EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORT REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this Administration to join in the efforts to reach a reunification agreement on the island of Cyprus.

For many years, international organizations have been engaged in the efforts to bring about a negotiated compromise to the dispute in Cyprus and a reunification of the island. These negotiations have been focused around coming to a solution which benefits both Cypriot communities.

On July 7, 2011, the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders met with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in Geneva in a new effort to reach a deal on reunification. Secretary Ban Ki-Moon is pushing both sides to come to an agreement before Cyprus takes up a steering role in the European Union. This was the third round of three-way talks that Secretary Ban Ki-Moon has held with Cyprus Leader Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu.

I stand today to ask the Administration to take an active role to bring about a solution that would benefit both Cypriot communities. This ongoing disagreement is not helpful and reunification of Cyprus will only benefit the world community.

Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Philip Gordon, testified that "resolution of the Cyprus problem will have a tremendous impact on the region by strengthening peace, justice, and prosperity on the island, advancing Turkey's European Union accession, improving NATO-EU cooperation and removing a source of friction between two NATO Allies, Greece and Turkey."

I wholeheartedly agree and urge the Administration to take action to ensure that an accord is achieved that would lead to an independent government with both Greek and Turkish Cypriot governmental engagement.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chair, I would like to address some concerns from my constituents about the Army Corps of Engineers permitting process.

As I travel around Virginia's First District, I hear from many constituents about their frustration with policies and regulations from Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, large federal government bureaucracies can get out of control and fail to protect the citizens and taxpayers.

The Army Corps of Engineers is an important agency in coastal Virginia. They have many responsibilities to promote navigation, commerce and environmental restoration. However, there are some occasions where I believe the multiple levels of bureaucracy and lack of accountability of decision makers can lead to situations that are unfair to Americans.

I've worked on the behalf of one of my constituents, a small marina owner who believes he was harmed due to a permitting mistake by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In this case a permitting decision ultimately cost this small business a significant amount of money.

I raise these issues to highlight the impact Agency action can have on main street businesses. I raise these issues to suggest the need for additional accountability to ensure that Army Corps permitting decisions are made appropriately and that the Corps works hand in hand with small businesses to mitigate financial harm.

RETIREMENT OF NERISSA BRETANIA-UNDERWOOD, PHD., FROM THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nerissa Bretania-Underwood, PhD., for her extensive years of educational leadership on Guam. Dr. Bretania-Underwood is retiring from her career as the Superintendent for the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) after over 30 years of service to our island's education system.

Dr. Underwood was raised in the southern villages of Agat and Santa Rita, Guam. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education, with a double major in Elementary and Special Education, from the University of Guam in 1981. After gaining teaching experience as a special education teacher at Harry S. Truman Elementary School, she became a consulting resource teacher for the GDOE's Division of Special Education. In 1985, she earned a Master of Science in Education, from the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon, specializing in the implications of special education placement in Guam. Shortly thereafter, in 1989, the University of Oregon conferred a Doctor of Philosophy in Education degree on Dr. Nerissa Underwood.

Dr. Underwood returned to Guam in 1990 to become an assistant professor at the University of Guam and the program evaluator for GDOE's Division of Special Education. In 1993, she was named Administrator for GDOE's Research, Planning and Evaluation Division, which provides data on the condition of Guam's education system to local educators and policy makers. In 2003, Dr. Bretania-Underwood served as Interim Superintendent for GDOE, and in 2007, she was named the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education. In 2008, Dr. Bretania-Underwood assumed the position of Superintendent of Guam's public education system. As the superintendent of Guam's public school system, Dr. Underwood worked to address structural management issues facing GDOE. She made significant progress to improve financial accountability within the school system, and I recognize her efforts to utilize Recovery Act Funds to improve the quality of education and school facilities on Guam.

