EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

21ST ANNUAL POW/MIA CEREMONY AT THE MERCER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the sacrifices made by Mercer County's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, as well as the families who mourn them.

Tonight, January 27th, 2005 will commemorate the 21st annual POW/MIA ceremony at the Mercer County Courthouse. This date was chosen to commemorate the signing of the Paris Peace Accords on January 27, 1973, which effectively marked the end of the Vietnam Conflict and commenced the withdrawal of American troops.

Since World War I there have been over 125,000 soldiers Missing in Action, including 2,005 soldiers who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Conflict. Our Nation will continue its commitment and concern to remembering and resolving as fully possible the fate of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for during military operations in Southeast Asia. I believe ceremonies such as the POW/MIA vigil in Mercer County, Pennsylvania is one way of ensuring that America never forgets our heroes.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 2005 Mercer County POW/MIA vigil and honoring the sacrifices of all of America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today, Chinese military buildup along Taiwan's coast continues, and China has announced plans to enact an anti-secession (or anti-separation) law aimed specifically at Taiwan.

China's proposed anti-secession law assumes the unification of China and Taiwan and proposes that those opposed to the unification are subject to punishment. It further assumes that Chinese leaders have the right to invade Taiwan if they suspect the engagement of Taiwanese leaders in separatist activities.

Mr. Speaker, the dismayed and freedom loving people of Taiwan have reacted to the proposed law with disappointment. In a recent public opinion poll 70 percent of Taiwanese people oppose China's institution of the "anti-secession" law.

I share the sentiments of the people of Taiwan and stand with them in the zeal for freedom and liberty.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO OIL PRODUCING AND EXPORTING CARTELS (''NOPEC'') ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels (NOPEC)" Act of 2005, legislation that subjects a group of competing oil producers, like the OPEC nations, to U.S. antitrust law when they act together to restrict supply or set prices. I am joined by Representatives LOFGREN and MCINTYRE.

For the past year, American consumers have paid exorbitant prices at the pump, as gas prices have hit their highest levels since the first Gulf War. For the past several months, oil prices have remained stubbornly high, sitting above $48 at the end of last week. Since last January, oil prices have climbed more than 15 percent, driving gasoline prices in the United States to record levels while producing budget surpluses in nations like Saudi Arabia.

The group of 11 nations comprising OPEC are a classic definition of a cartel, and they hold all the cards when it comes to oil and gas prices. OPEC accounts for more than a third of global oil production, and OPEC's oil exports represent about 55 percent of the oil traded internationally. Its net oil export revenues should reach nearly $345 billion this year, and its influence on the oil market is dominant, especially when it decides to reduce or increase its levels of production.

The OPEC nations have for years conspired to drive up prices of imported crude oil, gouging American consumers. Their price-fixing and supply-limiting conspiracy is a clear violation of U.S. antitrust laws, yet we have no recourse for action against these nations. The international oil cartel continues to avoid accountability, shielding itself behind the veil of sovereign immunity by claiming that its actions are "governmental activity"—which is protected under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act ("FSIA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1602 et seq.—rather than "commercial activity."

This legislation, the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act" ("NOPEC"), is simple and effective.

It exempts OPEC and other nations from the provisions of FSIA to the extent those governments are engaged in price-fixing and other anticompetitive activities with regard to pricing, production and distribution of petroleum products.

It makes clear that the so-called "Act of State" doctrine does not prevent courts from ruling on antitrust charges brought against foreign governments and that foreign governments are "persons" subject to suit under the antitrust laws.

It authorizes lawsuits in U.S. federal court against oil cartel members by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

We do not have to stand by and watch OPEC dictate the price of our gas without any recourse; we can do something to combat this conspiracy among oil-rich nations. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

BILL INTRODUCTION: NORTHERN RIO GRANDE NATIONAL HERITAGE DESIGNATION ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to establish the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area in the State of New Mexico. In the 107th session of Congress, an identical version of this bill was placed on the suspension calendar by the Chairman of the Resources committee and passed the full House by voice vote. New Mexico's two senators have introduced a companion bill in the Senate this Congress. I ask today that this bill receive swift passage through the House so New Mexicans call take additional steps to preserve and learn from our rich history.

The establishment of the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area is a citizen-driven effort to protect the remaining significant resources representative of the Spanish and Pueblo colonial era in north-central New Mexico. The bill identifies the northern New Mexico counties of Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Taos as a National Heritage Area—an elite designation from Congress reserved for areas regarded as a significant resource.

Northern New Mexico boasts many sites of historic and cultural significance. Our state is a blend of pueblo and Hispanic cultures, making it a very unique and special place in our country. This legislation would identify many of the sites that tell northern New Mexico's story, help preserve them and, in the process, allow them to be more thoroughly enjoyed by New Mexicans and visitors to our state. Preservation would directly lead to economic development of this area through enhanced tourism.

The legislation creates a non-profit corporation governed by a 15- to 25-member board of trustees charged with developing a management plan for the heritage area. The board will be comprised of representatives from the state, affected counties, tribes, cities and others. The corporation's plan would include recommendations for identifying, conserving and preserving cultural, historical and natural resources within the heritage area, along with strategies to promote tourism of the region's natural and cultural assets.

The city of Española, the city of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, Rio Arriba County, Taos County, La Jicarita Enterprise Community, the Chimayo Cultural Preservation Association, and the Eight Northern Pueblos support the Northern Rio Grande Heritage Area. I urge my