

I know that Bonnie Palecek will be sorely missed by all who have known her dedication to serving victims of sexual and domestic violence. I offer her my congratulations and best wishes for her continued success and happiness in the coming years.

LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL (NAAG) OPPOSING H.R. 2046, THE "INTERNET GAMBLING REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007"

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I am submitting for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter from the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) signed by 45 Attorneys General opposing Representative BARNEY FRANK's legislation, H.R. 2046, the "Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007." In this letter, these Attorneys General declare that the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, which provided an additional Federal enforcement tool against Internet gambling and which was signed into law last year, has "effectively driven many illicit gambling operators from the American marketplace." The NAAG letter then goes on to detail the opposition of 45 top law enforcement officials to H.R. 2046. I request that the entirety of this letter be included in the RECORD immediately following my remarks, including the list of all the signers of this letter.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL,

Washington, DC, November 30, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC.

TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE: We, the Attorneys General of our respective States, have grave concerns about H.R. 2046, the "Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007." We believe that the bill would undermine States' traditional powers to make and enforce their own gambling laws.

On March 21, 2006, 49 NAAG members wrote to the leadership of Congress: "We encourage the United States Congress to help combat the skirting of state gambling regulations by enacting legislation which would address Internet gambling, while at the same time ensuring that the authority to set overall gambling regulations and policy remains where it has traditionally been most effective: at the state level." Congress responded by enacting the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, UIGEA, which has effectively driven many illicit gambling operators from the American marketplace.

But now, less than a year later, H.R. 2046 proposes to do the opposite, by replacing state regulations with a Federal licensing program that would permit Internet gambling companies to do business with U.S.

customers. The Department of the Treasury would alone decide who would receive Federal licenses and whether the licensees were complying with their terms. This would represent the first time in history that the Federal government would be responsible for issuing gambling licenses.

A Federal license would supersede any state enforcement action, because §5387 in H.R. 2046 would grant an affirmative defense against any prosecution or enforcement action under any Federal or State law to any person who possesses a valid license and complies with the requirements of H.R. 2046. This divestment of state gambling enforcement power is sweeping and unprecedented.

The bill would legalize Internet gambling in each State, unless the Governor clearly specifies existing state restrictions barring Internet gambling in whole or in part. On that basis, a State may "opt out" of legalization for all Internet gambling or certain types of gambling. However, the opt-out for types of gambling does not clearly preserve the right of States to place conditions on legal types of gambling. Thus, for example, if the State permits poker in licensed card rooms, but only between 10 a.m. and midnight, and the amount wagered cannot exceed \$100 per day and the participants must be 21 or older, the Federal law might nevertheless allow 18-year-olds in that State to wager much larger amounts on poker around the clock.

Furthermore, the opt-outs may prove illusory. They will likely be challenged before the World Trade Organization. The World Trade Organization has already shown itself to be hostile to U.S. restrictions on Internet gambling. If it strikes down State opt-outs as unduly restrictive of trade, the way will be omen to the greatest expansion of legalized gambling in American history and near total preemption of State laws restricting Internet gambling.

H.R. 2046 effectively nationalizes America's gambling laws on the Internet, "harmonizing" the law for the benefit of foreign gambling operations that were defying our laws for years, at least until UIGEA was enacted. We therefore oppose this proposal, and any other proposal that hinders the right of States to prohibit or regulate gambling by their residents.

Sincerely,

John S. Juthers, Attorney General of Colorado; Bill McCollum, Attorney General of Florida; Douglas Gansler, Attorney General of Maryland; Troy King, Attorney General of Alabama; Talis J. Colberg, Attorney General of Alaska; Terry Goddard, Attorney General of Arizona; Dustin McDaniel, Attorney General of Arkansas; Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Attorney General of California; Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General of Connecticut; Joseph R. (Beau) Biden III, Attorney General of Delaware.

Linda Singer, Attorney General of the District of Columbia; Thurbert E. Baker, Attorney General of Georgia; Alicia G. Limtiaco, Attorney General of Guam; Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General of Hawaii; Lawrence Wasden, Attorney General of Idaho; Lisa Madigan, Attorney General of Illinois; Stephen Carter, Attorney General of Indiana; Paul Morrison, Attorney General of Kansas; Charles C. Foti, Jr., Attorney General of Louisiana; G. Steven Rowe, Attorney General of Maine.

