

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MIKHAIL VOLYNETS

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mikhail Volynets, recipient of the AFL-CIO's 2004 George Meany-Lane Kirkland Human Rights Award, was elected Chairperson of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine in 1995, and became its president in 1997. Having previously worked as a miner, and then as a mining engineer, Mr. Volynets participated in the Ukraine's first miner's strikes in 1989, later leading a series of successful mass protests in 1991. Using his leadership position, Mr. Volynets organized the Trade Union of Miners to become an instrumental part of Ukraine's Orange Revolution, which resulted in Viktor Yushchenko's rise to the Presidency in the fall of 2004. Having first been elected to the Ukrainian Parliament (Rada) in 2002, Mr. Volynets is currently a Deputy in the Rada, working to further secure democracy in Ukraine. I congratulate Mr. Volynets for his courage and determination in the face of fear and uncertainty.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3057) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of both the Kennedy/Hooley/Osbourne/Souder and the Hooley/Souder/Kennedy/Baird amendments. The methamphetamine scourge that has suddenly gained national attention has unfortunately been going on far too long in countless rural communities, including in southwest Oregon, which I represent.

Almost 12.5 million Americans have tried meth at least once during their lifetime. White House Deputy Drug Czar Scott Burns recently was quoted as saying, "I think we would all agree methamphetamine is the most destructive, dangerous, terrible drug that's come along in a long time." That is very true, especially in Oregon. Unfortunately, law enforcement is struggling to stem the spread of meth.

The Kennedy/Hooley/Osbourne/Souder amendment would require that the State Department annually certify the five biggest exporters and the five biggest importers of the meth precursor pseudoephedrine are cooper-

ating with the U.S. We can quickly help law enforcement organizations ensure that precursor chemicals are not suddenly "lost," and then used in the production of meth at international super-labs. These labs account for 80 percent of the meth used in the U.S.

This amendment will allow the State Department to use its existing power, that it currently uses related to heroin and cocaine, to suspend bilateral and multilateral assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act to countries that cannot account for the pseudoephedrine that enters and leaves their borders.

Also, recent efforts by Oregon's statehouse have helped to curb the manufacture of meth in the state, but abuse is still on the rise. States can restrict the sale of pseudoephedrine products to try to stem the proliferation, but until we stop meth from spilling into the U.S. from Mexico, meth will continue to wreak havoc on families, neighbors, communities, and numerous local, state, and federal resources.

Meth super-labs south of the border that are producing the bulk of meth that feeds the addiction of 600,000 current meth addicts, or tweakers. There are Mexican drug cartels smuggling meth across the border daily, even as I stand before you. It is imperative that the U.S. clamp down on illegal border crossings that ultimately result in the deaths of thousands of Americans, while lining the pockets of a handful of Mexican smugglers. The border must be secure.

The Hooley/Souder/Kennedy/Baird amendment will increase the amount of coordination between the State Department and the Mexican government, and between American law enforcement and their Mexican counterparts can only help us defeat the meth scourge.

I urge my colleagues to support both the Kennedy/Hooley/Osbourne/Souder and the Hooley/Souder/Kennedy/Baird amendments.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SMALL BUSINESS DAY IN COURT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my strong support for H.R. 739, the Occupational Safety and Health Small Business Day in Court Act; H.R. 740, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission Efficiency Act; H.R. 741, the Occupational Safety and Health Independent Review of OSHA Citations Act; and H.R. 742, the Occupational Safety and Health Small Employer Access to Justice Act. As Chairman of the Small Business Committee, I see daily the immense regulatory burden placed upon our small businesses. The Office of Advocacy at the Small Business Administration (SBA) estimates that the average small business is bur-

dened with almost \$7,000 per employee in regulatory compliance costs. I am pleased that the House has taken action to relieve small businesses of some of this burden.

H.R. 739 provides small businesses with additional flexibility by allowing certain exceptions to the arbitrary 15-day deadline for employers to file responses to citations by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). This commonsense measure allows an extension of the 15-day deadline in narrowly tailored circumstances, namely when a small business inadvertently misses this deadline by mistake. H.R. 739 helps ensure that disputes between OSHA and small businesses would be resolved based on the merits of the situation as opposed to legal technicalities. No small business should be foreclosed from a remedy simply because of an arbitrary deadline.

H.R. 740 helps ensure that OSHA reviews cases in a timely and more efficient manner by adding two additional commissioners to the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHRC). This change ensures that small businesses do not have long, drawn-out proceedings that monopolize their limited resources.

H.R. 741 is designed to restore the review process that was originally intended by Congress when it enacted the OSHA law. Congress's original intent was to form a separate, independent, and unbiased entity, OSHRC, that presided over OSHA hearings. However, the lines between OSHA and OSHRC have become blurred. This bill restores the original system contemplated by Congress and ensures that OSHRC, and not OSHA, would be the party who interprets the law and provides an independent review of OSHA citations.

Finally, H.R. 742 will assist small businesses by giving these businesses an opportunity to recover attorney fees if successful in challenging an OSHA citation.

In all, this common-sense legislation allows OSHA to continue protecting workers at their place of employment, while giving small businesses the ability to be competitive, create jobs, and to be protected from frivolous lawsuits.

TRIBUTE TO SUBHASHREE MADHAVAN AND THE REMBRANDT PROJECT TEAM

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend one of my constituents, Subhashree Madhavan, and her Rembrandt Project Team at the National Institutes of Health. Ms. Madhavan and her colleagues were recently named among thirty finalists for the 2005 Service to America medals awarded by the Partnership for Public Service.

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