Dr. Nerissa Underwood is married to Dr. Robert A. Underwood, the President of the University of Guam and former Guam Congressman. She is blessed with three children: Christopher, Gerecka, and Mike; and nine grandchildren. Throughout the years, Dr. Underwood has been active in many community and non-profit organizations, such as the Filipino Community of Guam, Iloilo Association of Guam, the American Red Cross, the Guam Humanities Council, the St. Paul Christian School Board, and the Guam Women's Club. She has contributed and devoted much of her knowledge and talents toward improving the quality of life for everyone who calls Guam home.

Today, I join the people of Guam in extending a sincere Un dangkulo Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase to Dr. Nerissa Bretania-Underwood for her over 30 years of dedicated service to our island's children and public school system.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINATION OF MATHEW OLSEN TO LEAD THE NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a letter I sent to Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman DIANNE FEINSTEIN opposing the President's nomination of Mr. Matthew Olsen to lead the National Counterterrorism Center.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
July 14, 2011.

HON. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: I write in opposition to Mr. Matthew Olsen's nomination to serve as director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), which is located in

my congressional district. I believe Mr. Olsen exercised questionable judgment and made misleading statements while serving as the special counselor to the attorney general and executive director of the Obama Administration's Guantanamo Review Task Force, where he led the interagency process to implement the president's executive order that led to the release of a number of dangerous terrorist detainees held at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base. Dozens of high risk terrorist detainees recommended for release by the task force led by Mr. Olsen were released abroad to dangerously unstable countries, including Yemen, Somalia and Afghanistan.

As then-ranking member and now chairman of the House Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee—which funds the Justice Department, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Marshals Service and which helped fund the NCTC's predecessor, the Terrorist Threat Integration Center—I was disturbed by decisions and statements made by Mr. Olsen in 2009 while he led the task force. These concerns have deepened based on new information that has come to light in recent articles from Newsweek, The Washington Post, The National Journal and The Weekly Standard. These reports have raised troubling questions about Mr. Olsen's leadership of the task force and his actions in response to White House influence.

Additionally, my personal interactions with Mr. Olsen, as well as these subsequent news reports, lead me to conclude that he was not forthright with the Congress and may have changed detainee assessments under political pressure from administration officials. I believe these are troubling concerns which deserve a thorough investigation and should give the Senate serious pause as it considers who should lead the NCTC. I have visited the NCTC on several occasions and have met with a number of its former directors, as well as the former and current directors of National Intelligence. I have seen firsthand the critical work that is done by the center and fully understand the need for an independent, capable and principled director to lead the operation.

There are three concerns that have led me to oppose Mr. Olsen's nomination. First, it is clear to me that in order to achieve the president's promise to close Guantanamo Bay during his first year in office, Mr. Olsen may have been susceptible to the immense political pressure placed on the interagency task force to re-classify detainee threat levels. Second, it has become clear that Mr. Olsen's task force may have altered some detainee assessments—overturning Department of Defense assessments—in order to clear and expedite the release of a large number of detainees. Third, I have recently learned that Mr. Olsen was not forthright with me and my staff about the effort to release a number of Uighur detainees to northern Virginia in 2009. Attached is a white paper that addresses these concerns in greater detail.

Leading the NCTC is a serious responsibility and requires a director that is exceptionally experienced, forthcoming, trustworthy and has good judgment. The analyses and recommendations provided by the NCTC have direct bearing on the safety of the American people. The director must be able to withstand political pressure from all sides, facilitate the complete and straightforward sharing of information and ensure unbiased analysis. I do not question Mr. Olsen's professional qualifications for this position, but from my observations of his recent leadership positions, I believe that he lacks the judgment to lead the NCTC.

I am willing to testify about my concerns during your committee's upcoming confirmation hearing for Mr. Olsen. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 202–225–5136 to discuss any of this information.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Chairman, Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee, House Appropriations Committee.

