

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5386) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of jobs and lower energy costs for the American people. The House Appropriations Committee correctly voted to take a first step toward opening more access to natural gas in the outer continental shelf. Natural gas is an affordable, clean-burning fuel that can be safely extracted without causing harm to the environment. But there are opponents of expanded access to this domestic energy source who are trying to strip language that lifts the annual congressional moratoria on natural gas leasing and production in the OCS.

I urge my colleagues to join Mr. Peterson and Mr. Abercrombie in defeating all attempts to prohibit America from taking this small, but important, step toward energy independence. I commend Mr. Peterson for his work on this important issue and for his persistence in bringing this issue before the American people.

America is the only country in the world that has a moratorium on off-shore drilling for natural gas. While there are vast amounts of this environmentally clean energy source available in areas far off our shorelines, opponents of lifting the moratorium are standing in the way of lowering energy costs for our farmers, chemical workers, small businesses and manufacturers.

Because Americans pay as much as 600 percent more for natural gas than other countries, American businesses are often at a competitive disadvantage when trying to compete with foreign businesses.

Our farmers depend upon natural gas for everything from irrigation to food processing to nitrogen fertilizer production. When the price of natural gas is high, that translates to more economic hardship for rural America. Unlike most other businesses, farmers are not able to pass along their increased input costs to consumers. It simply means less income for them and the rural communities that depend on an agriculture economy.

Natural gas prices account for most of the cost of fertilizers, which means that as long as we refuse to open up more of our natural gas reserves and lower the costs, farmers and rural farming communities will continue to suffer. Additionally, 21 fertilizer plants in this country have closed in the past 6 years because they were no longer able to compete. High natural gas prices are closing businesses and killing jobs.

Small businesses suffer when natural gas prices are high because they have to spend more money for heating and cooling bills rather than investments in new technologies or

better wages for workers. Instead of being able to sell their products and services for less, many businesses are forced to raise their prices. And in today's economy, many small businesses are often competing with foreign competitors.

Manufacturing jobs are even more at risk for leaving if we do not address the high cost of natural gas in this country. Over 100,000 chemical jobs have been lost over the past 5 years because of high natural gas costs. These are jobs that we should not be forced to lose. Americans deserve better than a continuation of an out-dated moratorium on off-shore drilling for natural gas.

I urge my colleagues to join me in defeating the amendment to strip language that would help make America more energy self-sufficient.

TRIBUTE TO MYRTLE BEACH INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL, WINNER OF THE PALMETTO'S FINEST AWARD

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Myrtle Beach Intermediate School is one of four schools in South Carolina to have received the 2006 Palmetto's Finest Award sponsored by Carolina First and the South Carolina Association of School Administrators. This award is the highest level of recognition that a school can receive in the state and was presented for the school's accomplishments in the areas of student achievement, student leadership, service learning, school culture including physical environment, safety and relationships, communication and involvement with community, instructional methods, success interventions, innovative programs, use of technology and staff quality.

Myrtle Beach Intermediate School serves a population of 565 students, 60 percent of which received subsidized meals. The school has met Federal Adequate Yearly Progress requirements for the past 2 years, meeting 27 out of 27 subgroup objectives, and has the second highest number of subgroups in the district.

Myrtle Beach Intermediate School has received an Absolute Rating of Excellent on its state report card for the last 3 years and an Excellent Improvement rating for the past 2 years. The school has been recognized by the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee for closing the achievement gap among student subgroups.

Myrtle Beach Intermediate School has been distinguished as a South Carolina Palmetto Gold Award winner for student achievement for the last 2 years and is the recipient of the Superintendent's Award for Service Learning, the Exemplary Writing School Award, and the Red Carpet Schools Award.

Congratulations to the students, teachers and administrators of the Myrtle Beach Intermediate School for a job well done.

FREEDOM FOR ROLANDO JIMÉNEZ
POSADA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Rolando Jiménez Posada, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Jiménez Posada is a lawyer and Director of the Democratic Human Rights Center. As a pro-democracy activist, Mr. Jiménez Posada has committed himself to portraying the true horrors of life under the tyrant in Cuba. Because of his vigorous opposition activities, the regime fired him from his job.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Jiménez Posada has been detained and threatened numerous times over the past years. On December 10, 2001, while taking part in a peaceful celebration to commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, he and several others were beaten and pushed into police vehicles and then dumped in remote areas. Amnesty International reports that in July 2002, Mr. Jiménez Posada was threatened at his home after handing out copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Later, Castro's thugs told him that he would be imprisoned if he continued carrying out public activities in support of political prisoners.

Despite the horrific harassment and constant threats, Mr. Jiménez Posada never wavered in his convictions. He was arrested and thrown in the gulag on April 25, 2003. According to Amnesty International, he is still awaiting "formal charges" and a "trial."

Let me be clear, Mr. Jiménez Posada has been locked in sub-human conditions for over three years without "charges" and without even a farce of a "trial." Simply because Mr. Jiménez Posada does not subscribe to the lies and propaganda demanded by the communist dictatorship, he is locked in a miserable dungeon. Mr. Jiménez Posada is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered with respect and admiration when freedom reigns again in Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Jiménez Posada is languishing in the repulsive squalor of the tyrant's gulag because he believes in truth and freedom. It is detestable that at the dawn of the 21st century, and a mere 90 miles from our shore, honorable men and women are imprisoned in repugnant gulags for believing that all men have an inherent right to live in freedom. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Rolando Jiménez Posada and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO R.R. 'PETE' EBBING

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valuable and respected

member of Michigan's business community, Mr. R.R. "Pete" Ebbing. Pete is retiring from the day-to-day operations of Detroit Edge Tool Company effective today.

