

our nation's future. Between 2007 and 2010, the Democratic House majority repeatedly passed FAA reauthorization legislation—with my strong support—to modernize America's outdated air traffic control system, improve airline safety for the traveling public, and create jobs by improving our nation's infrastructure. After years of negotiation, the Senate passed a bipartisan reauthorization bill in February 2011 that meets these criteria.

Unfortunately, the House Republican majority chose not to bring the bipartisan Senate legislation to a vote today. Instead, House Republicans introduced H.R. 658, a different version of the FAA authorization that slashes \$4 billion from needed aviation infrastructure investments. The \$4 billion cut to aviation infrastructure funding would wreak havoc on our nation's aviation industry, which accounts for nearly 11 million jobs and \$1.2 trillion in annual economic activity. Economist Mark Zandi—Senator MCCAIN's economic advisor during the 2008 Presidential campaign—estimates that the cuts made in H.R. 658 to aviation infrastructure will result in the loss of 700,000 American jobs.

In addition to the threat of massive job losses, H.R. 658 includes provisions that roll back worker rights and undermine airline safety. One of these provisions would change existing union election laws for aviation and rail workers so that employees who choose not to vote are counted as “no” votes. Needless to say, if these rules were applied to congressional elections, not a single sitting Member of the House or Senate would have won election. Some House Republicans have joined Democrats in rejecting this anti-democratic policy. Republican Congressman STEVE LATOURETTE offered a bipartisan amendment with Democratic Representative JERRY COSTELLO to maintain union election rules within the National Mediation Board that uphold a very basic democratic principle: the majority of those who vote will determine the outcome of an election. I voted for this amendment and was extremely disappointed it failed due to strong opposition from the Republican caucus.

Another amendment, offered by Representative BILL SHUSTER, eliminates the common-sense proposal by the FAA to set a single standard for the aviation industry regulating how many hours pilots can fly before they are required to rest. This standard is the result of extensive scientific testing. Rep. SHUSTER's amendment would abandon the scientific basis for pilot rest requirements and instead create different levels of safety depending on the segment of the aviation industry. Fatigue affects pilots the same, regardless of the plane they fly or the cargo they carry. I opposed the Shuster amendment but unfortunately it passed despite unanimous opposition from Democratic Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must pass a long-term authorization of the Federal Aviation Administration that will improve safety for passengers and pilots, make critical infrastructure upgrades, and modernize this essential sector of our nation's economy. I am disappointed that the House will not vote on such a bill today. Once again, Republican leaders in the House have decided that scoring political points and protecting special interests is more important than our nation's future.

President Obama has said he will veto any bill that does not protect railroad and airline workers' right to a fair election or one that

erodes the safety and efficiency of our air traffic. Unfortunately, this bill fails on both counts, and I cannot support it.

JACK TROETSCHEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jack Troetschel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jack Troetschel is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jack Troetschel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jack Troetschel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXTENSION HOME ECONOMICS IN ALABAMA

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Extension Home Economics in the State of Alabama and the important educational role played by home demonstration and county agents throughout our state. Generations of families in Alabama have led better and more self-sufficient lives as a result of home economics programs, which are based on a foundation of teaching consumer and decision making skills that last a lifetime.

The roots of Extension home economics education in Alabama can be traced to the founding of the first Girls' Tomato Clubs in Pike and Walker counties in 1911. The spread of similar clubs demonstrated the great need for homemaker education. Those modest beginnings provided fertile soil for the creation of a statewide Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, which was established as part of the land grant college system. The original staff included a state home demonstration agent.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service is known for a number of impressive firsts, including the development of a model program to teach low-income young homemakers and the appointment of the first Negro demonstration agent in Alabama in 1915. Extension workers and citizens in Alabama participated in the “food for defense” program during World War II and their memorable mattress campaign resulted in the completion of more than 500,000 mattresses and 200,000 comforters to support the campaign for liberty.

A hallmark of home economics education in Alabama has been its responsiveness to changing economic and cultural needs. During the challenging years of the Great Depression, instruction in conservation and wise management of scarce resources helped to tide over many families during difficult times. The post-war years brought a new emphasis on consumer education and sound decision making as women entered the workforce in greater numbers. More recently, lifestyle, health, and technology education has assumed heightened importance. In our complex society, home economics now encompasses everything from health, nutrition, and family life to financial, consumer, and employment matters. The end goal remains the same: creating a wise consumer, a strong family unit, and productive citizens in our communities.

The State of Alabama is fortunate to have an extensive network of cooperative extension agents, university professionals, and elementary and secondary educators dedicated to the well-being of our families. Working seamlessly together, they provide an unparalleled service to the State of Alabama that enhances the quality of family life daily. On the occasion of the special celebratory luncheon being held in Montgomery on April 19 to salute the mission of home economics, it is a pleasure to recognize 100 years of achievement and look forward to a second century of service.

CONGRATULATING MATT HOWARD

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Matt Howard and the rest of the Butler University men's basketball team. America watched as the Bulldogs demonstrated hard work and personal sacrifice throughout the NCAA tournament and achieved what many said was impossible. The Dawgs epitomize what the word “team” is all about, and although they did not take home the trophy, they made their state and fellow Bulldogs across the nation proud. As Andrew Carnegie said, “teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to obtain uncommon results.”

Matt is one of the Bulldogs I am proud to say is from my district. After leading the state in rebounding his senior year at Connersville high school, Matt chose to attend Butler University. Matt's work-ethic and tenacity on the hardwood translated into the classroom as well where he was named to the Capitol One Academic All-America Team for a school-record 3 years. He was also named NCAA 2010–2011 Division 1 Academic All-American of the year, and he recently received the prestigious Elite 88 Award for the second consecutive year. Matt is a three-time all Horizon League First-Team player, and in 2008–2009 was named Horizon League Player of the Year. He's been named to the Horizon League All-Tournament team for three consecutive years including the tournament's Most Valuable Player in 2010. There is no doubt Matt's talent helped advance the Dawgs to the final game of the NCAA tournament.

What many may not know is the incredible support that Matt Howard has received not