

I have worked to close any potential loophole in this legislation to ensure that the Commonwealth of Virginia could prevent casino-type gaming by the tribes. Having worked on this issue for several years, I have gotten to know many of the members of these tribes and believe they are sincere in their claims that gambling is inconsistent with their values. This position is already borne out by the fact that none of the tribes today engage in bingo gambling despite the fact that they have all established non-profit organizations that are permitted under Virginia law to operate bingo games despite compelling financial needs that revenues from bingo could address.

The real issue for the tribes is recognition and the long overdue need for the Federal Government to affirm their identity as Native Americans. Coupled with this affirmation is an opportunity for the tribes to establish a more equitable relationship with the State and secure Federal financial assistance for the tribes' social services, health care and housing needs. Many of their older members face the prospect of retiring without the pensions and health benefits that most Americans take for granted.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

MATTIE J.T. STEPANEK PARK

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, on June 24, 2004, this House passed a Resolution, H. Res. 695, honoring Mattie J.T. Stepanek and his "braveness, generosity of spirit, and efforts to raise awareness of Muscular Dystrophy."

Today I am pleased to note the June 18, 2005 groundbreaking for the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park at King Farm, to be constructed on the corner of Crestfield and Piccard Drive in Rockville, MD. Dedicated to a young man whose courage and vision for peace provide an example for all, his park will become a favorite for Maryland residents and visitors.

A young poet who was diagnosed with neuromuscular disease known as dysautonomic mitochondrial myopathy, Mattie Stepanek achieved international recognition when his collection of poems, *Journey Through Heartsongs*, which reached the New York Times Best Seller List in 2002. Mattie also authored four other books of poetry. He served as the National Goodwill Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in 2002, 2003, and 2004, and in 2004 the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon was dedicated to him. Mattie also befriended Oprah Winfrey, and was featured often as a guest on her television program.

One of his goals was to meet his hero, former President Jimmy Carter. When Mattie was hospitalized in September 2001, he got his chance. Nurses and staff recall that during their 15-minute conversation, Mattie did not discuss his illness with President Carter, focusing instead on problems affecting developing nations.

The former President and Mattie developed a close friendship, and when Mattie passed away on June 22, 2004 at the age of 13,

President Carter delivered a eulogy in which he recalled winning the Nobel Peace Prize. "Mattie shared the honor that I had received," he noted.

Mattie was a gifted poet, and a great companion to his mother, Jeni Stepanek. Mattie's sister, Katie, and his two brothers, Stevie and Jamie, died in early childhood from the same disease Mattie battled.

Plans for the 26.2-acre memorial park include a statue of Mattie with his golden retriever, Micah. The park will plan activities specially designed for people with disabilities, and it will host an event each year for local schools in the spirit of Mattie's passion for peace.

Mr. Speaker, Mattie was a child filled with compassion and imagination. He won the respect and friendship of a President and Nobel laureate, who continues to call Mattie the "most extraordinary person whom [he has] ever known."

No one who met Mattie Stepanek could ever forget him. Now future generations of Marylanders—who will not have that opportunity—will be able to visit Mattie's park, celebrate his life, and enjoy the sunsets he loved so much.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
TOM HARDY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Tom Hardy has provided outstanding service and contributions while affiliated with the Ohio Association of Insurance Agents, Inc. serving it since 1976 and at different times holding the positions of executive vice president and chief executive officer; and

Whereas, Tom Hardy's many accomplishments include being the creator, publisher, and editor of Ohio Insurance magazine and guiding the continual growth of the Association with dedication and strong leadership; and

Whereas, Tom Hardy has served on the Board of Directors of the Griffith Foundation for Insurance Education at the Ohio State University where he received his degree in 1971 as well as giving his talents to multiple other organizations within his field; and

Whereas, Tom Hardy has worked selflessly and with dignity as an integral part of various committees of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America, being the longest serving state executor in the Nation.

Therefore, I join with Tom Hardy's family, friends, and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in commending Tom Hardy for his exceptional work and years of service, and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

WELCOMING HER MAJESTY'S CANADIAN SHIP "TORONTO" TO CLEVELAND, OH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Her Majesty's Canadian Ship *To-*

ronto, where she makes Cleveland her first United States stop on a series of port calls along the Great Lakes on Friday, July 15, 2005.

