

we, as African-Americans, may attain in the political arena, Fred Curls and those who labored to act on our behalf as political pioneers have helped to change the course of history with the election of our first African-American President, Barack Obama. He is a true role model not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire community at large.

THE OVERSEAS VOTING
PRACTICAL AMENDMENTS ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman MICHAEL M. HONDA (D-CA) to re-introduce the Overseas Voting Practical Amendments Act which would protect the voting rights of the millions of American citizens currently living overseas. The Overseas Citizens Voting Act of 1975 guaranteed the right to vote for military personnel and U.S. citizens living overseas. However, a quarter of our men and women in the armed forces stationed overseas didn't even receive a ballot for November's election. More than half of overseas Americans that tried but could not vote, were unable to because their ballots were late or did not arrive.

Right now, far too many overseas Americans are being disenfranchised by a tangle of bureaucratic red tape. The problems are many, including delivery issues, general lack of awareness of available voter assistance programs, and archaic state voting laws. Our bill proposes simple, inexpensive fixes that will help ensure the votes of every overseas American are counted.

TRIBUTE TO ST. MARGARET'S
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL, CALIFORNIA
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a school in my congressional district, St. Margaret's Episcopal School, that not only excels in academics but is also distinguished on the football field. The St. Margaret's football team won the 2008 California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Small Schools State Championship. In the championship game, St. Margaret's defeated Hamilton Union (Hamilton City) 59 to 7.

The football team is an outstanding example of hard work, determination and perseverance. They were undefeated in the 2008 season and have earned the title "Champions." The members of the winning football team include:

Team Co-Captains Jeremy Baileys, Alex Brolick, David Mothander, and Chase Smith along with teammates John Murayama, Matthew Duenes, Conner Edgcomb, Michael Schmall, Austin Holden, Brennan Smith, Kent Iizuka, Chris Adams, James Murayama, Travis Anderson, Davis Edwards, JT Carpenter, Adam Miyawaki, Justin Oh, Leo Garcia, Jeff Askin, Colfax Selby, Alfredo Valencia, Will

Findiesen, Connor McClure, Max Carpenter, Brett Nicholas and Mack Santora.

The team is led by Head Coach Harry Welch; Assistants Rod Baltau, Chris Colaw, Mark Davidson, Jay Noonan, Mel Taylor, Fr. Reggie Payne-Wiens, Brent Ward, and Butch Ward; Athletic Trainer Dave Tomlinson; and Team Managers Kira Cahill, Anna Maria Carabini, Emily Furman, and Valerie Wu.

It is an honor to represent such a fine group of young people with a strong dedication to team work and academics. I know each one of them will treasure the memories of their championship season and I commend them, and the entire St. Margaret's community, for this truly great achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WIND INCENTIVES FOR A NEW DECADE ENERGY ACT OF 2009

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Wind Incentives for a New Decade (WIND) Energy Act of 2009, which would extend the production tax credit (PTC) over the next decade to demonstrate that we are committed to powering our nation with more alternative and clean electricity.

Electricity prices have soared more than 26 percent nationally since 2000. Wind energy and other renewable energy resources are a crucial component to ensuring that Americans have access to clean, reliable, diversified, and affordable electricity. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, wind energy today accounts for approximately 3 percent of electricity produced in the United States. However, wind energy capacity has the potential to significantly increase in the United States in the future—but only if we have a stable investment climate.

A clean, reliable, and renewable energy source, wind-generated electricity produces no carbon dioxide or greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, in 2007, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) estimated that wind energy displaced more than 28 million tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. A 2007 report compiled by the American Solar Energy Society indicates that widespread use of wind has the potential to displace up to 1,780 million metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2030.

By extending the PTC through 2020, my bill would create long-term fiscal stability primarily in the wind energy market. This certainty is vital to wind energy project planning and development. By providing a long-term credit, wind energy developers can attract investors and plan out schedules for project development, thereby creating an efficient and cost-effective process for allocating resources and encouraging investment in this industry. This alone has the potential to reduce the costs associated with many of these projects thereby making wind-generated electricity more competitive with other types of electricity that is generated.

The wind energy industry currently employs over 85,000 individuals and indirectly employs tens of thousands more in industry-related

support services. With a current national unemployment rate of 8.1 percent, which is higher in the construction sector (21.4 percent) and manufacturing sector (11.5 percent), providing long term stability in the tax code for the PTC would help create sustainable, good-paying jobs. In fact, in 2008, AWEA estimates the wind industry invested over \$7.8 billion in wind turbines, primarily made of steel, which translated into purchases of more than \$3 billion of steel and cast iron components.

