

gains rate will give us little bang for our buck. Many leading economists argue that the dividend cut especially is one of the least effective options to grow the economy.

This bill is a cruel hoax on New Mexico families. The overwhelming majority of hard-working New Mexicans will reap minimal benefits from these tax cuts. Although the final agreement hammered out by the House and Senate is much better than President Bush's original proposal, it still will not deliver much of a boost to the economy and instead increase the federal debt to be paid for by future generations.

With passage of this tax cut, Congress and the president are demonstrating their economic arrogance. Over 400 economists, 10 Nobel prize-winning economists, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and a host of other credible experts have told us that this is not the way to go. It is not good economic policy, it is not good tax policy, it is not good fiscal policy, and it is going to put us in a deeper and deeper deficit hole. Eventually interest rates will rise because of the federal debt and that's going to hit middle-income families harder than the wealthy individuals who benefit the most from this misguided bill.

Two years ago, President Bush told us that we could enact his policies and virtually eliminate the debt held by the public by 2008. Now, the Bush Administration is asking Congress to raise the debt limit by almost \$1 trillion. It is an unprecedented turn of events. Those in the White House and their allies who want to eventually end the role of the federal government as we know it today—in education, homeland security, health care, Social Security, Medicare, veterans' benefits and other basic services—are well on their way.

The only beneficial provisions included here are the ones that we included in our alternative plan: raising the refundable child tax credit, speeding up tax relief for married couples, preventing more individuals from being hit by the alternative minimum tax, small business expensing, and the financial aid to the states. Unfortunately, these redeemable items will be strangled by the capital gains and dividends tax breaks for the few.

In 2001, I voted against the Bush tax cut bill because it was too skewed toward the wealthiest Americans and too fiscally irresponsible. Since then, we have gone from record surpluses to record deficits, and the economy is still floundering. Passing another enormous tax cut this year will only continue this trend and increase the economic problems that our children and grandchildren will inherit.

Tonight, I will do so again. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this conference report.

BRUCE WOODBURY POST OFFICE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to one of Southern Nevada's most distinguished citizens, Commissioner Bruce Woodbury. I have introduced legislation to name the United States Postal Service facility in Boulder City, Nevada in his honor.

I have worked closely with the members of the City Council of Boulder City, and the Mayor of Boulder City, Robert Ferraro, to appropriately thank Commissioner Woodbury for his many contributions to the great State of Nevada.

Commissioner Woodbury is a native of Las Vegas, and he has resided in Boulder City since 1978. He is a graduate of Las Vegas High School, and attended the University of Utah where he graduated Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, and Magna Cum Laude. Mr. Woodbury then attended Stanford School of Law where he earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence and was a member of the Board of Editors of the Stanford Law Review.

In Southern Nevada, Commissioner Woodbury has served for many years as an outstanding civic leader. He has served as a member of the Clark County Commission for 21 years and on the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada for 17 years, the last 11 as that body's chairman. The magnitude of his contributions are seen by Nevadans every day. Commissioner Woodbury was instrumental in gathering support for the construction of the Las Vegas Beltway, the largest and most visible transportation project ever undertaken in Clark County. Through his leadership, Commissioner Woodbury has worked to minimize traffic delays, reduce inconvenience for drivers, and maintain access to local businesses.

In addition, Mr. Woodbury has been very involved in local, civic, and youth organizations. He is also a proud father and grandfather. I am pleased to introduce this legislation honoring him today. It has been my privilege to work with Commissioner Woodbury on a variety of projects and I can speak to his character as a leader, a citizen, and as a friend.

TRIBUTE TO PONTIAC HIGH SCHOOL'S HUSKIE BRIGADE

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Pontiac Northern High School's "Huskie Brigade" for their victory at the U.S. FIRST Robotics National Championship in Houston, Texas last month. The twenty-four students, four teachers, and several engineers should be proud of this accomplishment.

Science and technology are the keystones to our economic prosperity. The quality education of America's youth is more critical now than ever as our society becomes more wired and globalized. Our students must be interested in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology to continue our success.

The For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) competition instills an appreciation of science and technology in students and teaches them how mastering these institutes can enrich our society. Corporations provide economic and professional support to FIRST and teams. General Motors Powertrain sponsored Pontiac Northern High School's team. Many Fortune 500 companies have significantly contributed to FIRST's growth and government organizations such as NASA are key partners. FIRST represents a cooperative team effort by stu-

dents, teachers, communities, corporations, and our government.

The Huskie Brigade competed in two regional events leading up to the National Competition. At the Great Lakes Regional, they were awarded the prestigious 2003 Regional Chairman's Award. At the Mid-West Regional, the Huskie Brigade finished as a finalist and won the Johnson and Johnson's Sportsmanship Award.

I congratulate the Huskie Brigade on their fine achievements and awards and wish nothing but the best for all the members in their future endeavors.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO SAMANTHA BENTON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I rise today to convey my deepest appreciation to a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for her dedicated service to the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District. Samantha Benton left my staff last week to join the United States Department of the Treasury. I wish her well in this endeavor and am confident that she will excel in her new role.

Samantha was raised in my hometown of Hood River, Oregon, growing up on a family-owned orchard along the Columbia River Gorge. Her parents, John and Julie Benton, are well-respected members of the Hood River community and personal friends of mine. Samantha brought her "small town values" from rural Oregon to our nation's capital and to the job she performed assisting Oregonians visiting Washington, D.C. or seeking help from my office. She attended Westside Elementary School and Hood River Middle School before graduating from Hood River Valley High School in 1997. She then went on to attend the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, where she studied history and was active as Vice President of Program Development for the University's Zeta chapter of Alpha Phi. Samantha's interest in politics was apparent during her college years, when she worked as an intern in two Congressional offices. Samantha worked as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office during the summer of 1999, then worked in Congresswoman JENNIFER DUNN's Mercer Island District Office in 2000.

After her graduation in 2001, I was pleased to offer Samantha a permanent position on my staff. From the beginning of her tenure, she made Oregonians feel at home when they walked through the door of 1404 Longworth by offering them a warm and sincere reception. She faithfully attended to every detail in helping families navigate the sights and sounds of Washington, D.C. Time and again, she brought history to life by leading tours of the Capitol for Oregonians who had come nearly 3,000 miles so that they and their children could better understand the federal government and our nation's extraordinary history. Samantha arranged their itineraries, answered their questions, and went the extra mile every time to make them feel comfortable an entire continent away from their homes. In short, Mr.