SUMMARY OF CONCERNS REGARDING MR. OLSEN'S LEADERSHIP AND ACTIONS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S GUANTANAMO REVIEW TASK FORCE

1. QUESTIONABLE ALTERING OF GUANTANAMO BAY DETAINEE ASSESSMENTS

I am concerned about new information reported by The Weekly Standard about the assessments of detainees who were transferred abroad in 2009. Throughout that year, I repeatedly wrote the president and attorney general expressing concern over the release of certain detainees believed to be threats by the Department of Defense (DOD). I was also deeply concerned that detainees were being released to dangerously unstable countries, such as Yemen, Somalia and Afghanistan. Despite my warnings in the fall of 2009, detainees continued to be released to these countries until the administration was forced to halt releases to Yemen following the attempted attack by the Christmas Day bomber, who trained in Yemen with al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

According to a July 13, 2011, article in The Weekly Standard, ''[Olsen's] task force approved most of the detainees remaining at Guantanamo for transfer, clearing the way for the Obama administration to empty most of the detention facility's cells. But a review of leaked detainee threat assessments reveals that many of the detainees approved for transfer [by Olsen's task force] were deemed ''high'' risks by Joint Task Force Guantanamo (JTF–GTMO), which oversees the detention and interrogation of detainees. Moreover. JTF–GTMO recommended that most of these detainees be retained in U.S. custody—precisely the opposite of the task force's recommendations.''

The article continues, ''In its final report, dated January 22, 2010, Olsen's task force reported that 126 detainees, out of a total of 240, were 'approved for transfer.' Olsen's task force approved roughly 2 out of every 3 (65 percent) Guantanamo detainees for transfer, JTF–GTMO recommended that approximately 1 out of every 4 (25 percent) be transferred.''

There is one case in particular that serves as a good example of the troubling discrepancy between Olsen's recommend release of a detainee that JTF–GTMO considered to be ''high'' risk. In early 2010, I wrote White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan about one detainee, Ayman Batarfi, whom the DOD believed to be closely connected to al Qaeda's anthrax program. Brennan forcefully rejected my concerns about Batarfi. However, as a recent Weekly Standard article notes:

''A recently leaked threat assessment prepared at Guantanamo draws into question the Obama administration's analysis of a detainee [Batarfi] who was transferred to Yemen shortly before all future transfers to the unstable nation were suspended.''

''Brennan decided to answer Wolf's challenge by sending a letter on White House stationery to then-House speaker Nancy Pelosi on February 1, 2010. ABC News obtained a copy of the letter and published it online. Brennan wrote:

'During the briefing on January 13, Representative Wolf made allegations that one detainee repatriated to Yemen had been involved in weapons of mass destruction. As it has done in every case, the task force thoroughly reviewed all information available to the government about this individual and concluded that there is no basis for the assertions Representative Wolf made during this session. I am attaching a classified addendum to this letter that addresses these concerns directly.'

''But a recently leaked April 29, 2008, threat assessment prepared by Joint Task Force Guantanamo (JTF–GTMO) contains numerous references to Batarfi's ties to al Qaeda's anthrax program. These connections were made through a known al Qaeda front named al Wafa, which employed Batarfi and provided cover for al Qaeda's pre–9/11 pursuit of an anthrax capability . . .

''For all of these reasons, and more. Batarfi was deemed a 'high risk' who is 'likely to pose a threat to the U.S.. its interests, and allies' by the JTF–GTMO team. Batarfi was also considered to be of 'high intelligence value.' ''

This newly leaked 2008 assessment raises serious questions about why Olsen's task force didn't include the DOD's information about Batarfi's ties to the al Qaeda anthrax program as well as their judgment that Batarfi was, in fact, ''likely to pose a threat to the U.S.'' This information raises questions about the integrity of the task force's review and whether undue political pressure to release more detainees led task force members to doctor detainee assessments.