The HMCS *Toronto* is a multi-role patrol frigate built in St. John, NB, in 1992 and commissioned in Toronto, ON, in 1993. Certified operational in 1994 and homeported in Halifax, NS, the *Toronto* has distinguished itself and Canada through its participation in some of the world's most sensitive operations of the last decade.

The *Toronto* participated in Operation Sharp Guard in 1994, patrolling the coast of the former Yugoslavia to restrict importation of arms and fuel in an effort to end the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In 1995, the *Toronto* joined Operation Victory in Europe, an international flotilla of warships celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Allies' victory in Europe. As part of the Standing Naval Force Atlantic in 1997, the *Toronto* deployed for North Atlantic operations with the NATO squadron and was involved in a major search and rescue operation off the coast of Spain. In 1998, the *Toronto* participated in U.N. patrols in the northern Arabian Gulf to affect an embargo against Iraq. In November of that year, the *Toronto* became the flagship for the Canadian Task Group Atlantic, beginning an intensive year of operation, sailing in every Task Group exercise.

In 1999, the *Toronto* participated in Exercise El Morro Castle, a series of successful missile engagements against target drones and missiles, confirming the effectiveness of the ship's advanced missile defense system and crew's training. As part of the 2000 Search and Rescue operation at the site of the sinking M/V *Leader L*, the crew was involved in the rescue of 13 crew members in an accident in which 18 men perished. The following year, the *Toronto* responded to a distress call of a sinking fishing boat while conducting work-ups off the Nova Scotia coast and rescued three crew members in an accident that claimed one life. In 2001-02, the *Toronto* deployed in the eastern Mediterranean with NATO's Standing Naval Force Atlantic, and later to the northern Arabian Sea in international security operations. In 2003, the *Toronto* participated in Operation Splinter, aiding in the clean-up and restoration of Halifax following the devastation of Hurricane Juan. Last year, the *Toronto* returned to the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Oman, and the Arabian Gulf as Canada's contribution to the global war on terrorism.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I am pleased that the officers and crew of the HMCS *Toronto* chose Cleveland as their first U.S. stop on the 2005 Great Lakes Tour. I welcome the *Toronto* to Cleveland and wish the *Toronto*, its officers and crew, and Canada, much success in their endeavors around the world.

CALL FOR MORE ROBUST TIES
WITH GULF OF GUINEA REGION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the release of a very timely report which documents an issue of growing importance to the United States. The report, entitled

"Breaking the Oil Syndrome: Responsible Hydrocarbon Development in West Africa", was commissioned by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, and argues that the United States must work to build a strategic alliance with energy producing Nations in the Gulf of Guinea region of West Africa—in an attempt to both broaden the supply of U.S. energy imports, and provide economic and political development to the West Africa region.

The call for an alliance is warranted for several reasons. Firstly, the demand for energy resources within the United States, and globally, is predicted to surge in coming years. China and India with their enormous populations; and burgeoning economies, promise to one day rival the United States in terms of energy demand. Even when considering Western demand alone the situation is concerning. Just this month, Saudi Arabian officials predicted that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will be unable to meet projected western demand in 10 to 15 years.

This increasing demand comes at a time when the U.S. needs to shift its reliance away from its traditional energy providers. The events of 9/11 demonstrated just how much of a liability our dependence on Middle East oil has become. Our over-dependence on Middle East oil—and our subsequent influence with Middle East governments—is a source of resentment and hostility in the region.

This contributes to regional instability, which in turn helps to keep the price of energy resources high. Some have even posited that our dependence on Middle East oil weakens our posture in addressing the global war on terrorism. Equally concerning is the fact that Venezuela, a major non-Middle Eastern energy exporter, is not exactly an ally of the current U.S. Administration, and stability in that country is tenuous at best.

With all of these worrisome issues swirling around the current international energy landscape, the Gulf of Guinea offers the United States a potentially significant and fruitful energy partnership—if we lay the proper foundation now. The Gulf of Guinea currently accounts for 14 percent of U.S. oil supply, with the region possibly poised to increase its share of U.S. imports to over 20 percent in coming years if the requisite investment and security environment is further developed. The region's share of global oil production is already predicted to rise from around 4 percent to nearly 6 percent by 2007, and attract \$40 billion in investment within the current decade.

