

Additionally, this legislation would extend the authority for schools, churches, and community organizations to operate Summer Food Service Program sites, and in 14 states, continue operation of special pilot programs that reduce paperwork requirements and thereby increase the number of low-income children who receive free meals and snacks during the summer months.

Finally, this legislation ensures that until a child nutrition reauthorization bill is signed into law, commodity distribution to schools will be maintained at sufficient levels and that schools will have funds available to replace commodities that pose a potential health or safety risk to students.

The child nutrition provisions that would be extended through this legislation benefit America's most vulnerable children. It is our duty as lawmakers to ensure that these at-risk children and their families can continue to receive the benefits for which they have been deemed eligible until the House and Senate complete work on legislation reauthorizing both the Child Nutrition Act and Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act in their entirety.

**PREVENT PRICE GOUGING DURING
A DISASTER—SUPPORT THE
P.I.G. ACT**

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, as we have just seen following Hurricane Isabel, some vendors charged residents exorbitant rates for essential goods and services following the storm. A recent Washington Post article reports that in one instance, a tree-cutting firm wanted \$17,000 to remove five trees that had already fallen to the ground. The same article refers to gasoline being sold for over \$3 a gallon and bottles of water sold for \$5 apiece.

While most merchants are honorable and help their neighbors by providing at a reasonable cost the products or services during a crisis, others seek to take advantage of these people in their time of need. Today I am introducing the Permanently Inhibit Gougers (P.I.G.) Act that would prohibit vendors from increasing prices on goods and services widely needed during a declared disaster.

Specifically, prices could not be increased by more than 10 percent in excess of the average price of a product over the last 90 days. This restriction would apply for the seven days before a foreseeable event and for the 90 days following a disaster. Increases in excess of 10% would be branded an unfair or deceptive business practice under the Federal Trade Commission Act. Reasonable exceptions would be made for vendors allowing them to raise their prices proportionally when their cost of doing business or acquiring wholesale goods increases during a crisis.

Additionally, violators would be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$250,000. People who are the victims of price gouging would be able to sue the purveyor for damages up to three times the amount they overpaid.

Congress must act to prevent unscrupulous vendors from taking advantage of consumers during an emergency. We need to make it clear that such despicable behavior, which is

as shameless as looting, will be punished severely in order to ensure that our constituents are not gouged at the worst possible time. I urge my colleagues to send gougers a strong message by signing on as cosponsors of this legislation.

HONORING CONSULEGIS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an important semi-annual conference that will be taking place in my district over the span of four days in October. Becker & Poliakoff, a highly respected and diverse commercial law firm based in Hollywood, Florida, has been chosen to host the Fall meeting of Consulegis, an international network of law firms.

Consulegis, an international association of independent law firms, was first founded in Germany to provide cross-country services when numerous restrictions once were in place that hindered commerce between many countries in Europe. Members of this organization include law practices that achieve the hallmark of being independent, commercially minded, and possessing the highest professional standards. Since its initial inception, the organization has grown rapidly, once encompassing more of Europe and then later expanding to include members from other continents of the world.

The founding principles that guide this exemplary international group are based on the premise that within our globalized commercial framework, cooperation and cohesion amongst a strong network of firms will bring forth the ideal results for their respective clients. Simply by working together, Consulegis and its independent firms can rely on a number of resources and a solidified level of trust to achieve their goals.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a special occasion to rise today and honor this event. Not only am I proud of the respected law firm in my district, Becker & Poliakoff, which has proven worthy as a member of Consulegis to host this crucial conference, but I am encouraged by this organization's efforts to bridge gaps in the international community. Indeed, forming a reliable network of professionals all seeking to help their clients and spur growth in our international commercial framework only has proven to be positive in every sense. From partnerships such as Consulegis and the cooperation they foster, these firms have been trailblazers in understanding and harnessing the beneficial context of the international economy.

TRIBUTE TO CALVIN HOPPER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen. Calvin Hopper has worked for many years in the field of nu-

clear safety. His dedication and hard work has earned him widespread recognition, including the Outstanding Achievement Award from Colorado State University—Pueblo. Calvin is well accomplished in his field, and I am honored to recognize his achievements today.

Calvin is a distinguished Senior Development Engineer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he works in nuclear criticality safety process analysis and program management. Prior to his current work, Calvin held many positions in the field, including helping to develop the Department of Energy Standard Practices Guide for criticality safety projects for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In addition, Calvin has served as the Deputy Advisor and Technical Expert to the U.S. Nuclear Technical Advisory Group and is a member of the American Nuclear Society, where he serves as chairman of several committees. Outside of his professional life, Calvin works to give back to his community through involvement in the Habitat for Humanity and the Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra and Band.

Mr. Speaker, Calvin Hopper is a dedicated scientist and active citizen. His distinguished professional achievements and commitment to his community are truly an inspiration to us all. I am honored to join with my colleagues in recognizing Calvin here today.

**ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF
BOB MURPHY**

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, back home in New York, Mets fans are coping with the retirement of New York Mets announcer Bob Murphy. Murph was an original Met, having called Mets games since their inception in 1962, 42 seasons ago. He saw, and brought home to us, every peak and trough in between.

It's hard to explain the special bond that Mets fans have with Bob Murphy. But it is akin to a long-term friendship that begins in early childhood, suffers with you through adolescence, struggles with you through young adulthood, and triumphs with you through maturity. Friends who spend every summer day and night together, and whose hearts ache to be reunited during the long, cold winter.

As children, Bob Murphy tucked us in to bed at night. He sat with us in the classroom as we smuggled a radio into school. He rode with us as we sat in traffic. No matter what else was transpiring in our life, we could always turn to Bob Murphy bringing us a routine game in the middle of June, and be put totally at ease. Bob Murphy had that calming effect on us. Chicken pox, report cards, girlfriends all came and went—but through the years, Bob Murphy never left our side. He shared those moments with us all while bringing us to the edge of our seat, sharing with us the emotional roller coaster that comes with being a Mets fan.

He brought us laughter; he brought us tears (in the early years, often at the same time). In their history, the Mets have won two World Series and four pennants. But, nestled between those accomplishments, they have suffered at some of the leanest years that baseball has ever seen. All the while, our emotions