The Weekly Standard's Thomas Jocelyn succinctly posits in the July 13, 2011, article, ''It is clear that the Guantanamo Review Task Force, headed by Matthew Olsen, approved a large number of 'high' risk transfers. The senators presiding over Olsen's confirmation hearing may want to ask: Why?''

2. POLITICAL PRESSURE ON THE GUANTANAMO BAY DETAINEE TASK FORCE

I am concerned about political pressure placed on Olsen and the task force by administration officials. Although the administration asserts that the task force was independent, it is clear that the task force reported directly to the White House and participated in meetings led by White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel. According to the April 23, 2011, Washington Post article:

''In late April [2009], Obama heard some jarring news during a Situation Room meeting with the interagency task force reviewing the case of every detainee at Guantanamo.

''The president asked Matthew G. Olsen, the Justice Department lawyer heading the task force, approximately how many Guantanamo detainees could be prosecuted, according to administration officials.

''Probably fewer than 20, Olsen said.

''The president seemed peeved that the number was so small, in contrast with the optimistic predictions during his election campaign that nearly all of the remaining detainees could face trial or be transferred. The number would eventually rise to 36.''

I am concerned that pressure from White House officials may have led Olsen and his task force to inflate the number of cases eligible for prosecution from ''fewer than 20'' to the 36 that were ultimately provided to the administration. The nearly 100 percent increase in the number of cases brought forward for prosecution following the president's comment merits a serious review of whether political pressure led the task force to alter its independent assessment of detainees.

The recent Weekly Standard analysis notes, ''[Olsen's] task force approved only 35 percent of the detainees for indefinite detention or prosecution, whereas JTF–GTMO recommended that roughly 75 percent be retained in DoD custody.'' This dramatic shift

in the number of cases recommended by Mr. Olsen raise serious questions about whether pressure from the president and other administration officials led him to inflate the number of detainees recommended for trial.

3. MISLEADING CONGRESS ABOUT THE TRANSFER OF UIGHUR DETAINEES TO THE UNITED STATES

It has become clear that the administration was directing Mr. Olsen to intentionally withhold information from members of Congress and he willingly complied with their inappropriate direction. According to Newsweek The Washington Post and The National Journal, the administration was planning a secret transfer and settlement of at least two Uighur detainees to northern Virginia in April 2009. Each of these reports indicates the degree to which the White House attempted to hide this effort from the Congress and the public.

According to a May 2009, article in Newsweek, White House officials are alleged to have been particularly concerned about Republican members of Congress being made aware of the secret transfer. Newsweek reported, ''As part of their efforts to shut down the Guantanamo Bay detention center, Obama Administration officials were poised in late April to make a bold, stealthy move: they instructed the U.S. Marshals Service to prepare an aircraft and a Special Ops group to fly two Chinese Uighurs, and up to five more on subsequent flights, from Gitmo to northern Virginia for resettlement. In a conference call overseen by the National Security Council, Justice and Pentagon officials had been warned that any public statements about Gitmo transfers would inflame congressional Republicans, according to a law-enforcement official who asked not to be named discussing internal deliberations.'' (This operation appears similar to the administration's secret transfer of Somali terrorist Ahmed Abdulkadir Warsame to New York City for civilian trial on July 5 after spending two months on a U.S. Navy ship).

It has recently come to my attention that I was misled about the status of the transfer of the Uighur detainees in April 2009. This information confirms the Newsweek report that career federal employees were explicitly directed to hide this information from members of Congress, especially Republican members.

During an April 22, 2009, meeting in my office with members of the Guantanamo Bay Detainee Review Task Force, including Mr. Olsen, I inquired about the status of the potential transfer of Uighur detainees to the United States. Mr. Olsen indicated that a decision had not yet been reached on the transfer of the detainees. None of the other career or political officials in the meeting countered Mr. Olsen's assertion.

