

the next generation of energy and industrial engineers, training almost 250 students per year.

The Industrial Technologies Program has suffered dramatic budget cuts in recent years, dropping to just one-third of the funding levels of 2001. And this reflects a dramatic and untimely shift in priorities away from industrial efficiency research and development.

So H.R. 3775 authorizes and expands the Department of Energy's Industrial Technology Program through better coordination of interdepartmental research, enhancement of the industrial assessment centers program at universities, and support of more research and development of new innovations and technologies that improve the energy efficiency and environmental performance of most energy-intensive manufacturing processes.

This legislation is needed to ensure continued gains in these areas through research and development that makes the U.S. industry more competitive and enhances the quality of life for American workers, their families and the communities that they serve.

Again, I want to thank Mr. INGLIS for working to make this a better bill. I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 3775.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3775, the Industrial Energy Efficiency Research and Development Act of 2007, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The industrial sector of our economy is currently the largest user of energy. According to the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, the industrial sector consumed 32 percent of the Nation's energy in 2006. While the industrial sector has made impressive efficiency gains since 1980, more is needed and more can be done.

The Department of Energy currently runs the Industrial Technology Programs, ITP, whose mission it is to improve the energy intensity of the United States industrial sector, whose industries include aluminum, chemicals, forest products, glass, metal casting, mining, petroleum refining and steel. The ITP program engages in partnerships with industry to conduct research and development into energy efficiency technologies, as well as demonstrating those technologies and transferring them to the marketplace. The program has been very successful in its efforts with over 140 projects reaching the commercial market.

The ITP also conducts energy assessments, to help industrial manufacturers of all sizes, through both its Save Energy Now and university-based Industrial Assessment Centers, IACs. The Save Energy Now program completed 265 assessments that identified energy savings of more than \$585 million per year.

The IACs serve a dual role, aiding small and medium-sized business to re-

duce their energy costs and the training of university students who will take the efficiency knowledge they have learned and apply it in the workforce.

The bill before us today will ensure that ITP's beneficial work will continue to help the industrial sector reduce its cost, which not only helps them remain globally competitive while allowing them to keep their operations in the United States of America. Further, the ITP aids our country's goal of reducing our dependence on foreign sources of energy by improving this critical sector's use of energy.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMPSON. Thank you for your words, Mr. REICHERT. Certainly this is important. It's something that can make a significant difference to what we're doing for the world and for industry in the United States of America, to make sure that we are kept competitive.

There's so many things, whether it is using waste to pelletize wood into new kinds of fuel, whether it is solar, water, any of the many things, wind, that we're doing and to encourage to make these things possible is something that is very important to me.

Mr. Speaker, I will insert the following letters into the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,  
*Washington, DC, October 22, 2007.*  
Hon. BART GORDON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write with regard to H.R. 3775, the Industrial Energy Efficiency Research and Development Act of 2007. I know it is your wish for the bill to be considered on the House floor as soon as possible.

Some of the provisions in the bill are of jurisdictional interest to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. I am not, however, raising the issue with the Speaker because it is my understanding that you have agreed that the referral and consideration of the bill do not in any way serve as a jurisdictional precedent as to our two committees.

I request that you send to me a letter confirming our agreement and that our exchange of letters be included in your Committee's report on the bill and inserted in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of the bill.

Please call me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. DINGELL,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-  
MITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECH-  
NOLOGY,  
*Washington, DC, October 22, 2007.*

Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,  
*Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the referral and consideration of H.R. 3775, the Industrial Energy Efficiency Research and Development Act of 2007. I appreciate your support of this important legislation.

I recognize your Committee's jurisdictional interest in this area, and I agree that the inaction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce with respect to the bill does not in any way serve as a jurisdictional

precedent as to our two committees. The exchange of letters between our two committees will be placed in the Committee's report on H.R. 3775 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,  
*Chairman.*

Mr. Speaker, I don't have further comments to be made, and so if the gentleman is prepared to yield back his time, then I am ready to do so as well.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERMUTTER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3775, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1930

#### POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the first amendment protects the fundamental natural rights of free speech and free press.

These pillars of principle are listed first because they are the most important. These two freedoms ensure the protection of all the other rights that follow in the Bill of Rights.

Many years have passed since these values were chiseled into the Constitution, but they are still under attack by the elites who advocate Federal control of both. Why? Because these censors disagree with the content or claim it's inaccurate or it's not fair. Even former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said last year that people should not harshly criticize the Supreme Court or its rulings.

The Constitution does not guarantee speech or press to be fair or even accurate. It guarantees it to be free. "Fair" is too subjective a term.

Our Framers were primarily concerned about protecting the political and religious discourse. Why? Because they are the most controversial and the most important.

Any action by the Federal Government to control speech or press should be met with loud, harsh words; fiery oratory; and a blazing pen.

And that's just the way it is.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous