the nexus between our protection of precious earth to some of the natural disasters we are suffering and reach a consensus on how we leave our children their inheritance of the earth better than we found it.

Every day, hundreds of thousands of first responders heed the call during natural disasters to protect and serve the people of planet earth who find themselves at the mercy of mother-nature during natural disasters.

I hold in high regard the service of our first responders: firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency response technicians, nurses, emergency room doctors, and the dozens of other professionals and volunteers who are the ultimate public servants.

From Katrina to earthquakes in Haiti and Nepal, time and time again, first responders have put their lives and comfort on the line in order to rescue survivors, care for those in need, and prevent the further loss of life.

H.R. 3750 is very critical because it aims to reduce personal costs borne by first responders—people who help others in their time of need.

According to the Global Increase in Climate-Related Disasters, we face more frequent floods, storms, heat waves, and droughts which are connected to greater extremes in temperatures and rainfall.

Moreover, recent warnings by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, inform us that the global temperature is already halfway to the “two degree warming” threshold for limiting catastrophic climatic impacts.

As the evidence shows, unequivocally, the dedication of first responders is an integral part of bringing relief to parts of the world where natural disasters have struck.

I support this legislation and hope that as we move forward, we continue to engage in dialogue about the fact that:

Climate impacts are not just concerns for the distant future, but are already being felt by us and our children;

All countries, rich and poor are casualties of natural disaster, but the death toll is higher among the poor who are more likely to live in harm’s way, such as in flood-prone areas; and

It is important to create structures that facilitate the swift deployment of first responders to people in dire need of disaster relief.

HONORING MS. JENNIFER SOLDATI ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM GREATER SOMERSWORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AFTER NINE AND A HALF YEARS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Ms. Jennifer Soldati on her retirement after more than nine years as Executive Director of the Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce, and thank her for the outstanding work she did during her career.

Throughout her time at the Chamber, Ms. Soldati fought for the interests of both large

and small businesses, and focused on promoting growth throughout the region. During her tenure with the City Council, she played a critical role in completing multiple renovation projects in downtown Somersworth, and it’s clear that her knowledge, compassion and leadership will be greatly missed.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Ms. Jennifer Soldati on her retirement, and wish her the best on all future endeavors.

HONORING FALLEN CHICAGO
FIREFIGHTER DANIEL CAPUANO

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chicago Firefighter Daniel Capuano, who tragically lost his life while battling a blaze on Chicago’s South Side on December 14.

Daniel Capuano began his career as a firefighter and paramedic in Lemont, Illinois, in 1997. During his time in Lemont he helped save the life of a caddy who had a heart attack while working at the Cog Hill Golf Course. In 2001, Capuano joined the Chicago Fire Department where he served for 15 years. Throughout his career, he was known for going above and beyond the call of duty. He was always working on making himself a better firefighter, including constantly taking outside classes to learn the latest and most effective firefighting techniques. Capuano was known for his commitment to safety and skill as a firefighter as he served as a training supervisor, ensuring that trainees navigated controlled burns safely.

A member of Tower Ladder 34, Daniel Capuano leaves behind his wife Julie—a Chicago Public Schools teacher—and three children, Amanda, Andrew, and Nick. Capuano was known for being a loving father who enjoyed watching his children play hockey. He was a constant presence at their games, only missing when he was at work. Capuano also assisted his children’s team by helping out as the club manager and maintained a training building.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chicago Firefighter Daniel Capuano. A dedicated father, husband and firefighter, he was an example of the finest that Chicago has to offer. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring the life of Daniel Capuano and extending condolences to his family.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 644,
TRADE FACILITATION AND
TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF
2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act. This bill is an improvement on the previous version that I opposed in June.

For the past several years I have had many conversations with the people of Northwest Oregon about growing jobs and increasing exports. I’ve heard from workers, business owners, environmentalists, and others about the importance of enforcing and strengthening our existing trade laws and agreements. Strong trade facilitation and enforcement will keep other nations accountable for the labor and environmental standards we set and give the United States the ability to take swift action against those who seek to engage in unscrupulous trade practices.

The Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act earned my support because it includes provisions that are important for my constituents and for employers in Oregon, and because it provides resources and tools to take action against trade cheats.

This bill incorporates the ENFORCE Act to require quick action on allegations of evasion of duties, dumping, and improper subsidies. A special enforcement fund would provide up to \$30 million each year dedicated to enforcing trade agreements and making sure trading partners meet their commitments.

It permanently establishes the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center to pursue across-agency enforcement of domestic trade rights and trade laws. There are also strong provisions to put an end to importation of products made by child and forced labor.

Oregon receives funding through the State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) grant program to help small businesses find new markets for their products and boost job growth. This legislation reauthorizes STEP through 2020 and increases its funding to expand small business exports.

The Pacific Northwest is known for its great outdoors and recreational opportunities in the mountains, forests, beaches, rivers, and on the coast. Recreational outerwear businesses thrive in our region, marketing outerwear and active wear to sporting enthusiasts around the world. This legislation includes provisions that will make these products more competitive and reverse a scheduled increase in tariffs for small and medium-sized outdoor industry businesses.

Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, this is not a perfect bill, but it is a bipartisan compromise. On the heels of the historic Paris Climate Agreement, our nation will continue to lead the world in addressing climate change; the language in this legislation will not change that.

The Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act is a step forward and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to ensure that our nation has strong enforcement mechanisms to ensure our employers and workers can compete on a level playing field in the global economy.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE ROST

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Christine Rost of Hamburg, Iowa, for being selected to serve on the 2015–16 Region 17 4–H Youth Leadership Council. Region 17 includes Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, and