

along with other state-owned companies, are majority stakeholders in CNOOC. This connection would require Mr. Freeman to recuse himself from certain matters involving China.

The 2007 United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission's Classified Report to the Congress addresses Chinese activities in the areas of espionage, cyber warfare, and arms proliferation. In 2006 four of the computers in my Capitol Hill office were hacked. It was confirmed by the FBI that these attacks originated in the People's Republic of China. The economic stimulus plan recently rolled out by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao includes a 14.9 percent increase in military spending. It is evident that China poses an increasing national, security threat to the United States. How is national security policy enhanced by having a chairman of the NIC who must recuse himself from matters involving a regime which poses one of the most serious national security risks to the United States?

In an April 25 speech given by Mr. Freeman at the National War College Alumni Association, he described the March 2008 protests in Tibet as "a race riot." The Tibetan people have suffered for decades at the hands of the authoritarian Chinese government, and such a characterization of the March uprising is deeply insulting. I traveled to Tibet in 1997 where I heard endless accounts of violent oppression by the Chinese government. I spoke to Buddhist monks and nuns who recounted their experiences of torture and imprisonment in Tibet's notorious Drapchi Prison. Just last week, the Associated Press reported that a Tibetan monk was shot three times by Chinese security forces after he set himself on fire.

Additionally, CNOOC's substantial investment in Sudan's oil sector has served as the lifeline to the regime of President Omar al Bashir, recently indicted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Senator Sam Brownback and I traveled to Darfur in 2004, where we saw first hand the suffering and destruction that has taken place under the Bashir regime. We heard first hand accounts of women who were brutally abused at the hands of the janjaweed forces. During our visit we captured the haunting images of the terror and destruction, and we will share those photographs with your administration at your request. Mr. Freeman's appointment to this high level post undermines the policy of U.S. divestment from the genocidal regime of Sudan.

Most recently, Mr. Freeman served as president of the Middle East Policy Council, a think-tank funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On September 20, 2006, in an interview with the Saudi-US Relations Information Service, Mr. Freeman said that "thanks to the generosity of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia we have managed to accumulate an endowment" for the Middle East Policy Council. According to filings with the Internal Revenue Service, Mr. Freeman drew an annual salary from the Middle East Policy Council. However, the foundation has never publicly released its list of contributors.

In his Pulitzer Prize winning book, *The Looming Tower*, Lawrence Wright states on page 170 that "Saudi Arabia, which constitutes only 1 percent of the world's Muslim population . . . supports 90 percent of the expenses of the entire faith," including "thousands of religious schools around the globe, staffed with Wahhabi imams and teachers." I have enclosed a copy of this book and strongly encourage you to read it. Wahhabi teachings exported by the Saudis have inspired a generation of young radicals that have proven themselves ready to take up arms in the

name of faith. Many experts believe that the notorious Taliban leader Mullah Omar was educated in a Saudi-funded radical madrassah. How can Mr. Freeman possibly be expected to confront this challenge head on after taking home years of paychecks from the Saudis?

The reprehensible regimes with which CNOOC does business does not end there. The company rebuffed public calls to withdraw from Burma in October 2007 after the ruling military junta opened fire on peaceful protesters in a movement known as the Saffron Revolution. CNOOC also has invested in Iran, a country which is actively seeking to build nuclear weapons and has vowed to "wipe Israel off the map." Such activities starkly contrast with the national security interests of the United States.

The evidence strongly suggests that Mr. Freeman is not the right person for this job and for the good of our country I urge you to reconsider your choice.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAPLE TAPPING ACCESS PROGRAM ACT

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Maple Tapping Access Program (TAP) Act, which is designed to increase maple syrup production in the United States. It would also further economic development in rural areas like Northern and Central New York, which I am honored to represent.

The United States has the potential to greatly increase its maple syrup production. In fact, there are nearly two billion potential taps dispersed across 20 states. However, despite this wealth of resources, the United States currently imports four times as much maple syrup as is produced domestically. In fact, we only tap 7.5 million or one in every 250 maple trees. According to Cornell University, if the United States' maple industry increased its rate to just 2.1%, 42 million more trees could be tapped. This increased production would have an annual economic impact in excess of \$300 million.

In an effort to enhance U.S. maple syrup production, the Maple Tapping Access Program Act would direct the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to establish a public access program, for which \$20 million would be authorized annually. Through this program, State and tribal governments could apply for competitive grants to design and implement programs to encourage landowners to provide access to their land for maple tapping activities.

My friend, Mr. SCHUMER, is introducing the companion measure in the Senate. It is important to note that my legislation differs slightly. Specifically, my bill clarifies that participating landowners may provide access to their land for maple tapping purposes voluntarily or by lease or other means. Additionally, my version of this measure would allow states and tribes to use grant funds to encourage landowners to initiate or expand maple tapping activities on their land.

The Maple Tapping Access Program Act would provide the impetus necessary to stimu-

late an underdeveloped American maple industry and foster much-needed rural economic development. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me to enact this important measure.

HONORING ROBERT JONES ALLEN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 09, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Jones Allen in celebration of his recent 86th birthday. He is a remarkable man who, with passion and dedication, has worked tirelessly throughout his career to advance our knowledge of Antarctica and cartography.

Mr. Allen devoted his professional life to studying and learning about Antarctica while performing his cartographic tasks of studying, handling and compiling photographic materials and maps concerning Antarctica. Allen Peak, which sits on the northern edge of the Sentinel Range's main ridge, is named in his honor. Dr. Robert Bindschadler, one of our nation's foremost experts of the continent and a friend of Mr. Allen's, stated that "there is no one else that holds such broad and deep historical knowledge of Antarctic movements" and refers to Mr. Allen as his "Antarctic Encyclopedia." His words shed light on Robert Allen's importance to the scientific community.

Bob Allen's contributions to Antarctic science put him in a class all his own. There is no one else that holds such broad and deep historical knowledge of Antarctic measurements. He remembers who did what, when, where, what they saw and (most importantly) where to get the information. His recollections start with the first scientific expeditions to Antarctica in the 1940's and continue to the present day. Much of what he knows was never written down, making his anecdotal record absolutely unique. Often Bob is able to show us what we thought was "new" had been noted previously. That kind of expertise and knowledge is priceless.

Robert Allen began his career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Aerial Photo Lab. He served his country in the military's 656th Engineering Topography Battalion and later in the 11th Airborne Division. For over 50 years he worked at the U.S. Geological Survey.

His work on the mapping of the Antarctic region has proved invaluable to the scientific community. He has a long-time, intimate relationship with most of the over 1/2 million photographs as well as negatives in the U.S. Antarctic Mapping Photography collection. The Antarctic scientific community would, therefore, consult with him not only to help their expeditions avoid potentially dangerous areas, but also to pinpoint locations that would be conducive for their studies. In a time when satellites and computers were rudimentary instruments, Mr. Allen became the first to determine the speed of the Thwaites Glacier, the fastest moving ice stream in west Antarctica. His vast experience has led numerous explorers and scientists to call on him for answers and advice.

Mr. Allen's expertise is not limited to Antarctica. In the 1960's he helped create a map of Mars via satellite images. He also used photographs from the Apollo 6 mission to create