As such the nations of the Gulf of Guinea—Nigeria, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe (along with Angola)—must engender the focused and balanced engagement of U.S. policy makers.

With the region also predicted to garner over \$150 billion in oil-related government revenues by 2010, opportunities and pitfalls are ever-present. The region still suffers from serious deficiencies in the area of anti-corruption, transparency, and the rule of law. With such large financial windfalls predicted, the CBCF report asserts that the United States must work closely with its partners in the Gulf of Guinea region to help strengthen their capacities in this regard. If they fail, the results could be disastrous.

Oil wealth has rarely translated into socio-political stability for most developing countries. In fact it has often had the opposite effect, because the institutional safeguards were not in

place to ensure that the government was accountable to its citizens, and the country as a whole benefited from its own wealth. We can not allow that to happen in the Gulf of Guinea, especially considering the golden opportunity we now have.

Again, I thank the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation for their report. I must especially commend the leadership of Congressman William Jefferson, Chair of the CBCF, as well as Dr. Maya Rockeymore, outgoing CBCF Vice President of Research and Programs, for their leadership in bringing this important issue to the forefront of the policy arena.

[From the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc., July 7, 2005]

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION CALLS WEST AFRICA A STRATEGIC BUT UNDERUTILIZED PARTNER IN QUEST FOR U.S. ENERGY SECURITY

WASHINGTON, DC.—As gas prices continue to skyrocket, the debate over how to address America's energy crisis has intensified among policymakers, analysts, and other key opinion leaders. Simultaneously, the U.S. faces increased international pressure to provide more aid, fair trade, and debt relief assistance to Sub-Saharan African countries.

A new study by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) entitled, "Breaking the Oil Syndrome: Responsible Hydrocarbon Development in West Africa," argues that the U.S. must link these seemingly disparate concerns by forming a strategic alliance with West African hydrocarbon states that can help secure U.S. energy needs while advancing human and infrastructure development goals in West Africa.

"The fact of the matter is that West Africa is vital to the energy security of the United States," said Dr. Don Tharpe, President and CEO of CBCF. "The region is poised to increase the world supply of oil but it has been largely overlooked as a key U.S. partner in this regard."

"Changing global geopolitical dynamics have once again increased U.S. interest in Africa and its natural resources. Yet, it will not be enough to conduct business as usual in West Africa," said Dr. Maya Rockeymore, former CBCF Vice President of Research and Programs. "The U.S. must embark upon a mutually beneficial alliance that increases U.S. energy security while promoting sustainable development in African oil-producing countries."

The paper highlights that a mutually beneficial dynamic engagement framework will be especially important as the demand and competition for scarce oil resources increases in countries like China and India.

According to Paul Michael Wihbey, the lead author of the study and President of Global Water and Energy Strategy Team, "This report makes recommendations that could have significant implications for U.S. energy security over the short and long terms," Wihbey says. "The U.S. has a very important opportunity at this critical juncture in world history. The country could benefit tremendously if it recognizes that good governance, infrastructure, and human development goals are keys to the security and sustainability of oil-exports from West African hydrocarbon states."

The CBCF maintains that investment in alternative, non-carbon energy sources represents the greatest possibility for reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil sources. Yet the Foundation recognizes that it will take time to develop mass technologies that utilize alternative energy sources across the various carbon-dependent industries. While it is important to support the development

and application of non-carbon energy sources, in the meantime, it remains vitally important to diversify how and where the U.S. imports its oil.

The paper will be released to the public on Tuesday, July 19, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. in the Members Room of the Library of Congress (Jefferson Building). The forum will be hosted by Congressman William J. Jefferson, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, and will feature Members of Congress, subject matter experts, key Bush Administration officials, private sector participants, and members of the African Diplomatic Corps.

The CBCF, established in 1976, is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy, research and educational institute focused on leadership education, public health, economic development, and African globalism.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Government officials and observers have consistently asserted that the United States has a strategic energy interest in hydrocarbon development in West Africa. Worldwide growth in energy consumption is consistently outpacing production, and reports indicate that in the United States demand for oil may reach 28.3 million barrels per day by 2025. Coupled with energy price volatility, political instability, and supply uncertainty, many have recognized that the United States can ill afford to remain predominately dependent upon oil-imports from certain regions. Simultaneously, this recognition has generated a chorus of calls for more investment in alternative energy sources and "greater diversity of world oil production."

