

years. As the investor's insurance requirement decreased, her servicer continued to keep the original coverage amount in place. So, she has been a victim of paying insurance for too long. Her servicer has been overinsuring her home loan, and failing to cancel the insurance when it knew she had the right to, and failed to even tell her that she could insist on the cancellation of the insurance.

She is not alone. The above example is just one of the 315,000 homeowners that her lender services. Her lender, even at the more conservative fee of \$50 a month for PMI, could theoretically collect tens of millions of dollars a year in PMI charges for the home mortgages it holds. It is time that we stop the scam.

It is time to stop sticking it to hard-working homeowners. I have introduced H.R. 3556 that will correct this problem and will: First, require the lender or person making or arranging the loan to disclose to the homeowner that PMI is and how it can be canceled and second, provide the homeowner with the right to cancel PMI. If the borrower has met the mortgage owners requirements for cancellation, i.e., a good payment history and if once the equity in the property has reached or exceeded 20 percent of the original appraised value of home.

This bill will continue to protect mortgage lenders, insurers and mortgage servicers, while at the same time protecting thousands of people throughout the United States who have PMI long after all requirements for release are met.

□ 1600

#### REBUILDING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. LUCAS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, I addressed the House about a situation very important to the rebuilding efforts in Oklahoma City following last year's bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. Eight days later, the clock continues to tick, and money desperately needed by the people of Oklahoma City continues to not be fully utilized for disaster relief purposes.

I am here today to remind the President that he, and he alone, has the statutory authority to follow up on his declaration of the bombing as a national emergency, by suspending the Davis-Bacon Act for these funds. I stress the word "remind" because I have already sent him two letters on this subject, and this is now my second speech on the floor of the House. The President witnessed first hand the devastating destruction caused by the bombing and had the chance this past April to see how little progress has been made in rebuilding Oklahoma

City despite enactment of the \$39 million in CDBG funds last July.

If the President agrees with me that the people of Oklahoma City should be able to fully utilize the funds we granted them, then he should agree to suspend the Davis-Bacon Act and treat this situation as nearly all other disasters and emergencies have historically been treated. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as utilized by FEMA, makes no mention of Davis-Bacon, meaning that these requirements do not apply to FEMA funds. Oklahoma City should not be treated any differently. As long as small contractors are forced to spend more time filling out paperwork and computing the correct wages than actually completing their job, this goal cannot be accomplished. Every dollar that is spent in excess of original estimates due to Davis-Bacon, is a dollar that is essentially taken away from the rebuilding efforts.

Mr. President, as you know, this can all be resolved today. By stating that you intend to suspend Davis-Bacon for these DCBG funds, you will be siding with the people of Oklahoma City who are working hard to rebuild their city despite all obstacles. We should all be doing everything we can to make their job easier. In fact, I believe that the Federal role in disasters such as this is to empower the communities affected. The national response to Oklahoma City after the bombing was truly special, and I am forever indebted to all those who acted quickly to assist Oklahoma City. Now, I believe we must continue this cooperation and suspend Davis-Bacon so that the relief efforts are not hindered and so that Federal relief funds are not taken away from those attempting to rebuild this great city.

Despite your silence on this matter, Mr. President, I trust that you too want these funds to be properly used, and I sincerely hope that you will take the necessary action to ensure this.

At this time, I ask unanimous consent to enter into the RECORD a letter from Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating, and the mayor of Oklahoma City, Ronald Norick, supporting my efforts and urging the President to use his authority to suspend Davis-Bacon.

THE CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY,

June 5, 1996.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,  
*President of the United States, The White House, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Congressman Frank Lucas recently made a request on behalf of The City of Oklahoma City for further assistance in rebuilding our community after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The request was for a suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act requirements as it relates to the CDBG funding for bombing relief.

As you know, the damage to our city was extensive and recovery efforts are in the early stages. We must maximize the relief funds provided to Oklahoma City in order to rebuild the north area of downtown. You could save our community some \$15 million by suspending the Davis-Bacon wage rates

for the federal funds we received for this disaster. This \$15 million could be used to provide additional assistance to those impacted by the bombing and to further rebuild the area around the Murrah site. (Specific examples of savings were included with the request from Congressman Lucas.)

We realize you have the authority to suspend the Davis-Bacon Act's requirements in times of national emergency, and on April 19, 1995, you declared a national emergency for Oklahoma City. This tragedy continues to be a national emergency in Oklahoma City, and the impact on our local economy is much greater than we originally estimated.

Your support of Oklahoma City and assistance with the revitalization of the bombing area is greatly appreciated. We hope you will seriously consider this request and continue to help us as we rebuild our community following last year's tragedy. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

RONALD J. NORICK,  
*Mayor.*

STATE OF OKLAHOMA,  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,  
May 28, 1996.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,  
*President of the United States, The White House, Washington, DC.*

DEAR PRESIDENT CLINTON, I am pleased to write in full support of the request Congressman Frank Lucas has made regarding executive suspension of Davis-Bacon Act provisions in connection with CDBG funding to restore bomb damage to our community. As Congressman Lucas notes, there is precedent for such action, and I would encourage you to move swiftly and positively in response to the initial request made by the City of Oklahoma City.

As we discussed during your visit to the bomb site in April, much remains to be done to restore property in the downtown Oklahoma City area. The available funds will do more good if contractors are exempt from Davis-Bacon provisions. It is vital that every possible dime of these funds flow directly to property repairs and restoration, since many of the business properties awaiting repairs are also significant employers in the downtown area. The more we can accomplish with the funds, the quicker will be Oklahoma City's return to economic health.

I appreciate your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

FRANK KEATING,  
*Governor.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### PATENT LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr.