

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6,
ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003 RE-
GARDING TITLE VIII—HYDROGEN

SPEECH OF

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of Conference Committee on H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003, as well as Chairman of House Energy and Commerce Committee which has jurisdiction over national energy policy as well as the production, storage, supply, marketing, pricing and regulation of energy resources, including unconventional energy resources, I am taking this opportunity to elaborate on and clarify both the legislative provisions and Statement of Managers that is contained in the conference report on H.R. 6 regarding Title VIII, Hydrogen.

On April 1, 2003 and April 2, 2003, the Energy and Commerce Committee met in mark up session to consider a committee print, the Energy Policy Act of 2003. On April 2, 2003, the Energy and Commerce Committee voted to approve the committee print and report this legislation to the full House of Representatives. This committee print contained, among other provisions, Title V, Vehicle and Fuels, Subtitle B, FreedomCar and Hydrogen Fuel Program.

H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003, was subsequently introduced in the House of Representatives on April 7, 2003. H.R. 6 contained the legislative work product of the Committee on Energy and Commerce as well as other committees. Hydrogen provisions in H.R. 6 concerning the "FreedomCar" and hydrogen fuel and infrastructure program were consolidated in Division F—Hydrogen. The conference report on H.R. 6 contains Title VIII, Hydrogen, which is based on Division F of H.R. 6, incorporating several elements of S. 14.

The program established under Title VIII of the committee print provides for the production of hydrogen from diverse energy sources, including conventional and renewable energy sources. It also provides for the use of hydrogen in electric power generation and the safe delivery of hydrogen and hydrogen-carrier fuels. The program additionally encompasses advanced vehicle technologies, including automobile materials, energy storage, propulsion and hybrid systems.

Although Title VIII contains necessary appropriations to the Secretary of Energy to fund the activities authorized by the Title, central to the operation of this federal program is the public/private partnership required under Section 803(a). This partnership is reflected within the section 803(b)(1)(A) programmatic goal, specifically the directive to "enable a commitment by automakers no later than year 2015 to offer for sale" hydrogen fuel vehicles. Section 803(b)(2) contains a corresponding programmatic goal of obtaining a private sector commitment, not later than 2015, for necessary hydrogen infrastructure. Under sections 803(b)(1)(A) and 803(b)(2), both the vehicle and infrastructure commitments are followed, by five years, with availability, in the mass consumer market, of vehicles and safe and convenient refueling capacity.

Title VIII, therefore, incorporates the public/private partnership regarding the production of

hydrogen fuels, associated hydrogen vehicles and necessary support infrastructure at a basic structural level. Section 803(a)(7), in particular, indicates that the development of necessary codes and standards needed to implement the program take place "after consultation with the private sector." This statutory directive applies to the production, distribution, storage and use of hydrogen, hydrogen-carrier fuels, and related products. Statutory authority conveyed to the Secretary of Energy for the promulgation of "necessary codes and standards" is to be interpreted by the Department of Energy in conformance with the ordinary and regular practice concerning these legislative terms.

The concept of public/private partnership in implementation of the program established through Title VIII is additionally reflected in section 803(d) requiring the conduct of activities to deploy hydrogen energy and energy infrastructure, fuel cells and advanced vehicle technologies. It should be noted that this deployment activity is separate and apart from section 803(c) which requires the Secretary of energy to fund a limited number of demonstration projects. This separation of demonstration and deployment activities is intentional and reflects the fact that such required elements of the hydrogen program are distinct entities.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GUSTAVO
MONTEJANO

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of my constituent Gustavo Montejano (Mon-tay-HAH-no) and his two daughters, Katia and Esmerelda.

Gustavo Montejano is a true hero. When his family's home caught fire early on Monday morning, Gustavo rushed his wife and 2-year-old son out of the house. He then went back to rescue his two daughters, who were still asleep inside. Unfortunately, the second story collapsed, and the smoke and flames overtook him before he could get his girls to safety. As the headline from the Houston Chronicle reads, "He died hugging his two girls."

While we are all deeply saddened for the Montejano family's loss, I know that those girls were comforted by their father's presence, and that they died together knowing that he loved them so much that he was willing to sacrifice his own life trying to save them.

Gustavo's family remembers him as a kind and generous man, who took in his sister and her eight children when they needed a home.

Despite the fact that he had been laid off from his job, he helped support his sister's family as well as his own, helping to pay bills and care for the children.

I know his wife, Maribel, and 2-year-old son are devastated by this loss, but they should be proud of the great man Gustavo was, and that he died a hero's death.

His loss will be felt by all of Galena Park, and I ask that you remember the Montejano family in your thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO SPC JEREMY
DIGIOVANNI

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to Specialist Jeremy DiGiovanni who was killed in action Saturday, November 15, in Iraq. Along with seventeen other American soldiers, including another Mississippian, PFC Damien Heidelberg, Jeremy was killed in the collision of two Black Hawk helicopters.

Jeremy was a member of the A Company, 4th Battalion, 101st Airborne based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and he served as crew chief on one of the Black Hawks. Jeremy hailed from Pike County, Mississippi, and he served his country proudly and with honor.

Specialist DiGiovanni made the ultimate sacrifice defending our Nation and helped free millions of men, women, and children from the tyrannical grasp of an evil and brutal dictator. We Mississippians are so proud of the men and women we have serving in Iraq and appreciate their dedication to defending freedom and democracy.

I ask my fellow Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to remember Jeremy and his family during this difficult time. To his family, our prayers are with you, and we are grateful for Jeremy's courage and service to the United States of America.

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE,
ENSURING FOOD SAFETY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

MS. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a danger that threatens every one of us—food-borne illnesses. Each year, 76 million people suffer from food-borne illness. Of those individuals, approximately 325,000 will be hospitalized and more than 5,000 will die. Our children, the elderly, and those with weakened immunity systems face an even greater danger. Of the deaths caused by food-borne illness nearly every year, children comprise nearly 40 percent of the victims. I know parents who have lost their children to this threat.

Today, I am introducing legislation, the National Food Safety Database Act, that will give officials charged with caring for our children and our other vulnerable loved ones the information they need to make safe food purchasing choices. My bill will create a national database containing information that documents whether a company has a history of providing safe food—food that has been produced and packaged under sanitary conditions and is properly branded. It will also document any outbreaks of food-borne illness that have originated from the provider and any enforcement actions that have been taken against the provider. Officials at hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and child care facilities can access this database from a secure website and use that information to ensure that they are serving those in their care the safest food possible. The final authority over the information