

combined with growing demand for corn-fed meat products the world over, will likely result in even higher food prices for U.S. consumers.

Some have suggested that the shipping problems and price inflation associated with corn ethanol can be overcome if biofuels are made locally with material native to our area. Cellulosic forest residue left over from thinning or restorative forestry projects has been at the top of this list. Although the technology to make this fuel in a cost-effective manner is still being developed, California's 18 National Forests could serve as a ready supply of material to meet future biofuel needs. But this legislation expressly forbids any forest materials from our National Forests—not even a single pine needle—to be used as feedstock for biofuels manufacturing. The vast majority of the National Forest land in our congressional district has been rated as "Condition Class III" by forest researchers and scientists, meaning that the forests face an extraordinarily high risk of catastrophic fire. There is no scientific dispute of the fact that forest materials must be removed in order to protect communities and wildlife from severe fire and to generally restore forest health. Using forest residue for biofuels would arguably contribute both to forest recovery and to the Nation's fuel supply. But for reasons that can only be explained by environmental politics, the Democrat leadership has again labeled California's National Forests "off-limits" to commonsense forest management and a new and important source of a future renewable fuels supply.

Finally, H.R. 6 seeks to mandate a new national "Renewable Portfolio Standard" or "RPS." The RPS would require all private electricity supply companies to generate 15 percent of the electricity they produce with renewable sources, such as wind, solar power, or biomass. California already has such a mandate so the proposed federal standard is not new policy for our State's electricity providers. But other States, particularly those that lack the abundant natural resources we have, will likely struggle to meet the requirements of the RPS. Energy companies in these areas will have to purchase high cost power or renewable energy "credits" from other regions of the country. These costs will also be passed on to families and small businesses. Higher energy costs, no matter where they occur, harm U.S. economic competitiveness and will likely serve as a drag on an already uneasy economy.

But even California, with its own renewable electricity requirement, would not come out ahead if the proposed federal RPS mandate in H.R. 6 becomes law. Just as the bill inexplicably limits the use of National Forest materials for cellulosic ethanol production, it also places unworkable limits on the use of forest resources for electricity production. Again, one step forward and several steps back.

A truly balanced energy bill would begin with the serious problem of record gas prices and reducing America's dependence on foreign sources of energy and then proceed with creating incentives that would unleash the power of American inventiveness and creativity in order to develop the next generation of energy technology and supplies. H.R. 6 relies on an outdated and failed belief that Washington knows best. Over 1,000 pages of legislative text contains little in the way of broad-based incentives, but is chock-full of

new regulations and a higher tax burden, which will do little, if anything, for consumers. A better approach would get Washington out of the way and allow market-oriented solutions to provide for an affordable, diverse, and secure energy supply for America.

SALUTING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA  
SORORITY ON ITS CENTENNIAL

**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2007*

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, January 15, 2008, is a special day for more than 200,000 college educated African-American women throughout the world but especially here in our Nation's Capitol.

It is the Centennial Founders' Day for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the first and the oldest sorority for African Americans. On this date in 1908, nine women at Howard University in Washington, DC joined through real sisterhood and service founded Alpha Kappa Alpha. They soon added seven honor students from Howard's Class of 1910 to ensure the continuity and growth of the organization.

Their names are enshrined in the stunningly beautiful "Alpha of Alpha Kappa Alpha" Founders Window in the Rankin Chapel on that campus.

From its proud beginning at Howard University, AKA has grown to more than 200,000 strong, including undergraduate members and graduate members—affiliated with 975 chapters all over the globe and on every continent.

From the beginning, the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha have lived up to their calling as "A Legacy of Sisterhood and Service." They have responded to the world's increasing complexity in a manner that continues to empower communities through exemplary service initiatives and progressive programs.

Centennial International President Barbara A. McKinzie is leading the membership during some of the most turbulent times in our history. Economics education is the foundation of the program platforms with special emphasis on Black families and youth, mental, physical and emotional health, encouraging entrepreneurs and other business opportunities and proving technology advancement for our seasoned seniors. This president has championed breast cancer awareness and vigilance among the membership and all African-American women. Her educational program has included advocacy for Sister Study, a long-term research project to determine the causes of breast cancer among African-American women.

Alpha Kappa Alpha has partnered with "Coaches Versus Cancer" to raise money for and promote cancer prevention. The sorority has partnered with State Farm Insurance Co. and Dr. Ian Smith, author of "Fat Smash Diet" on the 50 Million Pound Weight Loss Challenge. It is also partnering with African Ancestry to use the power of DNA to help find genealogical answers about African Americans.

These community service activities are ongoing as Alpha Kappa Alpha proceeds with a nationwide one hundred year celebration.

Alpha Kappa Alpha launched its Centennial during 2007 with regional celebrations. The Centennial will kick off with the 100th Birthday

Celebration at Howard University from January 12 to 15, 2008, culminating with the Centennial Boule in July that will bring over 20,000 women and their families to Washington, DC to mark "100 Years of Service."

As a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first African-American fraternity, I can attest to the pride and tradition and value that the Greek-letter organizations have brought to African Americans all across our land. I congratulate the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha and their families as they pause and celebrate their legacy of good works and Sisterhood.

CELEBRATING THE RETURN OF  
ARMY SPECIALIST JOEL MORERA

**HON. TIM MAHONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2007*

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and welcome home Army SPC Joel Morera. Specialist Morera was wounded in Iraq on July 28, 2007, when an explosive device hit his vehicle.

Specialist Joel Morera received a Purple Heart in August. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy.

Today, SPC Morera and his family will arrive back home in Clewiston, FL, so that he can celebrate the holidays in his hometown. I join the veterans and residents of Highlands County, Hendry County and Glades County in paying our respects to SPC Morera and celebrating his return to the Sunshine State.

I rise today with great pride to honor this brave young man and to thank him for his incredible sacrifice. The courage of SPC Morera and his fallen comrades ensure that all Americans can enjoy liberty.

Madam Speaker, please join me and the communities of the 16th District of Florida in welcoming Army Specialist Joel Morera and his family home for the holidays.

RECOGNIZING SEAN LOGAN  
GRAHAM FOR ACHIEVING THE  
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Logan Graham, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Sean has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean Graham for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.