

fostering alternative energy sources in the United States is critical—and wind energy has phenomenal potential. As of now, the majority of domestic wind development has been located in California, but there are numerous other states that have great natural potential, including North Dakota, Texas, Kansas, South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Iowa and

Wind energy projects also offer a boon to farmers, particularly those in the Farm Belt—one of the most promising areas for the development of domestic wind resources. Wind power projects and ranching and farming are fully compatible; wind plants can be located and operated with little or no displacement or interference with crops or livestock. And for farmers and ranchers, the lease payments paid to them by wind operators serve as a stable source of extra income.

Wind projects also create important new economic opportunities in the communities in which they are located. New wind facilities lead to increased local tax bases, new manufacturing opportunities, rental income for farmers and ranchers and new construction, and ongoing operational and maintenance jobs. This leads to more jobs and other economic opportunities in rural areas where those things can be scarce.

Equally important, wind energy is an environmentally friendly form of energy that produces no air or groundwater pollution.

Unfortunately, none of these benefits are possible without the production tax credit.

Wind energy is viable and working, but without the credit, development would be hindered dramatically. As we know all too well, energy prices are in a terrible state of flux now. This sort of fluctuation makes the financing and development of wind projects terrifically difficult. Put simply, the production tax credit abrogates this problem by leveling the costs of production through a guaranteed revenue stream. In the end, such a guarantee—which must be at least five years to ensure viability—will foster a cost-effective and environmentally sensitive energy sector. And that is exactly what we need.

For all these reasons, we owe it to ourselves to pass a five-year extension of the wind energy production tax credit. And I urge my colleagues in both the House and Senate to continue to support this important fledgling industry.

HONORING ROHM AND HAAS
TEXAS, INCORPORATED

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rohm and Haas Texas, Incorporated for its participation in the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) Star Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). Rohm and Haas employees and management should be commended for maintaining excellent safety and health programs in their workplace that is recognized by OSHA as a model for the industry. The fact that Rohm and Haas has achieved Star Program status demonstrates that the company is capable and willing to meet all VPP requirements of excellence in safety.

Rohm and Haas Texas Incorporated has been a responsible member of the Deer Park community for 50 years, safely manufacturing chemicals for use in the disposable diaper, automobile, paint, coatings and communication industries. Construction on the Deer Park Plant began in 1947 and in July of the following year, the first shipment of acetone cyanohydrin was made to another Rohm and Haas plant in Pennsylvania to produce acrylic sheet.

The Deer Park Plant would become the company's largest and most productive with five major expansions in the fifties, followed by four in the sixties, two in the seventies, two in the eighties and six in the nineties. Employment has climbed from 132 in 1948 to more than 850 today, making the plant one of the largest industrial employers in the area. When wages, purchases and taxes are considered, the plant and employees are responsible for adding more than \$85 million each year to the local economy which, in turn, creates an estimated 4,500 jobs for others in the community.

Rohm and Haas' Deer Park plant has demonstrated a proven commitment to improving worker safety and health. By joining the VPP Association, Rohm and Haas' Deer Park plant has taken a leadership role in achieving safety, health, and environmental excellence through cooperation among communities, workers, industries, and governments in the United States.

Employees at Rohm and Haas are enjoying the benefits of a safer worksite through VPP. Since the VPP's inception in 1983, participation in the program has grown from three to more than 500 sites. By participating in this program, Rohm and Haas has chosen to improve safety at its worksite and to reduce injury and illness rates. Rohm and Haas employees are true partners in these improvement efforts and take on critical roles in helping their workplaces to achieve safety excellence. The total workforce of Rohm and Haas should be proud of the recognition by the industry and community that comes with being an OSHA Star worksite.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Rohm and Haas Texas, Incorporated for recognizing that compliance enforcement alone can never fully achieve the objectives of OSHA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from the House floor during last night's vote on S.J. Res. 6 (rollcall vote No. 33). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye," as I did on the rule earlier in the day.

OSHA's burdensome and excessively costly ergonomics regulations were not based on sound science, and were not subjected to the requisite legislative consideration. The estimated cost of compliance for their 600-page plan to regulate every nook and cranny of American workplaces ranged into the hundreds of billions of dollars. No one could even guarantee that OSHA's proposal would protect workers from injury—but we do know that businesses would have to terminate employ-

ees just to be able to afford to implement the plan.

Mr. Speaker, owners of small and large businesses through the Fourth Ohio District know the vital importance of maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for their employees. Without exception, all of them have voluntarily taken steps to protect their workers—without the heavy hand of government forcing them to do so. Employers know that their productivity will suffer otherwise, as will their workers' paychecks.

I am gratified that our first use of the Congressional Review Act will stop these new rules from going into effect, and look forward to President Bush's signature on this joint resolution of disapproval.

OTPOR

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago I had the opportunity to meet five representatives from the independent, non-governmental organization Otpor. "Otpor," in Serbian, means "resistance," and the organization was founded in the mid-1990s by students from Belgrade University and elsewhere in Serbia, who had enough of Slobodan Milosevic's choke-hold on the neck of Serbian society.

Their efforts have forged a strong bond between idealism and realism. Otpor members engaged in passive resistance, never advocating violence nor returning the blows they received from the police and other thugs under Milosevic's control. Instead, they had a stronger weapon—determination and persistence. Fear would not keep them from putting up their posters, from wearing their black-and-white emblem of a clenched fist. Moreover, they kept their eye on the goal of a democratic and tolerant Serbia at peace with its neighbors and with itself. The organization appointed no specific leader, in a strategy to thwart any attempt to compromise the individual—they had learned the lesson from observing the many opposition politicians in Serbia who had been compromised.

During the past two years, more than 1,500 Otpor activists, of about 50,000 based in over 10 Serbian cities, were arrested and interrogated by security forces under Milosevic's control. One of the five who visited my office had himself been arrested on 17 occasions. Prior to the September 2000 elections, Otpor worked closely with the democratic political opposition, independent trade unions, NGOs and other youth groups to mobilize voters. Otpor's activists played a crucial role in the street demonstrations that began immediately following the elections and led to Milosevic's downfall.

The impressive delegation of five Otpor activists visiting Washington included Slobodan Homen, Nenad Konstantinovic, Jovan Ratkovic, Jelena Urosevic and Robertino Knjur, all in their mid- to late-20s and very