

rare materials critical to the manufacture of electronic devices is found in many municipal landfills. Yet our patchwork system of state laws and regulations, coupled with inaction by the federal government, has acted as a deterrent to manufacturers looking to reclaim these raw materials—the vast majority of which are currently imported from China. This dependence on foreign raw materials by American manufacturers also reveals a major vulnerability to our industrial supply chain—exposing our domestic economy to the volatility of foreign commodities markets and the whims of foreign governments.

Additional research and development is required in recycling technologies so we can more efficiently sort and process materials. To make recycling easier, products should avoid environmentally sensitive materials and enable re-use or extended use of electronic devices. For consumers, we need to make it easier to recycle and re-use electronics.

The Electronic Device Recycling Research and Development Act seeks to address these critical challenges by:

Authorizing the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, to award grants to reduce the environmental impact of discarded electronic devices and promote the recycling of these devices through research and development projects;

Requiring National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on opportunities for and barriers to the recycling of discarded electronic devices; and

Authorizing EPA to award grants to colleges and universities for curriculum development in the areas of recycling electronic devices and enabling green design.

This legislation was introduced in the previous Congress by former Congressman Bart Gordon, the Chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, and passed the House of Representatives by voice vote. It is my hope that this common-sense legislation will continue to receive strong bipartisan support. It has the strong backing of environmental advocacy groups and industry, including Best Buy and the Electronics Takeback Coalition—a diverse coalition comprised of more than two dozen national and local environmental, public health and public interest organizations.

This is a green jobs bill. From auto parts to solar voltaic panels, the energy and resource-intensive manufacturing processes that drive our modern economy will benefit from expanded research and development focused on the lifecycle of electronic devices. By giving manufacturers the tools, training and resources to sustainably manufacture electronic devices, this legislation will create jobs, protect the environment and improve public health.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DAVID
SCHROEDER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate native Iowan Colonel David Schroeder of the United States Air Force on his illustrious 34 year military career that will be coming to a close later this year.

Colonel Schroeder began his military career in October of 1977 when he enlisted as a Staff Support Administrative Specialist at the rank of E-1. After three years he enlisted as an air traffic controller before earning his commission as an Officer Air Traffic Controller in 1987.

Colonel Schroeder has most recently been serving in the Office of the Secretary of Defense on the staff of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy as the Country Director for the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The colonel was a driving force in garnering an agreement from these nations to increase their monetary support to the NATO Air Policing program to provide continued military defense of their national territorial skies.

Mr. Speaker, our country owes Colonel Schroeder a great debt of gratitude for his decades of service. Colonel Schroeder's unwavering commitment to serving his fellow Americans embodies the Iowa spirit and I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in wishing him a well deserved and fulfilling retirement. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors as he begins this new chapter in his life.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND
RETIREMENT OF COLONEL
KEITH LANDRY

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor COL Keith A. Landry, the Commander and District Engineer for the Louisville District Army Corps of Engineers. After nearly 2 years of serving in this post, Colonel Landry will be retiring on July 14, 2011.

Colonel Landry received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers in 1985 after graduating from our shared alma mater, the United States Military Academy at West Point. He has since completed five overseas tours, including deployments with the 3rd Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom and two tours of duty teaching at the United States Military Academy.

During his tenure as the Commander for the Louisville District Army Corps of Engineers, Colonel Landry oversaw all military construction in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. His work has had a tremendous impact on the mission readiness capabilities and quality of life of soldiers and airmen across the nation.

Today, as we celebrate a distinguished career spanning 26 years, I am pleased Colonel Landry has decided to remain in the great Commonwealth of Kentucky and I am certain he will approach his future endeavors with the same level of excellence in service we have come to expect from him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in commending COL Keith Landry and in offering him our sincerest thanks for his incredible service to our country and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

ELECTION ASSISTANCE
COMMISSION

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition of any effort to eliminate the Election Assistance Commission. Elimination of the EAC appears to be part of the GOP's nationwide assault on voters' rights, and will exacerbate the current issues we face in federal elections. With a number of states adopting new voter Registration and ID laws that will restrict and suppress votes, this is the wrong time to eliminate an agency that seeks to avoid the problems we faced during the 2000 election in the state of Florida. The EAC is necessary in order to ensure the fairness and integrity of federal elections.

Now, more than ever, we need an agency like the EAC, so that we can ensure that our democracy functions freely and fairly. The EAC is an independent, bipartisan agency that carries out grant programs, provides for testing and certification of voting systems, studies election issues, and assists local and state election officials by issuing guidelines and other important information to help them comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requirements.

The EAC is composed of experts who are former state and local election officials and familiar with the challenges of election administration. The federal government should not eliminate the information gathering, information sharing and advisory role of the Election Assistance Commission. These functions have been crucial at improving federal elections, and should be strengthened rather than eliminated.

Like many other states around the country, the Florida legislature has moved in a dangerous direction to curtail voter's rights, and we will need the EAC come 2012 when we see the sad consequences of restrictive voting laws. The new Florida law makes it difficult for those who recently moved between counties to cast their votes. The new law also limits voting accessibility by shortening the window for early voting from 14 days to 6 days. This will make it even more difficult for working Floridians and elderly voters, resulting in longer lines at the polls on Election Day. Lastly, the new law negatively impacts voter registration efforts in Florida by limiting the ability of third party groups to effectively register legitimate new voters. The EAC works with all of these issues, and if we eliminate it today, we will face serious challenges in the 2012 election as we seek to resolve the problems that may ultimately arise as a result of new election laws like we have in Florida.

This bill would transfer EAC duties to the FEC, which is already overburdened. The FEC says they need more resources to absorb the EAC's duties. Other costs would simply shift to already overburdened state governments. The FEC does not have the capability or the expertise to successfully administer the certification program that is currently implemented by the EAC.

The EAC creates national standards for improving accessibility for all Americans. Local and State officials still struggle to ensure accessible elections for all. For instance, a GAO