That is why I was deeply concerned to learn in an April 2011, Washington Post article, that the final decision on the transfer of the Uighur detainees had been made during a White House meeting eight days before my meeting with Mr. Olsen. According to The Washington Post article, ''The first concrete step toward closing the detention center was agreed upon during an April 14, 2009, session at the White House. 'It was to be a stealth move . . . They were going to show up here, and we were going to announce it,' said one senior official, describing the swift, secretive operation that was designed by the administration to preempt any political outcry that could prevent the transfer.''

Following the publication of this article in April, I personally called Mr. Olsen to ask whether he was aware at the time of my meeting with him on April 22, 2009, that a decision had already been made on the transfer of the detainees. He told me that he had been aware of the decision prior to our meeting.

I believe that I was intentionally misled by Mr. Olsen and other administration officials during my April 22 meeting with the task force. I also am concerned that the attorney general did not acknowledge that a decision had been made when he appeared before the House Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee the following day. That is why I was surprised when my office was notified by a career federal employee that the administration was misleading the Congress and planned to secretly transfer the detainees around May 1, 2009.

As Newsweek reported, ''Then on May 1, Virginia GOP Rep. Frank Wolf got tipped off. Furious, he fired off a public letter to President Obama, charging that the release of the Uighurs—Muslim separatists opposed to the Chinese government—could 'directly threaten the security of the American people.' White House officials were not happy . . . The flight never took off.''

HONORING ROBERT THORSEN UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the career of Robert Thorsen, on the occasion of his retirement, on July 4th, 2011, and to thank him for his more than twenty-three years of distinguished service and dedication to the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Thorsen helped guide the House community from mainframe computers to the House Cloud of today. He was responsible for re-establishing the House Information Resources (HIR) Technology Call Center, TCC, and he helped expand the TCC into a 24/7, 365-days-a-year operation. In the past several years, Bob has worked with the HIR Technology Support Escalations Team to provide high-quality support to all House offices. He has also been involved in continuity and contingency planning efforts for the House.

Beyond his work at the House, Mr. Thorsen served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserve. He was recalled to active duty in 1990, serving in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Desert Calm. He retired from the reserves in 2002 with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Mr. Thorsen's knowledge, experience, dedication and consistently outstanding performance have set an example for superior customer service. These traits have also earned Mr. Thorsen the respect of his co-workers and colleagues.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Robert (Bob) Thorsen for his many years of dedication, outstanding contributions and service to the House.

We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

RETIREMENT OF ARLENE REYES UNPINGCO FROM THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arlene Reyes Unpingco, for her years of support to the education system on Guam. Mrs. Unpingco is retiring as Deputy Superintendent of Educational Support and Community Learning for the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) after 25 years of service to the people of Guam.

Mrs. Unpingco began her career ar GDOE immediately after receiving her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education, majoring in Elementary and Special Education, from the University of Guam in 1986. In 2000, Mrs. Unpingco received her Master's Degree in Education, with specialization in Administration & Supervision, again from the University of Guam. Mrs. Unpingco began her career as an elementary and middle school teacher on Guam. She later was promoted to serve as an Assistant Principal, and eventually, School Principal in several local schools. In 2008, Mrs. Unpingco's contributions to the classroom and through education administration were recognized as she was appointed to the role of Deputy Superintendent of Educational Support and Community Learning. In her years of service, her commitment to our students and leadership in administration has helped to strengthen our island's education system in many far reaching ways.

Mrs. Unpingco was born and raised in the central village of Tamuning, Guam, on September 15, 1956. She is married to the Honorable Steven Sablan Unpingco, retired Superior Court Judge and resides, with her family, on the shores of beautiful Pago Bay, Chalan Pago. She is blessed with five children: Jan, Jason, Jossalyn, Steven, and Michael; and four grandchildren: Brandon, Jaylene, Jenna, and Kailani.