Ultimately, investment in alternative, non-carbon energy sources represents the greatest possibility for reducing U.S. dependence upon foreign oil sources. Nevertheless, it will take some time to develop mass technologies utilizing alternative energy sources across the various carbon-dependent industries. While it is important to support the development and application of non-carbon energy sources in the meantime, it remains vitally important to diversify how and where the U.S. imports its oil.

There is no doubt that certain countries in Sub-Saharan Africa could be the source of expanded U.S. oil imports. Yet, despite calls to look beyond traditional oil markets and allies, efforts to create a mutually beneficial framework that systematizes relations between the U.S. and West African hydrocarbon states have fallen on deaf ears. Paradoxically, as the U.S. explores its sourcing options in the face of a looming energy crisis, its narrow vision with regard to broadening the nature of its engagement with West African states has prevented it from establishing dynamic relationships that could ensure energy supplies, while forging necessary alliances in the global war against terrorism.

In the end, the United States is missing an opportunity to connect its quest for energy security to an array of other important initiatives, such as the promotion of good governance practices, the campaign to enhance human development in Sub-Saharan Africa, the reduction/eradication of poverty, and the war against terrorism.

The fundamental conclusion of this report is that the United States can capitalize on the interconnectedness of these initiatives by recognizing that good governance, infrastructure, and human development are the keys to the development, security, and sustainability of oil-exports from West African hydrocarbon states. Only by aggressively pursuing these measures can the United States and West African nations reap the benefits of oil-import/exports and enhanced trade opportunities.

Systematizing these relationships through a dynamic engagement framework can result in mutually beneficial outcomes, such as: a reduced reliance on oil from more volatile regions; the development of additional strategic partners in the war against terrorism; an enhanced exports market for U.S. and African goods and services; a practical "oil-revenue for poverty-reduction policy" framework that reduces African reliance on foreign aid; and the strengthening of democratic regimes and indigenous efforts to move African authoritarian regimes closer to democracy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations, in keeping with democratic foreign policy principles including the promotion of good governance, economic development, human rights, and enhanced relations with the United States and the African-American community, are submitted for consideration. Many of the recommendations echo calls already made by major stakeholders interested in ensuring sustainable development in the West African energy sector.

U.S. Government

The United States Congress should: Establish immediately a bi-partisan Congressional Advisory Committee that should: Meet with oil companies and other interested parties to discuss how to promote sustainable development through innovative energy sector initiatives. Host a summit with African heads of state and other officials to promote the importance of West Africa-U.S. energy relations. Prepare legislation to establish a Commission for Sustainable Development in West Africa.

Establish a Commission for Sustainable Development in West Africa that should: Consider legislation declaring West Africa of strategic interest to the United States. Conduct meetings with experts to gather information about improving and coordinating U.S. aid, trade, economic, environmental, and counterterrorism efforts in the region. Review efforts by African governments, oil companies, international institutions, and non-governmental organizations to advance development goals using innovative revenue-sharing models. Formulate a strategy for engaging West African states in a mutually beneficial partnership that seeks to promote specific economic, social, political, infrastructure, environmental, and counterterrorism goals.

Support the development of a world-class West African Science and Technology Institute that offers a curriculum that promotes excellence in higher education and research and development in science and engineering. The ultimate goal will be establish an education and training vehicle that will enable Africans to have a key role in improving Sub-Saharan Africa's living standards through increased productivity, economic growth, and diversification.

Provide additional debt relief to West African hydrocarbon states contingent upon achieving measurable targets related to financial transparency and good governance benchmarks.

Require federal grant recipients, West African hydrocarbon states, and oil companies to submit documentation of capacity building programs related to human development initiatives. Submit capacity building proposals to the aforementioned Commission for review and recommendations.

Review U.S. businesses operating in the area to ensure compliance with the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Provide additional incentives to U.S. businesses to purchase goods and services from AGOA-eligible countries.

West African Hydrocarbon States

Governments of West African oil-producing nations should:

Establish oil ministers whose appointments are approved by parliamentary bodies.

