

be a travesty to have our prized native hardwoods effectively removed from new building projects only to be substituted with materials from foreign sources or less suitable alternative materials, often at higher costs.

The United States Government is required under Federal law to undertake a nationwide inventory of forest resources. The most recent inventory published in 2007 by the U.S. Forest Service and referred to as the "RPA Assessment," shows that hardwood growth has consistently exceeded harvest for the last 50 years. Between 1953 and 2007, the volume of U.S. hardwood growing stock has more than doubled. This solid growth in America's hardwood resource, coupled with the forest laws in the United States, provide strong evidence of good governance and efficient forest regulations.

Specifically, I would ask that any green building standard required by H.R. 3021 give adequate consideration to a number of criteria:

First, forest certification requirements included in green building standards still have very low participation amongst U.S. hardwood family forest owners. The vast majority of American hardwoods are grown in the eastern United States, where around 73 percent of hardwood forest land is privately owned by families whose ownership stretches back several generations. There are approximately 4 million private forest owners in the U.S. with an average parcel of land 50 acres in size which may be harvested only a few times in any generation of owners. When considering green building legislation, I would ask that the record reflect that we recognize the environmental credentials of American hardwoods in addition to any specific green building standards.

Second, a typical American hardwood mill buys timber from approximately 1,800 forest owners in a single year. Those set of forest owners can differ completely from year to year. The certification requirements that are referenced in H.R. 3021 do not adequately address the challenges hardwood manufacturers face when working with thousands of owners to in effect "prove" the origin of the wood. It is understandable that finding certified hardwood is difficult at best. Any green building legislation should not discriminate against this proven renewable and viable resource in the United States on the basis of certification challenges.

Lastly, any geographical limitations should be broad enough to allow U.S. products manufactured in one vicinity to be used in another part of the country. I am proud of the many Fifth District constituents who make products such as flooring and wood trim for projects throughout the world. Eastern or Midwestern manufacturers should not be prohibited from supplying their West Coast markets, nor vice versa, due to arbitrary geographical limitations put in place by green building requirements. Hardwoods are a natural product and cannot suddenly be produced in the proximity of the target market.

It is my understanding that efforts are underway to assure that hardwoods are given full consideration in green building standards. As we consider mandating these requirements I urge that full consideration be given to these needed adjustments and that no new school construction project be forced to ignore one of our vital, beautiful, environmentally beneficial, and native material such as hardwoods.

DR. JIM SCANLON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dr. Jim Scanlon, of St. Joseph, Missouri. Dr. Scanlon, who has served as President of Missouri Western State University since 2001, will be retiring at the end of June following a distinguished 30-year career devoted to students in higher education. Dr. Scanlon has been a great visionary for Missouri Western State University and a fine leader in building the University's vision for the future.

Dr. Scanlon leaves behind a number of accomplishments. Under his leadership, Missouri Western attained University status and added new master's programs in applied sciences and applied arts. During his tenure three new buildings were added to the campus, one building currently under construction, one building renovation and addition in the planning stages, a new university plaza and several remodeled campus spaces for students. Dr. Scanlon has also championed a regional university plan, focusing Western's resources for both the good of the student as well as the community and region.

Dr. Scanlon came to St. Joseph and Missouri Western around the time I was first elected to Congress. I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with Dr. Scanlon on a number of occasions, and I can attest to his honesty, integrity, and vision. I know Dr. Scanlon's leadership will truly be missed, but I am very thankful for the time we were able to share together, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Dr. Jim Scanlon, a true visionary and tremendous leader who dedicated his career to higher education. I commend Dr. Scanlon on an exceptional career, and I am honored to serve him in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF POLICE CAPTAIN THOMAS G. GIUGNI FROM THE FAIRFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Police Captain Thomas G. Giugni, who faithfully served the residents of the cities of Walnut Creek and Fairfield since 1978.

Prior to becoming a police officer, Captain Giugni served as a civilian communications dispatcher and clerk for the City of Fairfield. Captain Giugni went on to work for the Walnut Creek Police Department in 1978.

Captain Giugni served with the Walnut Creek Police Department for 9 years before returning to work with the Fairfield Police Department. His work and dedication in patrol and investigations allowed Captain Giugni to become a field training officer in 1993. His contributions, as well as his promise, led to his promotion to police sergeant on January 20, 1995.

Captain Giugni continued to serve as a positive role model for his fellow officers in patrol and investigations leading to his promotion to police lieutenant on June 30, 2000. His leadership success in this position led to Giugni's promotion to police captain on May 3, 2002.

Captain Guigni's 31 years of law enforcement service exemplify the many qualities of great police officers. He is a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and leader for both sworn and civilian employees and he will always be remembered and admired for his hard work, dedication and impact on our cities.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STEPHEN BARR DURING HIS TENURE AS AN EDITOR AND REPORTER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the significant contributions of Stephen Barr, noted columnist and journalist that paved the way for today's journalistic generation.

Throughout his career at the Washington Post Stephen Barr has served as an anchor to both the columnist writing community and the avid readers of the newspaper. During his 20 years at the Washington Post he has worked as an editor and reporter serving in the Metro News, Style, National News, and the Column departments of the newspaper.

In May 2000, he was selected as the Federal Diary Columnist after serving 7 years as a national staff writer covering Federal management and personnel issues, "reinventing government," the U.S. Postal Service, veterans' affairs, the congressional appropriations process, and government technology challenges, including the widely known Year 2000 computer glitch.

Steve Barr was born and raised in Nocona, Texas, a 1967 graduate of Nocona High School and a 1971 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin where he received his bachelor's degree in journalism. He also served 2 years in the U.S. Army, including one year with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam.

With deep appreciation and admiration for his continued service, I thank Mr. Stephen Barr and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR "GOLDEN CIRCLE DAY"

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Bethany Baptist Church of Brooklyn, its Pastor Dr. David A. Hampton, first lady Hope Hampton and its congregants in honor of "Golden Circle Day."

Dr. David A. Hampton is the tenth Pastor-elect of Bethany Baptist Church. Hailing from