

In a checkoff program, a small fraction of the wholesale price of a product is set aside and forwarded to a specially created checkoff board. The propane board, which would be known as the Propane Education and Research Council, would use those pooled funds for a variety of activities that would benefit the propane consumer, the propane industry, and the public. The Propane Education and Research Council would undertake specific activities including: First, research and development of more efficient, cleaner burning appliances; second, research and training in safety for both the industry and the public; third, education in regulatory compliance and cooperative activities with States; and fourth, cooperative activities with State associations and builder outreach efforts. All of these activities will provide substantial benefits to propane consumers and the public.

There are currently more than 150 Federal and State checkoff programs. They operate primarily in agricultural industries, which benefit from checkoffs for beef, eggs, cotton, milk, and soybeans.

There are some similar programs in energy industries, however, such as the Gas Research Institute, the Electric Power Research Institute, the Texas Railroad Commission propane checkoff and similar State programs in Louisiana, Missouri, and Alabama. Oil producers in Oklahoma have recently created the Oklahoma Energy Resource Board.

The Gas Research Institute [GRI], for example, boasts a 400-percent return for each dollar collected and invested. While GRI's work primarily benefits urban and suburban natural gas consumers, the propane checkoff would benefit rural and agricultural users of propane, as well as urban and suburban propane consumers.

The agricultural industry, for example, which accounts for 7 to 8 percent of all propane consumed in the United States, will see substantial benefits from the propane checkoff. Much of the large industrial and agricultural equipment now in use is not as efficient as residential and commercial equipment. The propane checkoff will permit research and development into better, more efficient equipment for the industry. With even marginal increases in equipment efficiency, the agriculture industry would reap great returns. Obviously, better and more efficient utilization of propane would benefit other industries, such as construction, in still other ways, further increasing the value of the return.

A checkoff program is particularly needed for propane because, unlike all other major forms of energy and many minor energy sources, propane receives virtually no Federal support for research, development, education, or other activities. Rather than turn to the Federal Government for support in a period of deficit spending and tight funding restrictions, the propane industry has developed this self-help proposal to help ensure that propane is most effectively and efficiently utilized. While this program is paid for by the propane industry, propane consumers and the public will be primary beneficiaries.

This legislation only provides the propane industry with the opportunity to establish this program. The legislation I am proposing would not actually establish the propane checkoff. Instead, it calls upon the propane industry, propane producers, and retail marketers, to hold a referendum among themselves to authorize establishment of the checkoff before it can go

into effect. If the experience with the program is not as positive as the industry projects and experience with checkoff programs suggests, it could be terminated by a majority vote of both classes, or a two-thirds vote by a single one. It is the propane industry's own request that we would help provide it with this coordinated opportunity to voluntarily pool its resources.

This bill is an important self-help measure for the propane industry based on a proven legislative precedent from other industries. Moreover, as a self-help measure, rather than a request for direct Government funding, this measure may well become a model for future legislation in many fields. I encourage my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

THANK YOU LESTER McFADDEN
FOR 35 YEARS OF DEDICATED
SERVICE TO THE FRANKLIN
COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 7, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Lester McFadden, a constituent and friend who is stepping down as a Democratic precinct committeeman in Benton, IL, after 35 years of dedicated service. In 1970 Lester officially entered the political ring when he became a committeeman and was elected Benton's town clerk.

Lester was born on February 15, 1911, in Logan, IL, and has lived his entire life in Franklin County. He worked 25 years as a carpenter before working more than 20 additional years in the coal industry of southern Illinois. He did all this while balancing the responsibilities of being a husband, devoted father of four, and a committeeman. Being a precinct committeeman is hard work, but Lester is no stranger to rolling up his sleeves and digging in to whatever challenge faces him.

Lester is a person that believes in the value of community involvement and always makes time for his neighbors. For approximately 15 years he coached Little League Baseball in Benton, he is a member of the West City Church of God, the Masonic Lodge, and the Shrine. He has a tough schedule, but always manages to make time for the people of Franklin County.

I have always known Lester to be a hard-working, dedicated, and honest individual. He has always been a trusted and a valued friend and it is with great sadness that I see him step down as precinct committeeman. While Lester may be leaving his role as committeeman I am sure he will continue to be active in Franklin County politics. I wish him all the best as he enters this new stage of life and I am honored to represent this distinguished gentleman in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO BETHEL PILOTS
MEN'S BASKETBALL

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to a group of college athletes in my district who have distinguished themselves as the NAIA Division II Men's Basketball National Champions: The Pilots of Bethel College in Mishawaka, IN.

On Tuesday, March 14, the Bethel College Pilots defeated Northwest Nazarene College 103 to 95. The championship game topped off a 16-game-winning streak and brought a perfect ending to an outstanding season. In addition to claiming the national title, the team set the school season record for most wins, finishing 38 to 2. Pilots senior guard Mark Galloway netted the three-point buzzer-beater at the end of regulation and thus sent the game into overtime. Mark became Bethel's all time leading scorer and was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

In their first year after moving up in to the NAIA, the young men of Bethel reached the top of their division. By their hard work and tenacity they have brought immeasurable pride and happiness to Bethel College, Bethel alumni and our entire community. I would also commend the leadership at Bethel College, particularly Dr. Norman Bridges, for his support of the athletic program.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Coach Mike Lightfoot, head coach of the Bethel College Pilots, for leading his team to victory, for being named the NAIA Division II Coach of the Year and for his career record of 235 wins, 65 losses. I am proud and honored to recognize this milestone in Pilots' history. I know that in the years to come these fine young men will continue to distinguish themselves with greatness in their careers, and in their communities.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LADY
OF THE HAMPTONS

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 7, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the exceptional students at Our Lady of the Hamptons Regional Catholic School in Southampton, Long Island, NY, who will be inducted into the National Junior Honor Society on April 26.

It comes as no surprise to me that the parents, teachers, and students at Our Lady of the Hamptons have produced such outstanding scholars and future community leaders. For years, Our Lady of the Hamptons has been known throughout eastern Long Island as an institution unrivaled for its dedication to educating young adults and providing them with the moral compass they will need to navigate their way through the rough seas of life. Last year, the President of the United States likewise recognized the accomplishments of this fine institution and named Our Lady of the Hamptons a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.