Lori Swanson, Attorney General of Minnesota; Jim Hood, Attorney General of Mississippi; Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Attorney General of Missouri; Mike McGrath, Attorney General of Montana; Kelly A. Ayotte, Attorney Gen-

eral of New Hampshire; Anne Milgram, Attorney General of New Jersey; Gary King, Attorney General of New Mexico; Roy Cooper, Attorney General of North Carolina; Wayne Stenehjem, Attorney General of North Dakota; Marc Dann, Attorney General of Ohio.

W.A. Drew Edmondson, Attorney General of Oklahoma; Hardy Myers, Attorney General of Oregon; Tom Corbett, Attorney General of Pennsylvania; Patrick C. Lynch, Attorney General of Rhode Island; Henry McMaster, Attorney General of South Carolina; Larry Long, Attorney General of South Dakota; Robert E. Cooper, Jr., Attorney General of Tennessee; Greg Abbott, Attorney General of Texas; Mark Shurtleff, Attorney General of Utah; William H. Sorrell, Attorney General of Vermont. Robert McDonnell, Attorney General of Virginia; Rob McKenna, Attorney General of Washington; Darrell V. McGraw, Jr., Attorney General of West Virginia; J.B. Van Hollen, Attorney General of Wisconsin; Bruce A. Salzburg, Attorney General of Wyoming.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND
SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007. It is an initial step towards a new energy policy. Some will say this bill goes too far, others will claim it does not go far enough. While opportunities to overhaul our energy policy were missed, this bill does include a starting point for true reform.

Any attempt to transform the direction of our energy policy must include an increase in CAFE standards. Increasing fuel efficiency is something I have fought many years for. We have the technology to do it, we have the will to do it and now, with this bill, we have made the commitment to do it. This provision is the cornerstone for revamping our energy policy. It not only addresses our reliance on imported oil, but will also help stem the creation of green house gasses.

I agree with the inclusion of a Renewable Fuels Standard; however, as we have learned over the past few years, the manner in which it is executed raises its own set of questions. Our current thirst is for corn based ethanol. Of 5 billion gallons of biofuels produced domestically last year, 4.9 billion were derived from corn. Placing a limit on the amount of corn ethanol eligible to be applied in meeting the RFS is a necessary step. Yet, I have doubts as to whether that limit is too high and whether more should be done to ensure the development of other biofuels. Also, most studies give corn based ethanol an energy balance of 1.2. Would it not be a better long term policy to shift our focus towards a more efficient source of biofuel?

Finally, I am concerned about the effects this mandate could have on the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Task Force and I have worked tirelessly to clean up this troubled waterway. Spurred on by government subsidies, farmers in the watershed have been drastically increasing their corn acreage. Due

to the intrinsic nature of corn farming, any increase will heavily impact the health of the watershed and could undo many of the great achievements we have made in the past few years.

Fifty years from now our energy makeup should be fundamentally different. At that point we should no longer be relying on fossil fuels to drive our economy. Yet, the fact remains we must rely on them today. Neither the technology nor the infrastructure exists to do otherwise. In the intervening years we must not only develop a green energy sector, but we must also shift from foreign sources of energy to domestic ones. Therefore, we must not hinder the development of our oil and natural gas fields. I am pleased this bill discarded the troublesome tax package that would have been a disincentive on domestic production.

Madam Speaker, contrary to what its champions claim, this bill does not fundamentally change our Nation's energy policy. While I will vote for this bill, I look forward to working with my colleagues to finish the job that has been left undone.

RECOGNIZING OHIO'S 2008
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable teacher from Ohio's Fourth Congressional District.

Her name is Deborah Wickerham. A teacher for 32 years, Ms. Wickerham has taught at Chamberlin Hill Intermediate School in the Findlay City School system since 1992, currently teaching both deaf and hearing fifth graders in her inclusion classroom.

In 2001, Ms. Wickerham achieved National Board Certification, and currently works as a facilitator and mentor to help other teachers achieve certification. In addition to this and to her regular duties at Chamberlin Hill, she spends many after-school hours tutoring students who struggle with homework, organizational skills, and test preparation.

She has received numerous awards and recognition throughout her teaching career, including the Presidential Award for Elementary Science Excellence, the Vernier National Science Teacher of the Year Award, the Rotary Golden Apple Award, Jaycees Teacher of the Year honors, and the 2007 VFW Regional Teacher of the Year title.

