

plight has been overshadowed by the persistent bloodshed in Darfur, Iraq, and Afghanistan, or has been patronizingly dismissed as yet another round of violence in a perennially unstable country. Additionally, the natural disaster that occurred to the island landed a devastating blow to its ability to function.

Haiti has reached a point of crisis, and decisive intervention is required if any shred of, or hope for, Haitian democracy is to be preserved. However shorthanded and overburdened its staff may be, the task of convincing the international community of the necessity of such intervention falls first to the U.N. Stabilization Mission and to Valdés. Hopefully, in the coming months they will decisively demonstrate their commitment to ensuring that Haiti is not being abandoned by the international community yet again, or that leading U.N. authorities, including Valdés, will at least have the dignity of resigning from their assignment in protest of the cruel hoax now being unleashed on the island and its population.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4520,
AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Ms. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 is misnamed as it relates to my congressional district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, because of changes it makes to our Economic Development Program. These changes could "likely cripple our Economic Development Commission (EDC) program, robbing it of many of the incentives it uses to lure mainland businesses to the islands, if companies decide to pull their investments, jobs and money out of the territory."

The conference report contains a new provision, not previously considered by either the House or Senate, which poses a serious risk to our EDC program. The Government of the Virgin Islands strongly opposes this provision as currently drafted. This provision, which was added in a closed door meeting with House and Senate tax writers over this past weekend and unveiled in the draft conference report late last Monday night, would require V.I. taxpayers to be physically present in the Virgin Islands at least 183 days in any tax year in order to be deemed a "bona fide V.I. resident" under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. The new provision eliminates the alternative 3-year 122-day test included in the original Senate bill.

The new provision also restricts the type of income that can qualify for EDC benefits to V.I. source income. It would eliminate the possibility that some of an EDC beneficiary's U.S. source income that is "effectively connected" with a V.I. trade or business could qualify for tax reduction under the EDC program. The 1986 Tax Reform Act specifically permitted the Virgin Islands to reduce tax liability on income "effectively connected" with a conduct of a V.I. trade or business even when such income is sourced outside of the Virgin Islands in certain circumstances. Neither the House nor the Senate bill contained any provision on source of income rules.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize and accept that the genesis of this new provision is the fact

that there have been participants of our EDC program that have taken positions that they are bona fide Virgin Islands residents when they did not in fact spend a significant amount of time in the territory. We also acknowledge that there have been situations where individuals have received EDC tax exemptions even though they continued to live and work in the United States. We agree that the rules governing this situation need to be clarified and made certain. And to that end, we look forward to working with the Treasury Department in crafting reasonable regulations which accomplishes these goals while preserving the essential elements of our program which was designed to promote fiscal autonomy for the Virgin Islands.

We encourage the Treasury Department to develop reasonable rules, post haste, that will ensure the integrity and effectiveness of the Virgin Islands EDC program and promote both tax compliance and economic growth. Without such rules, the impact of the conference report language on legitimate businesses in the Virgin Islands or on local government revenues could be enormous, creating the financial equivalent of a massive hurricane leveling the islands.

HONORING TOM FILLIPPO

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Tom Fillippo, the President and CEO of Devault Foods in Chester County, Pennsylvania. This month, Tom will be honored at the Chester County Council of the Boy Scouts of America's 3rd Annual Distinguished Citizen Awards Dinner.

Tom grew up in Malvern, Pennsylvania and has remained in the area his whole life. He is committed to the community and county he grew up in and he currently serves as the Chair of the Council of Trustees at West Chester University. Tom is also the Chair of the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry and of the Foundation at Paoli Hospital. In the past, Tom served as the Chair of the Chester County Industrial Development Authority. Today, he still sits on the Board of the Chester County Industrial Development Authority and is affiliated with the organizations that work within their authority. Tom is also been a member of the Board of Directors of the American Meat Institute and involved in other industry organizations.

Tom has served as Devault Foods' President and CEO since 1972 when he took over the family business from his father. Devault Foods began as a family-owned, one room butcher shop in 1949. The small business grew tremendously in the following years and, in 1963, Devault Foods began to supply Burger King with ground meat. This move gave an explosive boost to the business. In 1972, when Tom took over for his father, he wanted to expand the company's customer base. He made a business deal with Wendy's fast-food restaurant and became the fast-food chain's new meat supplier. Today, Devault Foods is one of Chester County's largest privately held businesses.

Outside of business, Tom has always been active and has participated in sports, particu-

larly football. Tom played on the West Chester University football team that went to the Tangerine Bowl twice, and he was the head coach at General Wayne Middle School and at Malvern Prep football teams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Tom Fillippo. As an outstanding businessman, community leader, philanthropist, and beloved family man, he is one of Chester County's and Pennsylvania's exemplary citizens and is most deserving of this House's recognition and kudos.

HONORING CHARLES G. (CHIP)
ROACH

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles G. (Chip) Roach who was recently awarded the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors Distinguished Service Award.

Chip Roach is most deserving of this award in that he has worked for over 25 years with the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors; has held leadership positions on local, state, and national associations; and has proven himself to be a local leader whose performance of service and involvement in political and community activities has been extraordinary. This legacy of service has been in Chip's family for five generations. Today, he has two children in the business with him and a son who works as a developer in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Chip Roach is a broker for Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors and for the Trident Group, a multi-service homeownership company in the Philadelphia area. Trident Group is the fifth largest provider of home services in the nation, with more than 3,200 sales associates in 60 sales offices spanning three states.

Currently, Chip is a director of the National Association of Realtors and the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors. Not only does Chip help oversee preeminent realty associations, but he also is a director at the Philadelphia Committee to End Homelessness and is a former director of the Employee Relocation Council.

Chip has served as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Rosemont College, the Main Line Chamber, and of Genesis, a relocation network of over 25,000 sales associates in the United States. Today, Chip is also the President of Fox & Roach Charities. Under Chip's leadership, the Fox & Roach Charities have donated over one million dollars to different organizations that are involved with providing housing for families in need.

Outside of work and his community contributions, Chip enjoys spending time with his wife, three children, and five grandchildren. Chip has been described as an upbeat person with a positive attitude that inspires those he works with. His wife describes him as always "on the go," and everyone always knows he is coming by his happy whistle and big smile.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Chip Roach for his exemplary community service and the excellent