

local Postal Service employees. His work as Las Vegas Postmaster was recognized in 1988 by the Direct Marketing Association, which awarded him the National Postmaster of the Year Award. In 1991, I was happy to join my friend and colleague Senator Richard Bryan in honoring Postmaster Ryan with the U.S. Senate Productivity Award.

Beyond his work with the Postal Service, Mr. Ryan has been an active member of the Las Vegas community and has given his time and efforts to improve this fast-growing city. He worked with the Nevada Development Authority, served on the board of the United Way of Southern Nevada, and was a member of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Leadership Group.

Joe and his wife Pamela have been married for over 50 years and have four children and three grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Ryan are especially proud that all four of their children are college graduates. Joe Ryan has served the Postal Service admirably and has contributed greatly to our community, so it is fitting that the Congress recognize his hard work by naming a post office in his honor.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3681

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JOSEPH A. RYAN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5070 Vegas Valley Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada, shall be known and designated as the “Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building”.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 3682. A bill to provide incentives to small business concerns for innovative energy-efficient technologies and products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Small Business Energy Innovation Act, which I am introducing today to inspire Americans to invest in the technologies that will ultimately solve our energy crisis. As our country confronts the challenges of an economic crisis it is essential that the financial resources for our nation's energy entrepreneurs are sustained. This legislation will provide technical assistance and make financial resources available to ensure that energy innovators have greater access to capital to develop meritorious energy ideas.

One of the truly concerning aspects of the current financial situation is

that loans to small businesses are becoming more difficult to obtain. One industry in particular, our clean energy sector, is working harder to find startup funds in order to help meet the challenges of greenhouse gas emissions, energy costs to consumers, and our reliance on foreign oil. At a recent speech in Atlanta, author Tom Friedman urged America to retake the lead in the world through innovation in “ET”—Energy Technology. Friedman said the United States needs to “invent a source of abundant, cheap, clean, reliable electrons.” He compared the “ET” movement to the “IT”, Information Technology, movement of the last decade. The author called on Washington to create the environment and the incentives to allow the ET movement to prosper.

As Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee, I have heard countless stories of small business success and how the Small Business Administration can facilitate the transition of a small business to a major company. Nowhere is this role more critical than in our renewable energy sector. Businesses and families are struggling with the inordinate costs of diesel, gasoline, electricity and home heating oil. Yet, we know that our country can do better. We must develop technologies that allow Americans to utilize clean energy from America's resources. Accordingly, my legislation would create a Director of Energy Innovation in the Small Business Administration who is entrusted with coordinating energy innovation at the SBA and “promoting energy independence.”

In addition, the legislation provides grants of up to \$200,000 for nonprofits to assist small businesses that are developing renewable energy systems, advanced energy efficiency systems, advanced transportation fuels, carbon capture and sequestration practices, advanced electrical generation, efficient end-use energy technologies, production facilities for fuel efficient vehicles, and pollution control equipment. These critical initiatives require expertise that is, in many cases, difficult for a small business to find. This provision will assist small businesses in bringing products to market.

The Small Business Energy Innovation Act creates in the Department of Energy a grant program of up to \$250,000 for small businesses that are working to improve our energy security. When you consider the potential dividends of this investment, this critical seed money for energy innovators who are leading our energy revolution is a prudent investment. The potential rewards to our economy, our environment, and our national security are well worth this modest government expenditure.

Finally, this legislation develops a small business guaranteed loan program that is modeled after the loan guarantee program that was authorized in the 2005 Energy Bill. The current

loan guarantee program is fostering the development of commercial scale innovative technologies for large companies, while this legislation will develop a corresponding small business loan program. Loan guarantees will enable the Department of Energy to share some of the financial risks of projects that employ new or significantly improved energy technologies that will move our country towards energy self-sufficiency.

I hope that this legislation, coupled with the America Competes Act, which I cosponsored last year, will bring about the research and entrepreneurship that our country requires to claim the lead in producing energy efficient products. I look forward to working with Chairman BINGAMAN of the Energy Committee and Chairman KERRY of the Small Business Committee and my other colleagues to pass this legislation and create a strong commitment to the energy innovators who possess the ideas that will facilitate the end to our reliance on foreign oil.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 702—COMMENDING DAVID J. TINSLEY ON HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 702

Whereas Dave Tinsley, a native of the Commonwealth of Virginia and graduate of Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland, has worked in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate since October 1977;

Whereas Dave Tinsley has served the Senate with distinction as a staff assistant, a reference assistant, as the assistant Executive Clerk, assistant Journal Clerk and assistant Legislative Clerk;

Whereas Dave Tinsley has, since 1999, served as the Senate's Legislative Clerk and Director of Legislative Services, supervising 36 employees and has at all times discharged his duties with dedication and diligence;

Whereas Dave Tinsley's sonorous voice is known to all in the Senate and the C-SPAN audience;

Whereas Dave Tinsley has earned the respect and affection of the Senators, their staffs and all of his colleagues for his calm and kind demeanor and his good humor; and

Whereas Dave Tinsley now retires from the Senate after 31 years to spend more time with his wife, Jane, and his children, Joe, Dan and Katie: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate expresses its appreciation to Dave Tinsley and commends him for his lengthy, faithful and outstanding service to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to David J. Tinsley.