It is on the occasion of Mrs. Unpingco's retirement from the Government of Guam's Department of Education that I join the people of Guam in acknowledging her service and dedication to our island's public schools and the education of Guam's children. I wish her the best in her retirement and in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN FRANK MASCARA

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to former Congressman Frank R. Mascara, who passed away Sunday, July 10 at the age of 81. Born in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, Congressman Mascara proudly served southwestern Pennsylvania for over 30 years, first at the county level, then for four terms in the United States House of Representatives.

A first-generation Italian-American, Mascara embodied the humble, hardworking nature of his immigrant parents and his constituents

throughout his political career. Known as the ''Dean of Washington County politics,'' Mascara fought successfully for projects to spur economic development in his district, including the Mon-Fayette Expressway and the Southpointe development project, which is now home to 150 businesses.

Congressman Mascara served in the Army and worked as an insurance salesman and an accountant before he entered politics as Washington County Controller in 1973. From there, he served as county commissioner as well as a trustee of his alma mater, California University of Pennsylvania. In 2009, he received his university's Lifetime Achievement Award, becoming only the third alumnus to receive such an honor.

Although he was sent to Washington as a leader of his district, he never lost touch with the blue collar, middle-class values of his western Pennsylvania home of Charleroi. He famously spurned fancy Capitol Hill restaurants for cheaper eateries, always aware that he was spending the taxpayers' money through his salary. While in Congress, he continued to live in the same house in Charleroi that he purchased for $7,500.

Congressman Mascara had a calm, good-natured manner, but he fought vigorously in Congress for his district. For a time, the Southpointe development project that he championed was popularly known as ''Frank's Folly.'' However, looking back on the project at the end of his career, despite difficulties getting it off the ground, he believed it to be his greatest political achievement. Through his blue-collar attitude and political wit, Mascara was a strong and effective advocate for his constituents.

Frank Mascara is survived by his wife Dolores, two sons, Frank and Jon, a daughter, Karen, and a brother, John. He will be remembered as a dedicated family man and a hard-working, down-to-earth public servant. He will be deeply missed by his family, his fellow Pennsylvanians, and his former colleagues here in Congress.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I strongly oppose H.R. 2354, which underfunds important clean energy priorities at a cost to the American public's health and welfare. Fiscal discipline is an important goal, and I support efforts to think critically about how to put the nation on a sound fiscal path. However this bill fails to accomplish that. This appropriations bill cuts funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy development programs that help American homeowners save money on their utility bills. At the same time, the bill increases funding for fossil fuel technologies, which have no need of tax incentives or financial support, and which increase the level of harmful air and water pollution.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy programs offer the best chance that our nation has to become more energy independent and reduce climate-change inducing pollutants. Yet this bill cuts total funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by 27 percent and cuts Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy by 44 percent compared to FY11. These clean energy programs have helped drive strong growth in solar and wind generation over the past decade, while reducing the costs of these technologies significantly. ARPA–E's support for path-breaking advanced technologies could hold the key to our energy future. In the long run, these cuts will mean less innovation, dirtier energy, and fewer clean energy jobs. This is absolutely the wrong way to drive American leadership and energy independence.

Two programs that have been improving our energy security while helping households to keep down their utilities bills are the Weatherization Assistance Program, WAP, and the State Energy Program, SEP. These programs target residential buildings, reducing the burden on low-income families by an average of 35 percent of utility bills and supporting local economies. The State Energy Program encourages innovative technologies and leverages Federal funds; since 2006, the State of Oregon has leveraged approximately $27 in non-federal funds for every $1 of SEP funds spent. These programs have demonstrated success, yet H.R. 2354 severely cuts funding. In Oregon alone, these cuts would mean that an estimated 374 families would no longer be eligible for weatherization assistance. For these reasons, I support the amendment offered by Representatives TONKO and BASS that would increase WAP and SEP funding by $141.3 million and $25 million, respectively.

