

## TRIBUTE TO DARYL BUSCH

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2017*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to Riverside County, California, are exceptional. Last month, Daryl Busch completed his service on the Board of Directors of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority ("Metrolink"). He began his service on the Board in January of 2005 and served as Vice Chair between the years of 2015 and 2016.

Daryl Busch brought valuable expertise to the Board through his service as Mayor of the City of Perris and commissioner of the Riverside County Transportation Commission. Daryl ushered in a new era of service that included a fourteen percent service expansion, the introduction of express trains, bike cars, quiet cars, service to sporting events throughout the region, and increased coordination with other regional transit providers including airports. During Daryl's service at Metrolink, major capital projects were pursued including the procurement of the Guardian Fleet, the new Tier 4 locomotives, development of the Ground Power Plug-In program, Positive Train Control and Perris Valley Line Expansion.

Daryl brought a tremendous amount of passion and enthusiasm to the agency, as he helped increase ridership on Metrolink, resulting in reductions in traffic congestion and air emissions, and providing Southern California commuters with a safe, reliable, efficient, and cost-effective means to travel. Daryl also helped institute an enhanced safety culture at Metrolink; he was essential to the implementation of lifesaving equipment onboard Metrolink trains such as crash energy management technology and inward and outward facing cameras.

I have had the privilege of knowing Daryl Busch for many years. Daryl's contributions to the Metrolink system have generated an admirable legacy as well as many friends and colleagues that will miss him. I applaud Daryl's service and I will truly miss working with him. His service and his achievements will have a longstanding and truly positive impact on our community.

**FAIR RATEPAYER ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY, AND EFFICIENCY STANDARDS ACT**

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2017*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 587, the Fair Ratepayer Accountability, Transparency, and Efficiency Standards Act (Fair RATES Act), which amends the Federal Power Act to permit administrative and judicial review of any rate change filed by a public utility that takes effect without the approval of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The need for this change became evident in the wake of a New England Forward Capacity Market Auction in 2014, which occurred at a time when FERC only had 4 Commissioners.

When the New England Forward Capacity Market Auction issue was addressed by FERC, the Commissioners split evenly over the question of whether the auction results were just and reasonable.

Since FERC did not disapprove the auction results, wholesale electricity prices in New England increased dramatically.

So, while rates went up, none of the affected parties could challenge the decision or resulting rate increase, and, therefore, no rehearing or judicial review was possible.

H.R. 587 provides those who want to challenge a similar rulings or non-decisions by FERC the ability to challenge the decision administratively or in the courts.

The bill ensures that stakeholders have recourse when a non-decision by FERC has very real consequences for consumers, producers and others.

This bill would also improve the process by which FERC votes are reconsidered.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 587.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2017*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, on Friday February 3, 2017, I was unable to vote on roll call vote No. 78: Passage of H.J. Res. 36, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Bureau of Land Management relating to Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation, Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

## RECOGNIZING RAND ROWLAND

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2017*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work of a Georgia Tech basketball player. Rand Rowland started on the team as a walk-on, but recently received a scholarship to play basketball for his final semester.

Rand arrived at Georgia Tech from White County High School in Northeast Georgia in 2013, and spent most of his college career as a practice player with the Yellow Jackets. Recognized by head coach Josh Pastner as a "phenomenal young man," Rand worked constantly with the team to improve its overall performance in any way that he could—even as a practice partner. His commitment to the team did not go unnoticed.

Assistant coach Eric Reveno said in regards to the decision to award Rand the scholarship, "What we do as basketball coaches isn't always fair, the right guys don't get rewarded all the time, it's nice when the right things do happen."

Rand earned his business degree in December, and is now beginning a second degree in the School of History and Sociology, hoping to become a college basketball coach himself, one day.

Currently, Rand's main focus is working on the scouting team. During his college career, he has played in nine games, for a total of 19 minutes, and he's still working to score his first career points for the Jackets. On and off the court, Rand has been made a valuable asset to his team. I congratulate Rand on receiving this scholarship at Georgia Tech, which he has said encourages him to follow his dreams and become a coach.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the diligence and dedication this young man has shown to his team and to his dream. Rand is a role model for fellow students and team members, and a source of pride for Northeast Georgia.

**RECOGNIZING THE PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. VAL MCWHORTER**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2017*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, Val McWhorter, for his inclusion in the 23rd edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the practice areas of Arbitration, Construction Law, and Mediation, and for his designation as the 2017 Lawyer of the Year in the practice area of Construction Law in Washington, D.C. A testament to his standing in the field of Construction Law, these well-deserved honors were awarded to Mr. McWhorter on the basis of high praise and feedback from both his peers and clients alike. Such acclamations of Mr. McWhorter's work should come as no surprise, given the more than \$500,000,000 he has recovered on behalf of his clients in state and federal court, mediations, and private negotiations.

Additionally, I want to congratulate Mr. McWhorter on the 25th anniversary of his induction into The Moles Organization, a national organization of individuals involved in the completion of heavy construction projects, including tunnels, bridges, highways, and dams. Founded in 1936, The Moles Organization is a respected institution whose members represent the best of American industry. First elected to membership in 1991, Mr. McWhorter's commitment to The Moles Organization led to his appointments last year to both the Publicity Committee and the Award Committee. Mr. McWhorter's longtime membership, and his recent leadership, in this esteemed organization deserve much recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Val McWhorter on his remarkable achievements, and in thanking him for his years of contribution to the practice of Construction Law in the Washington, D.C. region.

## TRIBUTE TO NATASHA JOHNSON

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2017*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community