

RECOGNIZING 188TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

**HON. NIKI TSONGAS**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 273 and to honor the people of Greece on the 188th anniversary of their independence. This occasion is truly a celebration of the shared traditions and values of American and Greek democracy.

Over a million Americans, including the family of my husband Paul, claim Greek heritage. This vibrant community contributes to the fabric of our nation and further reinforces the bond between the United States and Greece.

I had the opportunity to visit Greece just last year as part of a Congressional Delegation to the region and saw firsthand the progress Greece has made in bringing prosperity to its people.

Greece has also stepped forward on the international stage to assist others in the pursuit of freedom and democracy. Through their active engagement in international peacekeeping efforts, the Greek people have shown their leadership on the world stage as well as their commitment to the democratic ideals we share.

Our common values have built an unbreakable bond between our two nations. This bond stretches back to the founding of our country and the establishment of the modern Greek state.

It is only fitting that the House of Representatives celebrate the 188th anniversary of Greek independence; express support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed; and honor the contributions of Greece to the global community throughout its 188 years as an independent nation.

As an original cosponsor of this important resolution, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 273 to honor the 188th anniversary of Greek independence and to recognize the essential role that Greek culture has played in the development of democracy around the world.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MILWAUKEE  
AREA LABOR COUNCIL

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Milwaukee Area Labor Council. The Milwaukee Area Labor Council is the largest central labor council in Wisconsin. On April 1, 2009, the Milwaukee Area Labor Council will celebrate its 50th anniversary as it continues to work for the betterment of the workers in their three county jurisdiction.

The MALC is not only comprised of AFL-CIO member unions but includes dues paying unions in federations such as Change to Win. Further, MALC has strived to include other unions outside these federations as active supporters, encouraging the membership of

federal unions. The MALC works closely with community, retiree, and religious groups in collaboration with such AFL-CIO initiatives as Working America.

The primary mission of the MALC is to support and energize their AFL-CIO affiliated unions in their efforts to organize. Organizing is one of the most important duties they perform and is the engine through which they build strength through membership. However, organizing is not the only function of the MALC. They are politically active in federal, state, city and county initiatives to promote both strong communities and social justice. They research, monitor, meet and support candidates that support working families. The MALC informs and mobilizes their members and strives to support candidates and elected officials who truly help working families. Finally, the MALC publishes the Milwaukee Labor Press, providing important news and motivating labor perspectives to working families.

MALC participates in issues that are important to our community such as working cooperatively with the United Way. The MALC is deeply involved in the annual campaign contributing both strategies and legwork to elevate workplace giving and volunteerism. Union councils and their locals also provide direct help through treasury gifts, volunteer efforts and special charitable support.

MALC also initiates charitable campaigns like the Spring Health and Hygiene Drive. The drive has been so successful in providing health and hygiene products for Milwaukee's homeless shelters that the shelters could reallocate funds for this purpose to other clients needs.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say the Milwaukee Area Labor Council provides a critical service to the people in the 4th Congressional District. The MALC takes a leading role in charities, legislative work, and social action. The breadth of their membership recognizes the importance of solidarity for all workers and is reflected by the diversity and reach of MALC.

CONGRATULATING THE MID-OHIO  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MARY JO KILROY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) on its 40th anniversary. MORPC has been vital in assisting local governments of Central Ohio to address challenges and opportunities associated with growth and development in the region.

Solving important issues such as transportation, economic development, and energy conservation are vital to our country's success in the 21st century. Central Ohio is grateful to have a long lasting partnership with an organization that tackles these issues and works to solve problems.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission partners with over 40 local governments who represent all sectors of central Ohio. Each of these organizations in conjunction with MORPC seeks to improve the quality of life in central Ohio.

Just one of the many examples where MORPC has supported local governments is its work with the state's Clean Ohio Fund. MORPC is assisting the state in restoring and connecting Ohio's natural and urban places by preserving green space farmland, cleaning up brown fields, and improving recreational trails. We have already seen the effects of the Clean Ohio Fund with redevelopment and job creation in central Ohio.

I want to thank MORPC for working with the 44 local partners to ensure prosperity and growth for their communities. I would like to congratulate the leadership of MORPC including Executive Director Chester Jourdan, Chair Dean Ringle, Vice Chair Derrick Clay and Secretary Marilyn Brown.

I acknowledge this historic day with our friends at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and celebrate our continued support for their mission. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating them.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DAIRY  
AND SHEEP H-2A VISA ENHANCEMENT  
ACT (H.R. 1660)

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2009*

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, on March 23, 2009, the Gentleman from New York, Mr. ARCURI, the Gentleman from California, Mr. NUNES, the Gentleman from Utah, Mr. BISHOP, and I introduced legislation, the Dairy and Sheep H-2A Visa Enhancement Act (H.R. 1660). This measure would allow dairy farmers to access the H-2A visa program and codify longstanding regulatory practices used by sheepherders and thus provide certainty to these two industries, which collectively accounted for over \$141 billion in economic activity in 2007.

In New York's 23rd District, which I have the privilege of representing, dairy is an integral component of the economy, with approximately 2,000 dairy farms with some 190,000 milk cows dispersed across the 11 counties that comprise the region. Dairy farmers have long overcome natural disasters and wide farm price fluctuations, such as the current nearly 50 percent decline in the price of milk from just one year ago. However, these difficulties are exacerbated by current labor shortages, which cause farms to either remain static in size, shrink, or make a decision to end a way of life and go out of business. Whether in New York or California, with a herd large or small, dairies need sufficiently trained and skilled labor.

Dairy work is demanding and must be done around the clock, 365 days a year. During the past decade, dairy farms throughout the nation have increasingly experienced difficulty in hiring local workers to meet their needs and, as a result, are ever more reliant upon immigrant labor. The tremendous uncertainty regarding that labor supply has a profound impact on their ability to plan for the future and make sound business decisions.

Under the H-2A program, employers may hire foreign workers to perform full-time, temporary or seasonal agricultural work. However, the H-2A program does not work effectively for dairy because the program requires both