In addition to handicapping energy innovation, the bill also includes a very damaging policy rider that would undermine the Clean Water Act. This rider would prevent the Army Corps of Engineers from restoring Clean Water Act protections to many rivers, streams and wetlands that supply drinking water and prevent flooding. Over 100 million Americans get their drinking water from public supplies provided in whole or in part from waters that are at risk of losing Clean Water Act safeguards. The recent flood events around the country have demonstrated some of the problems with wetlands losses, and these would be made even worse by blocking the Army Corps' ability to protect these waters.

Amendments passed on the Floor during debate mostly made this bad bill even worse. For example, I voted against an amendment by Rep. BURGESS that would prevent important new efficiency standards for light bulbs from going into effect. These standards, passed as part of the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act, are supported by industry and consumer groups as well as efficiency advocates. They would mean $100 in savings for the average American family per year. I'm disappointed in the passage of this amendment to prevent DOE from enforcing these standards.

Now is the time to be putting America on track toward a clean energy future, and working to reduce the damage to our water and air quality that harm public health. I support policies to create a green energy economy, to reduce dependence on foreign oil, to support advanced technologies and cost-saving energy-efficient systems for homes and businesses, and to protect the health and well-being of the nation's health and environment. Unfortunately, this appropriations bill is detrimental to all of those goals.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker on rollcall No. 44 I was detained off the House floor during this 2 minute vote series and was unable to cast my vote before the vote was closed. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no.''

HONORING LUCIO E. PEREZ, OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of community member Lucio E. Perez for being named Agriculturalist of the Year by the Napa County Farm Bureau.

Mr. Perez comes from a long history of working with Napa's bountiful soil. His grandfather, Mr. Lucio D. Perez, emigrated from Mexico and settled in the Napa Valley in the early 1930s and worked as an agricultural laborer. In 1935, the L. Perez & Sons Family Estates began growing wine grapes. The business was passed to his son Ezequiel, and later to his grandson Lucio, or as he is known throughout the valley, ''Cio.''

He attended St. Helena High School and later studied at Stanford University before transferring to the University of California—Davis, where he graduated with a degree in Enology & Viticulture. His first job outside of the family farm was with Beringer Brothers; assisting with the development of new vineyards, fertilizer, and pest management problems. Mr. Perez continues to manage L. Perez & Sons Vineyards, and also farms acreage in Conn Valley, Carneros and St. Helena. He produces zinfandel, chardonnay and, cabernet—reflecting the diverse terroirs of the Napa Valley appellations.

His passion for sustainable agriculture and protecting farmlands led him to work with the Napa County Farm Bureau in 1988, where he has served on the Board of Directors and as President. He has also participated on the California Farm Bureau Federation—Grape Advisory Committee, the Tax and Land Use Committee, and Finance Committee. Don Lucio Perez, his grandfather, founded a non-profit by the name of Comite Mexicano de Beneficiencia, where Mr. Perez has been an active member and past treasurer.

Being recognized as Agriculturalist of the Year by the Napa County Farm Bureau is an astounding achievement for someone who has dedicated their life to protecting and defending agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Mr. Lucio E. Perez for his years of devoted service to the Napa Valley community.

HONORING VERONICA LEWIS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute an outstanding Federal employee and citizen of the District of Columbia, Veronica Lewis, who is retiring this month after forty-one years of service with the Federal Government. Ms. Lewis, a dedicated public servant, is known for her contributions to both the government and to her fellow employees.

Ms. Lewis has lived and worked in Washington, DC all of her life. She began her career as a public employee in 1970 as a personnel information assistant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 1986, she became a secretary with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), where she is still employed today, in the agency's Division of Corporation Finance. She has been a loyal and dedicated Federal employee for the past 4 decades.

Ms. Lewis attended public schools in the District of Columbia. Prior to her career with the Federal Government, she worked for the Metropolitan Police Department and also as a teacher's aide at Taft Junior High School.

In 2000, Ms. Lewis was one of the original founders of the Federal employee union that now represents all of the non-management employees at the SEC National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), Chapter 293. She served as the union's chief steward for several years and, since 2006, has served as the vice president of Chapter 293.