Additionally, a report published in 2007 by the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that a 5- to 10-year extension of the PTC, relative to one- or two-year extensions, could reduce the cost of wind projects by up to 15 percent, result in better transmission line planning, enhance private research and development spending, and significantly increase domestic manufacturing of wind equipment thereby, creating American jobs. In addition, this report goes on to indicate that by extending the PTC through 2020, wind energy has the potential to increase in the United States from about 3 percent to 17 percent of our electricity supply by 2030.

Unfortunately, since its creation in 1992, the PTC has been allowed to expire three times, only to be retroactively renewed and extended. In addition, Congress has very nearly allowed this credit to expire many times, but then has passed 11th hour extensions of the provision. The 3-year extension of the PTC included in the recently-enacted stimulus bill is a good start; however, given the history of extending this credit, such uncertainty in this process is a major disincentive to long-term wind and renewable energy development. This situation has led to a boom-bust cycle in wind energy rather than a consistent, longterm investment in one of our nation's limitless green energy resources. For instance, information compiled by AWEA shows that each time the PTC was allowed to expire but then was reactively renewed and extended, the subsequent year wind energy installations decreased 73 percent—93 percent compared to the prior year.

Kern County, which I represent, is a model of renewable energy resources, and Tehachapi, California, is a leader in wind energy development. In fact, the Tehachapi Wind Resources Area, located in the Tehachapi Mountains of eastern Kern, has attracted wind energy developers because, if you have ever been there, the wind blows nearly all the time through the mountain tops and valleys. Under-scoring the vast wind energy potential in this area, over 3,500 wind turbines have already been installed, which produce electricity to power more than 250,000 homes and create more than 650 jobs (both directly and indirectly) in the local communities. In addition, Kern County produces over 30 percent of the total wind-generated power in California, and accounts for about 5 percent of the total wind power generated in the United States. Even with all of this, it is my understanding there is still opportunity for significant expansion of wind power in the Kern-Tehachapi area, which some estimates put as high as bringing an additional 6,000 megawatts of wind-generated electricity online. A long-term extension of the PTC would help ensure that the Tehachapi Wind Resources Area, as well as the United States', vast potential for wind energy can be developed in a reliable and timely manner,

which not only benefits Kern County, but California and the United States.

It is time for Congress to take decisive action to help ensure that Americans have reliable and affordable renewable electricity. A long-term extension of the PTC would help ensure that we can maximize the potential of our American renewable energy resources, such as wind, and create thousands of new, skilled jobs, both in manufacturing and engineering in this country.

VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to join political leaders of Northern Ireland in condemning the recent murders of two British soldiers and a British police officer in Northern Ireland.

Two dissonant republican groups, the Continuity I.R.A. and the Real I.R.A., have claimed responsibility for the attacks. The first, on a Saturday evening, occurred when two British soldiers guarding a base outside of Antrim were gunned down. Two pizza delivery workers were also tragically injured in the attack. The second attack came on a recent Monday when gunmen shot a member of the Police Service of Northern Ireland on duty near Belfast.

This small group of political dissidents is not representative of the overall peace and unity that so many have worked so hard for since the Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998. They should not be allowed to return us to the days of the Troubles.

I call on anyone with information on those who perpetrated these attacks to come forward so that justice can be served. Foolish attacks such as these will not put a stop to the peace process that has been gaining momentum over the last ten years in Northern Ireland.

With the news that three political dissidents were arrested this past weekend, I hope all can work towards bringing justice to these senseless murders. The arrests stirred riots by those supportive of the individuals being prosecuted. No matter what their political allegiance, these rioters should allow the police to do what is necessary to charge those that committed these crimes.

Since the power-sharing government was reinstated in May 2007, the political process has taken great strides forward. The people of Northern Ireland must pull together and ensure that the cowards who committed these crimes aren't successful in allowing their wrongs to be a political statement. After years of aggression, peace has clearly prevailed over violence in Northern Ireland and these heinous attacks will not change that.

I stand in solidarity with those who silently protested these murders last Wednesday in Belfast. These thousands of protesters across the province demonstrate that no amount of senseless violence will fracture the unity of the people in the North of Ireland.

