

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition of the Stearns Amendment to the FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. This amendment would cut vital funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service. I am proud to be a part of those standing up in support of the corporation. I believe strongly that the programs supported by the Corporation embody the spirit of the American people, and it is important for Members of Congress to continue to support these programs.

As a Co-Chair of the National Service Caucus, it is a pleasure to call attention to the tremendous work of those involved at every level and in every program of the corporation. As a part of the corporation, AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service. Since AmeriCorps was established in 1994, AmeriCorps members have performed over 637 million hours of service that help in each of our communities.

Through programs such as AmeriCorps State and National, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), and National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), AmeriCorps volunteers address critical needs in our communities.

These generous men and women help supplement opportunities and programs in the areas of education, public safety, disaster response and recovery, and environment preservation.

As a result of the great work of AmeriCorps members, extraordinary things are happening all around America. The Corporation supports such important non-profit organizations as Habitat for Humanity, City Year, Red Cross and Teach for America. AmeriCorps volunteers have built homes, healed wounds, and taught elementary school kids. These volunteers are part of the backbone of America.

With very little funding, AmeriCorps members leverage millions of dollars and perform crucial work in classrooms, in national parks, and in areas of our nation hit by disaster. As a result, I hope that my colleagues will support AmeriCorps programs and vote against this amendment. The spirit of service that is so important to all of our communities is one that should be encouraged, not stripped of federal support.

Madam Chairman, I want to extend my greatest appreciation to those who have served our country through AmeriCorps programs. These volunteers have embraced the American spirit of volunteerism, and they are to be applauded for their service.

I strongly urge my colleagues to reject this misguided amendment.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAND
STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Land Stewardship Project.

I would like to applaud the outstanding work this organization does representing Minnesota's family farmers and promoting sustainable approaches to farming practices. From its very beginnings, the Land Stewardship Project has advanced practical stewardship solutions and built widespread public support for an agricultural system in which family farms, small towns and a healthy environment can thrive.

Over the years, the Land Stewardship Project has fought to ensure a healthier food supply, preserve our soil, water and wildlife habitat, and support diversified and profitable family farming. The Land Stewardship Project has created a positive alternative for Minnesota producers and rural residents. And, as those of us in elected office know, the Land Stewardship Project is a strong, effective voice on behalf of its members.

With their "Farm Beginnings Program," the Land Stewardship Project educates beginning farmers in the basics of financial management. This program has helped bring the next generation of farmers and ranchers into agriculture and has graduated over 300 students in the past 10 years.

For their 25 years of service to Minnesota's farmers and rural communities, I commend the members and staff of the Land Stewardship Project and I look forward to their bright future.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAFARGE
OF NORTH AMERICA CEMENT
PLANT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a business in my district that has enjoyed a proud history in northern Michigan. This month, Lafarge of North America's cement plant in Alpena, Michigan celebrates its 100th anniversary. For one hundred years, through three different owners, the Alpena cement plant has led the cement industry with innovations and served as an example of the industriousness of the people of northern Michigan.

The plant began as the Huron Portland Cement Company. The idea for the plant originated from Harry J. Paxton of Fenton, Michigan. While, during this time, Michigan had many young men full of entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. Paxton had a unique passion: Portland cement. He had learned to produce cement while managing a small mill at Fenton. Another one of the early cement pioneers in Alpena was John B. Ford, who served as the company's first president.

In January of 1907, Articles of Association were filed for the Huron Portland Cement Company in Lansing, Michigan. The purpose of the corporation was stated simply as "The

Manufacture of Portland Cement." Capital stock was listed as merely "twelve hundred thousand dollars" divided into twelve thousand shares of the par value of one hundred dollars. From these meager beginnings, the City of Alpena Michigan would grow into its nickname "Cement City."

When the plant first started, stone from the quarries in Alpena were loaded by hand into horse-drawn wagons to be delivered to the plant. By these crude means, cement was produced in Alpena, loaded, again, by hand, into ships moored at Alpena's Thunder Bay. The cement was then transported across the Great Lakes to ports throughout the Midwest, where the product served as the basic fabric of America's economic growth and industrialization. As our great Nation paved its roads and built its highways, much of the cement used came from the Huron Portland Cement Company of Alpena, Michigan.

Over time, steam driven shovels and rail cars took the place of the horse-drawn wagons and human muscle. In turn, the steam driven shovels and rail cars were replaced by electric shovels and large haul trucks. Today, a large front-end loader and huge haul trucks are used to mine the rock. At Lafarge's modern plant, state-of-the-art electronics, computers and x-ray analyzers controlled by highly skilled and educated employees produce a high quality product with maximum efficiency.

Over the years, individuals with great vision, indeed, leaders of the cement industry, developed the cement plant in Alpena. There have been many significant technological developments at the Alpena plant. One of the most important was the invention of the air slide in the late 1940s. After the air slide patent was sold to the Fuller Company, it was refined and became a widely used piece of equipment in a number of industries.

The Alpena plant was also the first of two North American plants to use waste heat from its kilns to generate steam, which drives turbines producing electricity. In 4 days, the turbines produce enough electricity to power each residence in the county of Alpena for 3 weeks. In 1957, the plant was purchased by National Gypsum, which owned and operated the Alpena cement plant for nearly 30 years, until the plant was sold to Lafarge of North America.

Under Lafarge's leadership, the plant has continued to innovate. In recent years, the Alpena Plant has significantly reduced its use of the virgin natural resources it uses as raw material in the cement manufacturing process, replacing them with waste from other industries. This concept of reusing industries' waste for another industry's raw materials is called "industrial ecology," and LaFarge's Alpena Plant has been a pioneer in this area. This development provides another example of how Lafarge of Alpena has helped lead the North American cement industry into the future.

Madam Speaker, 100 years after it was built, the Alpena cement plant still towers over the City of Alpena and Thunder Bay. Today, the Alpena cement plant is the largest plant in Lafarge's North American portfolio, a testament to Lafarge's continued faith and investment in the people and community of Alpena.

While a century has passed, the Alpena cement plant remains standing as a physical tribute, a testament to the role northern Michigan and the City of Alpena has played in the cement industry and in our nation's economic