

supporting its employees who are in the National Guard or Army Reserve.

The "Above and Beyond" award received by Iowa Select Farms was preceded by a "My Boss is a Patriot" certificate in 2005, which was awarded after an Iowa National Guard employee nominated the farm for providing special consideration and benefits during his deployment. Iowa Select Farms' corporate policy obliges the company to pay a year's salary while a soldier employee is deployed, thereby removing considerable stress and uncertainty in how a soldier can provide for his or her family while serving abroad. By providing top notch support to its military employees, Iowa Select Farms shows the respect and honor deserved by America's troops, who continue to sacrifice for our nation.

I offer my utmost congratulations and thanks to Iowa Select Farms for playing such an active role in supporting our troops. It is an honor to represent Jeff Hansen, President and CEO, and all the employees of the Iowa Select Farms in the United States Congress, and I wish them success in their future endeavors.

DRILL RESPONSIBLY IN LEASED LANDS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the DRILL Act, H.R. 6515. We continue to hear from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that opening up more Federal lands to oil and gas drilling will be the magic bullet that will solve our energy crisis. They continue to try to mislead the American people into believing that drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf, OCS, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will bring instantaneous relief to American families desperately seeking help with painful gas prices. There is no easy solution to this crisis, and it is widely accepted that drilling in OCS would save only pennies per gallon, more than a decade down the road. It is unseemly that my colleagues would continue to take advantage of the suffering of Americans to promote their own political aims.

Currently 81 percent of the oil and gas deposits known in our Nation's Federal lands is available to be leased for drilling. Sixty-eight million acres, approximately 75 percent, of the lands open for drilling both onshore and offshore currently are leased by oil companies who are not using them for production. It is estimated that these leased but unused lands could produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil and 44.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas each day, nearly doubling U.S. oil production and cutting oil imports by a third. This includes the 20 million acres with an estimated 10.6 billion barrels of oil in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, NPR-A, currently available for drilling but most of which is lying unused.

The DRILL act would require oil companies to certify to the Department of the Interior that they actively are developing on the lands that they have already leased. If these oil companies are not producing on these lands, they either would have to relinquish these leases or start producing on them before they could apply to lease additional lands. It would en-

courage expedited oil production by requiring the Secretary of Interior to offer at least one lease sale annually in NPR-A. H.R. 6515 would require the Secretary of Transportation to extend the Alaskan oil and gas pipeline to NPR-A, and require the President to make improvements to the existing oil and gas pipeline so that we can export oil more expeditiously. Finally, the DRILL Act would prevent the export of Alaskan oil and gas so that this supply is available for American consumers.

This is common sense legislation, and I urge my colleagues who keep shouting "drill, drill, drill" to support it. We do not need to open up more lands to oil and gas drilling when they are not utilizing the leases and resources they already have.

This is only a short term solution to America's energy needs. Currently we produce 3 percent of the world's oil and consume 25 percent. Unless we find a way to dramatically reduce our consumption we will never be able to drill our way to energy independence. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop a long term solution to this crisis.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL MODEL A FORD

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the contribution of the International Model A Ford to the history of U.S. transportation. This is a significant week for Model A owners across the country. I rise to specifically applaud the Model A Ford Club of Long Island, New York as they celebrate Model A Ford Day on Saturday, July 26th in my Congressional District.

This year's annual remembrance is momentous for owners as it falls on the 80th anniversary of the introduction of the first 1928 Model A Ford. This weekend's celebration of their car's 80th birthday will include thousands of Model A Ford enthusiasts, restorers and preservers taking these vehicles out on American roadways nationwide and events with other Model A enthusiasts.

Notably, there were only 5 million Model A Fords produced between 1928 and 1931. I am pleased to say that the dedication of Model A Ford owners has enabled 250,000 of these historic vehicles to be preserved. Remarkably, most of these vehicles are driven regularly to the enjoyment of many as I have seen in my Congressional District.

The Model A Ford was a trailblazer of its time. It was the first Ford to use the standard set of driver controls, with conventional clutch and brake pedals, throttle and gearshift. The Model A's fuel tank was located in the cowl and had an optic fuel gauge and the fuel was distributed to the carburetor by gravity. Also, the Model A was the first car to have safety glass in the windshield.

Again, thank you to Model A Ford owners for preserving a flagship American automobile and to the Model A Ford Club of Long Island for keeping this historic tradition active on Long Island.

HONORING VOLKER EISELE OF
NAPA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Volker Eisele, who is being honored as the Napa County Farm Bureau's 2008 Agriculturalist of the Year.

I have had the honor for the past 10 years to represent in the U.S. House of Representatives the Napa Valley, an area known throughout the world for its immense beauty, environmental consciousness and bountiful agriculture. Were it not for the tireless efforts of Mr. Eisele, Napa Valley as we know it today would simply not exist.

Since arriving in the Napa Valley, Volker Eisele has dedicated his life to protecting its rich agricultural tradition. The timeline of his community involvement reads like the history of preservation in Napa. In 1974, he joined Citizens' Council for Napa Tomorrow, the group that passed Napa County's 1 percent growth measure, Measure A, in 1980. In 1977, he joined the board of what is now Greenbelt Alliance, which has become one of the preeminent Smart Growth organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has also served on the boards of directors for the Napa County Farm Bureau and the Napa Valley Grapegrowers. During his term as President of the Farm Bureau, he led the effort to create the 160 acre minimum for agricultural, watershed and open space land.

From 1989 through 1990, in what was perhaps his crowning achievement, he led the campaign to pass Measure J, Napa County's revolutionary land protection measure. Today, he is organizing the campaign to renew Measure J, which will protect Napa Valley agriculture for fifty years.

Mr. Eisele has been a preeminent activist in Napa Valley for more than thirty years, but he has also led by example. He planted the first entirely organic vineyard in Napa in 1975, and practiced sustainable farming long before it became widely accepted. He has maintained an enduring reverence for the land that serves us all so well, respecting animal habitat and riparian corridors. As a result, his Volker Eisele Family Estate wines reflect the best that Napa has to offer.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Volker Eisele for his many years of leadership. The Napa Valley and the entire environmental movement owe him an enormous debt of gratitude.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST STEVEN CHRISTOFFERSON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, in April, over 350 friends, family members, and others in the community inspired by the life of Army Specialist Steven Christofferson gathered at the Cudahy High School Field House in my district to pay their respects to