Furthermore, it is important that violence not beget violence. Retaliation by those in the Protestant community will only exacerbate this disgraceful spell of terrorism. Peace will ultimately prevail in Northern Ireland.

With the mutual condemnation of these attacks from both sides of the political spectrum, I am hopeful that Martin McGuinness and Peter Robinson will take the lead in reinforcing their commitment to peace in the province.

Events like these recent attacks represent the past in the North of Ireland. We must be focused on developing the economy in the North of Ireland, educating children, and training workers—not reverting to the bloody violence of the past.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in denouncing this recent disturbing and senseless violence in Northern Ireland. With all of the progress made since the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, the people of Northern Ireland will only accept peace as the answer. We must not allow these murderers to be successful in disrupting that goal.

HUNTINGTON BEACH 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Huntington Beach on its one hundredth anniversary. One of the most beautiful, comfortable, successful, clean, and vibrant cities of America has transformed itself from a tiny oil-producing and cow-grazing piece of land, into the vibrant metropolis it is today. The home to nearly 200,000 people, Huntington Beach, CA has become a great example of what cities across America should strive to be.

Anybody who has ever strolled along the boardwalk, played volleyball in the sand, surfed the waves, trekked out over the pier and watched the sun set know that they are experiencing something special. But leisure is not the only thing valued in Surf City, USA. The city has established a commitment to education with 35 elementary schools, five high schools, as well as two community colleges within the city's limits. The people of Huntington Beach are also very hard workers who have labored to contribute a great deal to their city, state, country, and world. The city plays host to a diverse range of industry, from low-tech to high-tech aerospace, among them The Boeing Company. The city is also home to part of the upper stage of the Saturn V rocket, which was engineered and built by Douglas Aircraft (later McDonnell Douglas), which took the first American flights to the moon.

I must point out another aspect to this city that is near and dear to my heart, as the Chairman of the unofficial, yet powerful, House Surfers Caucus. Visit Huntington Beach, and within a short distance of each other, you will find the International Surfing Museum, the Surfing Hall of Fame, the Surfing Walk of Fame, Quicksilver, and my personal favorite, Jack's Surfboards. Every year, thousands gather on its beaches for the yearly U.S. Open of Surfing Contest. Although I'm not a competitor, it does not prevent me from getting up early in the morning, whenever I can, to join other surfers in the area, beyond the breakline, and hopefully catch a wave or two. Surfing adds a unique and important flavor to the local culture, and Huntington Beach

has indeed earned its designation as Surf City, USA.

Yes, Huntington Beach has much to be proud of. The city has so much to offer that people from every corner of the world have traveled to visit or settle in this beautiful city. And who can blame them? Huntington Beach boasts one of the most beautiful coastlines in the country, amazing weather, and friendly and innovative people. Several times, the FBI has cited the city as being one of the safest communities in the United States.

Huntington Beach continues its quest for offering a great quality of life and advocating the advancement of freedom, fun, and human progress. Establishments such as Central Park, the Huntington Harbour, the Bolsa Chica Ecological Preserve, among others, are a testimony to this dedication. As this great city, Surf City, USA, celebrates its centennial, let us look to its example and work to emulate its success. I congratulate Huntington Beach on its centennial. I'm sure the next hundred will be just as grand.

FAREWELL, BEST WISHES, AND THANKS TO AMY SCHICK

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee bid farewell earlier this week to Amy Schick who has served as the Subcommittee's Congressional Fellow over the past year. Ms. Schick returned to the Office of Occupant Protection and Impaired Driving at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, where she will have her next assignment as part of the Presidential Management Fellow program.

The Transportation Subcommittee was fortunate to have Amy as a part of the Subcommittee team. She did a superb job researching a variety of transportation issues; preparing hearing and briefing materials; and, managing the thousands of project requests that were submitted to the Subcommittee during the fiscal year 2009 appropriations process. In addition, Amy had lead staff responsibility for oversight of the budgets of the Surface Transportation Board and the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

Amy's organizational skills and unwavering positive attitude set a high standard for the Subcommittee. Her outstanding commitment to public service was evident not only in how she performed her duties on the Subcommittee but also through her dedication and brave service in the United States Army Reserves.

I am profoundly grateful for Amy's service to the Subcommittee over the past twelve months and I am confident that she will go on to achieve great things at the Department of Transportation. I, along with my Subcommittee staff, wish Amy all the best in her future endeavors.