

on businesses to pay for a temporary, one-year extension of expiring business tax provisions. I fail to see the merits of the opponent's contention and I believe that the benefits far outweigh any potential costs. Given the circumstances, the American economy is spiraling downward, energy prices are high, and unemployment is high, some kind of relief must be granted. To the extent that this body can grant some kind of relief, it is to be supported. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I am committed to working with industry actors to make sure that some balance is struck in the future.

The following are provisions that are widely supported by various interest groups:

**Extension of Expired and Expiring Business Tax Provisions**—Legislation is urgently needed to extend critically important provisions. A number of provisions—such as the R&D credit, the election to deduct state and local general sales tax, and the railroad track maintenance credit—already have expired. Others—such as the exception under subpart F for active financing income and the look-through treatment of payments between related controlled foreign corporations (CFCs) under the foreign personal holding company rules—expire at the end of this year.

**Clean Energy Tax Incentives**—The extension of the clean energy tax incentives. These incentives will go a long way toward the development of the renewable and alternative energy technologies essential to America's energy future. The Chamber believes it is critical to promote the responsible use of all energy sources. To reach this goal, government and business should support investment in new technologies that expand alternative energy and enable traditional sources of energy to be used more cleanly and efficiently.

Some business interests have concerns with revenue offset provisions included in the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 6049, including those related to:

**Punitive Oil and Gas Taxes**—Businesses claim that Congress must be mindful of the crosswinds hitting the American economy from the financial sector to the housing sectors. Many believe tax increases on the oil and gas industries are out of sync with an American economy showing great demand for increased domestic energy production, which could provide the opportunity for the energy industry to add a significant number of high-wage jobs. Many are concerned with provisions that would freeze the section 199 deduction for oil and gas companies. This change would discourage energy investment, resulting in the loss of jobs, a decrease in the supply of oil and gas, and an increase in the costs for businesses that rely on oil and gas.

Many businesses interest groups are also concerned with the proposed modification of the foreign tax credit rules for oil and gas companies, as this change would place domestic firms at a competitive disadvantage to foreign oil and gas manufacturers.

**FUTA Surtax**—Some businesses are concerned with the proposed extension of the FUTA surtax, which was added to the tax code in 1976 as a temporary measure and should have been allowed to expire long ago, having outlived the purposes and term that served as the rationale for its enactment.

**Nonqualified Deferred Compensation**—Some acknowledges that tax deferred plans used by offshore partnerships are created as

part of complex legal agreements between managers and limited partners who are usually passive foreign investors. Foreign investors utilize these deferral arrangements to better align the interests of the manager with the investors. Altering these economic arrangements could cause these investments to migrate to other countries.

I will end, as I began. I believe that this bill is solid and makes great strides toward providing relief to the American people. I support this bill, and I am committed to working with industry and businesses to make sure that their concerns are heard and addressed.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**PAUL D. WELLSTONE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 2008**

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5265, the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research and Education (MD-CARE) Amendments Act of 2008. This legislation is named in tribute to Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone whose work on behalf of the vulnerable was well-known and well-respected.

Muscular dystrophy is a degenerative genetic disease which affects over 300,000 individuals in the United States. The original MD-Care Act authorization introduced by the late Senator Wellstone was signed into law in December 2001. This bill established six centers of excellence, created a Muscular Dystrophy Coordinating Committee (MDCC) to support research and education on muscular dystrophy, and expanded education programs for muscular dystrophy at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

H.R. 5265 continues the momentum from the original legislation. This legislation officially names the Centers of Excellence the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Cooperative Research Centers to honor Senator Wellstone's work. In addition, this bill ensures that data collection at the CDC is updated regularly, and that information is distributed to targeted audiences.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important bill.

**NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)**

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, October 10th marks the National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan). Taiwan's transformation into a vibrant democracy has enabled its people to flourish economically and socially. Taiwan is now one of the world's leading economic powers and champions of human rights and the rule of law.

To help us celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of our friends in Taiwan, I urge

my colleagues to support Taiwan's latest request that the United Nations General Assembly allow Taiwan to participate meaningfully in the activities of United Nations specialized agencies. I know leaders in Taiwan have worked tirelessly for Taiwan's participation in the United Nations. Taiwan's participation in the international system is vital to the health and welfare of the people of Taiwan and will certainly encourage cross-strait dialogue and will promote a permanent peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

Madam Speaker, congratulations to the people of Taiwan, their president, Mr. Ma Ying-jeou, and their Washington representative: Ambassador Jason Yuan. Ambassador Jason is an experienced diplomat and we look forward to his participation in the ongoing friendship and alliance between our nations.

**EARMARK DECLARATION**

**HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Mr. LUNGREN. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Department of Defense:

Feature Size Yield Enhancement DMEA's Advanced Reconfigurable Manufacturing for Semiconductors (ARMS) Foundry.

Funding will allow the ARMS fabrication technology to develop methods to produce microcircuits with increased functional density of components. (\$2,000,000).

Technikon, LLC—Renewable Energy Testing Center.

The Renewable Energy Testing Center (RETC) objective is to provide the State of California and Department of Defense with an independent "Underwriters Laboratory" resource for evaluating the performance of renewable energy and renewable fuel production technologies. RETC will provide metrics on robustness, safety, energy efficiency, environmental effectiveness, and other key parameters of these technologies needed for successful commercialization. (\$1,600,000)

Jadoo—Fuel Cell Power System—USSOCOM.

In order to expedite fielding of the IFS-24, Jadoo requests funding to progress the development of the IFS-24 to a TRL-8 and deliver 50 qualification units for field qualification testing by the US Armed Forces by December 2009. (\$800,000)

American Burn Association—Military Burn Trauma Research Program.

The program is intended to foster collaboration between military and civilian burn surgeons and researchers and to identify best practices to ensure better treatment and outcomes for military burn patients, specifically improved clinical outcomes for combat burn casualties. (\$4,000,000)

Department of Homeland Security:

Rio Vista Disaster Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Upgrade

The program is intended to provide phone lines, computer connections, and up to date audio-visual terminals in order to facilitate communication with regional, State and Federal entities in disaster emergencies. (\$150,000)