Publish information on all oil revenues and participating oil companies.

Establish advisory bodies with representation from political parties, civil society groups (e.g., human rights activists and advocates for women and children), independent third parties (e.g., World Bank or major investment banks with stated and monitored priorities that earmark significant portions of oil revenue for investment in infrastructure and education), and members of the media.

Make public any recommendations on reforming real property laws conducted in the last five years.

Consider legislation that encourages relinquishment of inactive marginal fields by foreign companies to indigenous operators willing to develop their residual reserves through enhanced recovery technologies.

Submit to an audit of oil revenue distribution conducted by representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, USAID, and ECOWAS.

Charge the appropriate parliamentary committees with examining the benefits of creating a Development Trust Fund based in Nigeria to fund the indigenous petroleum industry and to support a Gulf of Guinea School of Petroleum Technology (possibly located in Port Harcourt), with the cooperation and assistance of USAID.

Oil Companies

Oil companies interested in West African oil-producing nations should:

Make public annual audits conducted by reputable international firms relating to activities in West Africa to augment participation in the concept of "publish what you pay" initiatives.

Immediately publish oil-field specific and cumulative environmental and social impact assessments.

Participate in and expand local content and joint venture projects with indigenous operators/businesses with verifiable long-term social, cultural, and historic ties to the region/country.

Conduct capacity building and technology transfer initiatives in order to provide valuable skill sets to indigenous employees that may be used across different economic sectors.

Consider establishing at least one oil refinery for the host country.

Collaborate with host governments to relinquish or farm out inactive marginal fields, make their technical data available, and finance (if possible) local operators that will develop them.

Reach out to the African-American community, both through encouraging African-American owned businesses to take an active role in the enterprise of West African development and through the informational promotion of positive impacts that oil companies have in the region.

International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

International financial institutions should:

Require demonstrated progress on enforcing laws relating to good corporate governance, including sanctions by the government for violations of procurement regulations.

Ensure that governments do not create a second, separate system of oversight for revenues generated by new oil fields.

Require that governments support the public dissemination of information about oil revenues by helping to offset costs of reproduction, distribution and communication of information to the public.

Ensure that public documents related to oil exploration and oil revenues are made available in both the official language and the indigenous languages spoken most predominantly throughout the country.

Support and publish an independent assessment of the human development constraints facing citizens of Chad, Congo-Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea, and São Tomé and Príncipe, as well as all other hydrocarbon states in the near future.

Establish and publish benchmarks for determining whether a country is granted a loan or a grant, and how these benchmarks are tied to transparency, investment in human development initiatives, and good governance indicators.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Non-governmental organizations should:

Establish additional and enhance current monitoring programs that track compliance with transparency and revenue destination agreements between African governments, IFIs, the United States, and oil companies.

Establish a scorecard for African oil producing nations on the management of oil revenues, raising media awareness of "worst offenders" and "best practitioners," and including civil society participation in determining revenue destinations. This will initiate a healthy competition to attract direct foreign investment.

Submit recommendations to the Commission for Sustainable Development in West Africa on sustaining improvements in human development in hydrocarbon states.

Develop strategies to mobilize citizens for effectively engaging governments over policies to develop oil resources.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCILMAN EDWARD RYBKA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my good friend Edward Rybka, upon his retirement following 20 years of dedicated service as the City Councilman representing the people of Cleveland's Ward 12.

Councilman Rybka was first elected to City Council in 1985. Equipped with a law degree and sincere concern for his richly diverse Slavic Village neighborhood, Councilman Rybka set out to energize the process of restoration and preservation in the place he has always called home. His focus on community activism began nearly thirty years ago, through his involvement with the Slavic Village Development Corporation. He was a founding member who volunteered in every capacity, including Chairperson of the Association, a position he held for several years in the early 1980s.

As the elected City Councilman, his spirited and unified effort to improve the neighborhood created vital bonds with residents, community leaders, and business advocates that still exist today. These bonds of hope and restoration created connections not only among the people of Slavic Village today, but also with the neighborhood's historic roots going back to its original settlement as part of the former Newburgh Township in 1814. His work helped to protect the historic fabric of the neighborhood; enabled new businesses to flourish; brought hundreds of new jobs into the neighborhood;