Today, I am proud to announce to the House that Deborah Wickerham has been named the 2008 Ohio Teacher of the Year by the Ohio Department of Education.

According to her colleagues, Ms. Wickerham's secret to success is her ability to demonstrate, through her dedicated work in the classroom, the most important mission of teachers: to help even child succeed.

We all recognize the increasing challenges facing today's students. Now more than ever, they need the benefit of dedicated teachers like Ms. Wickerham.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Deborah Wickerham in earning this distinction, through which she will serve as a spokesperson for Ohio teachers, make public appearances and speeches

across the state, and continue her outstanding work in the classroom.

FEDERAL FOOD DONATION ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives is considering an important piece of legislation. H.R. 4220, the Federal Food Donation Act of 2007 is a step in the right direction towards feeding the hungry in our nation. It is unacceptable that here in the richest nation in the world American children go to bed hungry while perfectly good food goes to waste. I am proud to be a sponsor of this bill—a bill that will not solve all hunger, but will solve some people's hunger.

I want to thank Mrs. EMERSON for introducing the Federal Food Donation Act. The bill will help the efforts of nonprofit organizations serving the hungry. Agencies and contractors are encouraged to donate safe and wholesome food to nonprofit organizations that provide assistance to food-insecure people, while avoiding another mandate or further layer of bureaucracy. In order to help protect donors, the bill provides that executive agencies and contractors making donations are protected from civil or criminal liability.

While donating unused food is a good step in combating hunger in America, the fight is not over.

TRIBUTE TO NOUVEL CATHOLIC
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I would like to congratulate and pay tribute to Nouvel Catholic Central High School for winning the Michigan High School Athletic Association 2007 Division Six Football State Championship. It is the team's second consecutive state title.

The Nouvel Panthers Defeated Blissfield 12-7 in the state final game on November 23. The win was a fitting cap to a successful season. The Panthers finished with an impressive 10-3 record. The ability of the Panther players to regroup after these losses and ability to win the close games down the stretch is a clear indication of the dedication these young men have for their sport.

This tremendous group of student athletes has proudly carried on their school's tradition of excellence.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I congratulate the Nouvel Catholic Central football team on this milestone achievement and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING KINGLAND-HANSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carolyn Kingland-Hanson as the recipient of the Golden Apple Award for her commitment and enthusiasm as a teacher in the Hampton-Dumont School District in Iowa.

Carolyn says she is humbled by the honor and believes all her fellow teachers at Hampton-Dumont are equally deserving of the award.

Carolyn has taught high school English and literature for 22 years and has a gift in working with teens. She is able to transform difficult literature into exciting and easy to learn lessons. Carolyn turns her classroom into a stage as students have the opportunity to act out scenes and dances that are in the books they are studying. Her recipe for success is her love of, and commitment to, her students. Her passion for literature and the teaching profession will continue to have a significant impact on her students for years to come.

I congratulate Carolyn Kingland-Hanson on her well-deserved award, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many students in her community. It is a great honor to represent Carolyn in Congress, and I wish her continued success.

HONORING A NORTH CHICAGO
POLICE OFFICER

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Luis Rivera of the North Chicago Police Department Tactical Narcotics Team. Besides fulfilling his duties as a narcotics and gang investigator since May 2005, Detective Rivera also serves on the North Chicago Police Department Major Crime Evidence Team, as a firearms instructor, tech officer, bike patrolman and former SWAT officer. Beyond his tireless dedication to the department, Detective Rivera has consistently displayed an extraordinary commitment to his community.

In January of this year while working undercover, Detective Rivera purchased 4 ounces of cocaine from a criminal resulting in four arrests and the seizure of 116.6 grams cocaine, one Chevy Blazer and \$4,977. Detective Rivera also developed a narcotics gang conspiracy case on members of the Four Corner Hustler street gang operating in North Chicago that came to a conclusion on February 28, 2007. Through the use of confidential informants and undercover officers, 39 indictments were issued on 12 of the Four Corner Hustler street gang members by the Lake County States Attorney office. This investigation halted violence in the area.

In June he developed an informant that infiltrated a crew that was robbing local drug dealers. While gathering information to make a case, the leader of the group and member of the Gangster Disciples street gang committed a home invasion, resulting in the violent death of a young female along with 2 males who