Since July 1, 1955, Pete Ebbing has been instrumental in the growth of Detroit Edge Tool Company, a leading supplier of machine ways, rails, knives, and other precision machine parts to industries globally. On June 24, 1885, the company was incorporated in the State of Michigan and is now the oldest machine knife manufacturer in the world. During the first half of the 20th Century, Detroit Edge was a major supplier of industrial knives and associated equipment. However, in the early 1960s the company began to evolve and manufacture machine tool components such as hardened and ground, precision detachable ways and rails.

Throughout this evolution, Pete Ebbing was there working to ensure the company remained successful. The company's headquarters remains in the city of Detroit and has other plants in southeast Michigan.

In fact, Detroit Edge Tool Company has been in the Ebbing family for more than 80 years, spanning four generations. Two of Pete's six children, sons Ray and John, now manages the business together with a highly skilled and experienced staff of employees.

I have known Pete for nearly 40 years and am proud to call him a friend. Pete's dedication and vision for Detroit Edge Tool Company has service set the course for the next generation and I wish him luck in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I missed the following votes because I was traveling with President Bush to Arizona:

H. Res. 818, on ordering the previous question, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5386) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes (#160). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 818, on agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5386) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes (#161). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 795, on motion to suspend the rules and agree, condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in Dahab and Northern Sinai, Egypt, on April 24 and 26, 2006 (#162). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 5386, on agreeing to the Weiner of New York amendment (#163). Had I been present I would have voted "nay."

H.R. 5386, on agreeing to Poe of Texas amendments (en bloc) (#164). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 5386, on agreeing to the Pallone of New Jersey amendment (#165). Had I been present I would have voted "nay."

H.R. 5386, on agreeing to the Beauprez of Colorado amendment (#166). Had I been present I would have voted "nay."

H.R. 5386, on agreeing to the Hinchey of New York amendment (#167). Had I been present I would have voted "nay."

H.R. 5386, on agreeing to the Chabot of Ohio amendment (#168). Had I been present I would have voted "nay."

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5386) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the amendment to increase funding for the NEA by \$5 million and the NEH by \$5 million. Frankly, this is a modest amendment; I wish this amendment asked for an even greater increase in arts funding. It's astounding that this year the President will spend \$60 billion in Cold War-era defense programs, such as a missile defense system that doesn't defend against missiles, and yet each year we have to come to the floor to defend this minimal amount of spending. The amount we are asking for is little more than a fraction of one percent of the Federal budget.

This is not controversial funding. The NEA and the NEH are two of the best investments this Nation makes. The NEA distributes grants in all 50 states. These grants fund theatres, orchestras, dance companies, and visual artists that move us, challenge the way we think, foster dialogue, and help us to understand one another. The NEH is the largest single funder of humanities programs in the country. NEH grants help museums, archives, libraries, universities, scholars and documentary filmmakers allow us to understand our rich history and cultural heritage.

The cost-benefit ratio of this funding is tremendous. Each year, the arts generate \$134 billion in economic activity; arts organizations employ 4.85 million Americans; they generate \$89.4 billion in household income; and lead to \$24.4 billion in total tax revenues.

Not only do the arts and humanities have a positive economic impact, but they strengthen and build communities. They help revitalize our nation's cities, and provide venues for people from disparate communities to come together and share a common experience. Students who are exposed to the arts have higher test scores—in math and sciences as well as liberal arts—and have better attendance at schools and increased self-discipline. At-risk teens who participate in arts programs are half as likely to repeat their crimes.

Mr. Speaker, every year, my friends from the other side of the aisle try to slash funding for the arts. I just don't understand their thinking. This modest amendment is the very least we should do today. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and to vote against any attempts to slash funding from the arts that may be offered in other amendments.

HONORING SHANE REEVES AS
TENNESSEE'S SMALL-BUSINESS
CHAMPION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Rutherford County's Shane Reeves as Tennessee's recipient of the National Federation of Independent Business' 2006 Small-Business Champion award.

Shane, a partner in the Reeves-Sain Family of Medical Services, comes from good stock. His mother, the former Carolyn Boatwright, got me off to a fine start as my seventh grade student teacher at Hobgood. I also enjoyed working with his father, Richard Reeves, a progressive voice for Murfreesboro for many years while he served on the Murfreesboro City Council and as the city's mayor.

Shane has been a strong leader in Reeves-Sain's success. With two locations in my hometown of Murfreesboro, the company has become the leading provider of pharmaceutical and healthcare services in the area. Since its creation in 1980, Reeves-Sain has grown from a small healthcare business into a multi-million dollar corporation, all the while maintaining its hometown appeal.

Reeves-Sain strives to deliver comprehensive customer care to all patients and to uphold Christian values in the workplace, and Shane has been instrumental in making that goal a reality. Shane has been the recipient of numerous accolades, including University of Tennessee's 1998 Co-Preceptor of the year award, Tennessee's 2000 Most Innovative Pharmacy Award and Tennessee's 2003 Distinguished Young Pharmacist award.

Active in the community, Shane chairs NFIB/Tennessee's Leadership Council and works with NFIB/Tennessee's SAFE trust. He also serves as a board member of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce and is past president of Leadership Rutherford. Shane serves as a deacon at North Boulevard Church of Christ.

I commend Shane Reeves on his award, as well as his numerous accomplishments and involvement within the community. I wish him continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PORTLAND
STATE UNIVERSITY, WINNING
EPA'S P3 AWARD

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency launched the P3 Award, a competition that focuses on the three components of sustainability: People, Prosperity and the Planet. Groups of undergraduate and graduate students from all around the country collaboratively design and develop projects that improve the environment, economy, and livability of their communities. These projects range from developing green tea polymers to treat cancer, to using bio-composite materials in load-bearing elements in buildings. All of the projects involved