

INTRODUCTION OF SMALL
BREWERS' EXCISE TAX BILL**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to promote American jobs. Over 30 years ago, Congress worried that a few industry giants would dominate the domestic beer industry, squeezing out local and regional brewers. In response, Congress reduced the tax rate on beer produced by small brewers. That differential has led to the creation of thousands of craft brewers, who are small business owners and employers in our communities. However, the consolidation at the top of the market has continued.

Today, the two top players in the beer market, which are global companies, control more than 90% of American beer production. Clearly, we need to do more to foster and promote growth for these small, independent American brewers. That is why I am filing legislation today, along with my Committee colleague and friend from Texas, Mr. BRADY, to provide a more graduated rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by small brewers. Our bill provides two benefits to small brewers. First, for those who produce less than 60,000 barrels per year, the current excise tax rate is cut in half to \$3.50 per barrel. Second, for those who produce more than 60,000 but less than 6 million barrels, still well short of the industry giants, they will enjoy the same tax break on the first 60,000 barrels but will pay a tax rate of \$16 per barrel rather than the current \$18 per barrel on the amount over 60,000 and less than 2 million. Any barrel over that threshold will continue to be taxed at the current \$18 rate.

This legislation has the support of the Brewers Association, representing more than 1,500 small and independent brewers in America, including 85 regional breweries that produce between 15,000 and 2 million barrels per year, 470 microbreweries that produce less than 15,000 barrels per year, and 961 brewpubs that sell 25% or more of their beer on site. These small brewers employ more than 100,000 workers, generating more than \$3 billion in wages. Their dedication to craft brewing has led to a renaissance in flavorful beer here in America and more respect for American brewers abroad. However, they still lack the economies of scale in marketing, advertising, production, promotion and distribution that the giants of the industry enjoy.

As the landscape of the beer market continues to change, we should revisit these tax provisions to provide for further growth of these smaller brewers. We should continue the effort we started more than 30 years ago to nurture a diverse and competitive market and promote small domestic producers to keep this American industry thriving. These are good jobs in our local communities that protect American craftsmanship. I urge our colleagues to join us in this effort.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3288—Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2010.

Project Name: Interstate 75/Collier Boulevard/SR 84 Interchange Improvements

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 3288—Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2010

Account: Federal Highway Administration

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: 605 Suwannee Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding: \$800,000: The current interchange serves the east Naples area, Golden Gate City, and Marco Island, and is the closest interchange from the east to the City of Naples. The funding will be utilized for capacity improvements at the Interstate 75/Collier Boulevard/SR 84 Interchange and will improve traffic flow in the region.

Project Name: FGCU Impact of Freshwater Flow into Coastal Waters—FGCU Coastal Watershed Institute

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 3288—Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2010

Account: Higher Education (includes FIPSE)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Gulf Coast University

Address of Requesting Entity: 10501 FGCU Blvd., South, Fort Myers, FL 33965

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding: \$350,000; Florida's coast is a principal economic driver, attracting millions of tourists and thousands of residents to the coastal communities of Southwest Florida. Proper management of the freshwater that the coastal environment receives is critical to preventing toxic algal blooms and negative impacts on recreational and commercial fisheries. FGCU is requesting federal funding for their Coastal Watershed Institute to address the impacts associated with changes in the freshwater flows into the area. This project is geared to students learning about future management of our fragile ecosystems.

Project Name: Emergency Services Technology, Collier County, Florida

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 3288—Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2010

Account: DOJ/COPS

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Collier County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 3301 East Tamiami Trail, Naples, Florida 34112

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding: \$800,000 will be utilized for the acquisition of public safety technology equipment for the Collier County Emergency Services Center. The funding is important because it will help to better equip Collier County's emergency service providers to respond to

events that could endanger the safety and citizens of Collier County, Florida.

Project Name: FGCU Law Enforcement and Public Safety

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 3288—Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2010

Account: DOJ/OJP-Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Gulf Coast University

Address of Requesting Entity: 10501 FGCU Blvd, South, Fort Myers, Florida 33965

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding: \$200,000 will be utilized for the development of tools for training and processing crime scenes for use by law enforcement and public safety officials. This work will be done at the Florida Gulf Coast University in its Law Enforcement and Public Safety Department.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF MARTIN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA SHERIFF'S DEPUTY CHARLES DOUGLAS BROWN, JR.

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I report that a law officer was killed in the line of duty in my Congressional District on Tuesday, December 8, 2009. Thirty-eight-year-old Martin County Sheriff's Deputy Charles "Charlie" Douglas Brown, Jr. was killed in an exchange of gunfire while on duty.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, December 12, 2009 as the entire community mourns his untimely death. He is survived by his wife, Cindy, and their two daughters, Morgan and Carlie. He was a member of Maple Grove Christian Church.

Sheriff's Deputy Brown was a U.S. Marine veteran having served in Desert Storm. He served as a member of the U.S. Marines Honor Guard and was recognized with the Elegance Medal. He also assisted with the Katrina disaster in New Orleans, Louisiana and the Tsunami Disaster in Thailand. He was a K9 officer serving with his faithful dog H2.

He had a great love of fishing and hunting, and he was well liked by his fellow officers and throughout the community.

As a nation, we have lost more than 20,000 officers in the line of duty over the course of our history. Mr. Brown was the 115th law officer killed in the line duty this year, and the seventh officer killed in the line of duty in North Carolina.

Despite the constant threats of harm and danger, day after day, and year after year, dedicated professionals, like Mr. Brown, make the sacrifices for their communities, without asking for thanks or praise.

Sheriff's Deputy Brown unwaveringly upheld the values that make this country great—duty honor, sacrifice. Those values and their sacrifice are a somber reminder that the freedoms that we share do not come without a cost.

He and his fellow officers who will carry on this essential work deserve our strong support