

serves as director of marketing and communications. She is an active member and ambassador of the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce. Sharon is also a member of the American Heart Association Board, among a myriad of other civic and community involvement.

Past WISE Award winners have served in a variety of ways, but they are united by the long-lasting impact they have made on their community. Their service and community involvement continues to inspire younger generations.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize all of the WISE honorees for their outstanding service and congratulate them on their awards. Thank you, ladies, for helping make our community and country a better place.

#### CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA TO END ITS CRACK- DOWN IN TIBET

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 8, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this important resolution. On Monday, activists spread a huge banner across the Golden Gate Bridge reading "One World. One Dream. Free Tibet." I think we can all learn from these powerful words. China's crackdown on the Tibetan people has reminded us that human rights violations are an all too common part of life under Chinese rule.

As a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, I believe China must engage in an open dialogue with the Dalai Lama that respects the independent national identity of the Tibetan people. However, China's violent oppression of these peaceful protestors only shows their refusal to reach a solution to this crisis. Additionally, China has refused to end its support for the Government of Sudan, continuing to invest in its corrupt leaders. Unfortunately, China's support has helped prolong the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

We cannot expect China to lead the international community by hosting the Olympic games when it continues to show a lack of respect for fundamental human rights. Our President and all American travelers must seriously reflect on whether to support the Beijing Olympic games in any way because our country must never support those who stand in the way of peace and freedom.

#### KC-135 AIR REFUELING TANKERS

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2008*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the Air Force's recent decision to award Northrop Grumman and its partner, European Aeronautic Defense and Space, EADS, the \$40 billion contract to replace the KC-135 air refueling tankers. The Air Force chose against a Boeing team that included Connecticut-based Pratt & Whitney as the engine supplier.

After the contract was awarded, the Connecticut congressional delegation requested a briefing from the Air Force on the source selection process and learned that the two competitors were essentially on par in their bid to win the contract. By all objective measures there was no clear winner, and so the contract award and all the American jobs associated with it were ultimately given to Northrop-EADS for seemingly subjective reason by unidentified personnel within the Air Force. That begs the question: why did the tie not go to the home team?

The Air Force was unable or unwilling to delve into extensive detail as to why Boeing lost the award. Boeing filed a protest with the General Accountability Office shortly after it lost the bid.

What I find particularly troubling in this case is that the Air Force—despite the \$40 billion price tag—is not required and does not consider U.S. jobs or the economy in its decision-making. Even more disconcerting is the fact that the Air Force does not seem to be concerned with the security risks of having foreign companies and their employees work on such a major defense project.

Our national economy and our national security are significantly affected by this decision. We have a responsibility to take all the potential consequences into account and in addition, examine the international context in which this decision is being made. The fact is that the impact of this contract will not occur in a vacuum.

For example, the Office of the United States Trade Representative is aggressively challenging in the World Trade Organization, WTO, the millions of dollars in European government subsidies that Airbus—EADS is its parent company—is receiving. The United States accuses Airbus of taking advantage of "launch aid"—grants and loans at unfairly favorable rates. And so, during a recent hearing, U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab told the Senate Finance Committee that the USTR had briefed the Air Force some time ago about the pending U.S. trade case against Airbus at the WTO. Nevertheless, Air Force officials told the Connecticut delegation there is nothing in their rules that call for them to consider the dispute. They ignored it, just as they ignored concerns over their decision's effect on the economy and the likely off-shoring of good paying jobs and our defense industrial base.

Madam Speaker, I believe that this decision will have a deep, long-term negative impact on the aerospace industry and supporting industries in this county, which are so critical to both our national security and our economy. At a time when our Nation faces a recession and a rising unemployment rate, it is wrong-headed to award such a major contract to another nation rather than utilize our own skilled workers and keep scarce resources here at home. The decision will not only continue but also accelerate the erosion of our industrial base and skilled workforce—jeopardizing both our national security and economic prosperity.

Indeed, Connecticut alone stands to lose thousands of jobs at Pratt & Whitney, along with many more from small vendors and suppliers who would have benefited from the award. For Pratt & Whitney's Middletown operations, this news is especially hard to bear, for the company had been planning to use the tanker award to transition away from the old C-17 engine systems.

Labor leaders, businesses, policy experts and others agree that the Air Force made the wrong decision. Organizations such as the Center for Security Policy argue that awarding the contract to an international consortium threatens U.S. national security. And they are joined by organizations like the AFL-CIO and International Association of Machinists in opposing the award.

Finally, I would like to point out that this contract has no contingency plan for dealing with potential cost overruns and schedule delays—problems currently facing the Marine One presidential helicopter program. Defense projects that have been outsourced to foreign countries have experienced significant delays and excessive cost overruns. The Pentagon recently acknowledged that the current helicopter contract awarded to Lockheed Martin and its British-Italian Partner, AugustaWestland-Finmeccanica, is significantly over budget—\$11.2 billion, up from an initial estimate of \$6.1 billion—and will breach the cost threshold set by Congress.

I am deeply concerned by the fact that, like the Marine One contract, the Air Force has given almost no consideration to the myriad security and economic implications underlying the award of a multi-billion dollar contract to a foreign company. It is déjà vu all over again with the American worker, taxpayer and military likely to come out on the losing end.

#### IN HONOR OF THE 2007 SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2008*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, as the Sacramento River Cats 2008 home opener approaches, I rise in tribute of their 2007 season in which they won the Pacific Coast League and the Triple-A Championship. The River Cats capped their season off in impressive fashion winning 7 straight playoff games to clinch the title. Upon sweeping the New Orleans Zephyrs to win the Pacific Coast League championship, Sacramento laid their claim as outright Triple-A champions by defeating the Richmond Braves in the second annual Bricktown Showdown, a one game playoff between the Pacific Coast Champion and the International League Champion. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting the triumphant 2007 Sacramento River Cats.

The River Cats remarkable playoff run began when they clinched the Pacific Coast League Southern Division by finishing the regular season with a record of 84-60. Despite falling behind two games to none against Salt Lake City in the playoff's first round, the River Cats came back to win the next three games. Using that positive momentum, the River Cats quickly beat the New Orleans Zephyrs in three games, winning the Pacific Coast League title for the third time in 5 years. The series final game was seen before a spirited and sellout crowd of 14,414 fans at Sacramento's Raley Field.

The 2007 Sacramento River Cats exuded resilience in the face of adversity. Despite being a revolving door that allowed their parent affiliate, Major League Baseball's Oakland A's, to replenish their injured roster, the River