Ms. Lewis has two children, Cecilia Vernette Camp and Edward Walker, and three grandchildren, Angela Lewis-Camp, Veronica Lewis-Camp, and Edward Walker, Jr. In retirement, Ms. Lewis plans to travel as well as to volunteer at St. Jude Children's Hospital. Her hobbies are dancing, traveling and bicycling.

Mr. Speaker, Veronica Lewis has been a dedicated civil servant all of her adult life, both as an SEC employee and as a leader of NTEU Chapter 293. It is appropriate that we honor her today for her many contributions and congratulate her on her retirement from the Federal Government.

CONGRATULATING TIM SOLSO OF CUMMINS, INC. ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Tim Solso for his successful and influential career as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Cummins Inc., located in my hometown of Columbus, Indiana. After forty years of dedicated service, he is set to retire from Cummins on December 31st of this year.

During his career at Cummins, Tim Solso lived the American dream and proved that hard work pays off. He first joined Cummins in 1971 after receiving a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from DePauw University. His first position with Cummins was as an assistant to the Vice President of Personnel, and during his career Tim worked in several of Cummins' international locations—including Huddersfield, England, and Sao Paolo, Brazil. In 2000 he was named Chairman and CEO.

Under Tim's extraordinary leadership as CEO, Cummins experienced record profits of more than $1 billion, and the company's shareholders enjoyed an astonishing return of 1,300 percent. International business at Cummins grew 20 percent from 2000 to 2010, and they have truly established themselves as a global leader in their industry.

Tim has also received many personal accolades for his achievements with Cummins including: named a top five finalist to Marketwatch's CEO of the Decade in 2010; named one of Barron's list of the thirty Most Respected CEOs for 2010 and 2011; selected as the national Six Sigma CEO of the year; received the Anti-Defamation League's Man of Achievement Award; named the International Executive of the Year by the Academy of International Business; and received the American Business Award for Best Chairman.

While I am confident that Cummins will continue to grow under new leadership, there is no doubt that Tim's legacy will continue to have a lasting impact on Cummins and on the Columbus community. I wish him the very best in his retirement and in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING MADELEINE JARAS, ELMHURST, IL ''MAYOR FOR A DAY''

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an aspiring leader from my Congressional District, Madeleine Jaras. Madeleine's essay was recently selected as the winner of the City of Elmhurst's ''Mayor for a Day'' competition. On behalf of this Congressional body, I welcome Madeleine and her family to our nation's capital.

The text of Madeleine's essay reads as follows: ''If I were Mayor of Elmhurst, I would demonstrate my Trustworthiness to the citizens of Elmhurst by following through with my promises, being honest, being reliable, being loyal, being dependable, and having the courage to do the right thing, not always the easy thing. All these things are hard sometimes, but if I were Mayor, I would try my hardest to make the citizens safe, happy, and help the city of Elmhurst blossom into an even greater community than the past leaders have made it.''

Even in her youth, Madeleine recognizes that in light of today's critical debates, tough decisions need to be made with great integrity. Madeleine's virtuous beliefs should serve as a reminder to all citizens and leaders that we should be courteous of others, and that honesty is of utmost importance. Her positive outlook is exemplary of her outstanding character.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Madeleine Jaras is a promising young leader, full of modesty and confidence. It is truly a privilege to serve as her Representative. Please join me in honoring Madeleine's spirit and wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise in strident opposition to H.R. 2354, the Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2012. This unfortunate bill is just another in a long line of Republican attempts to sabotage policies put in place to protect the health and safety of Americans, as well as to improve the environment while at the same time fostering economic recovery. I categorically reject the Republicans' cynical and shortsighted approach to governing and urge my colleagues to follow suit by opposing this bill.

I am not without justification in my criticism of H.R. 2354. To be clear, it contains a rider to block the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ability to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act, landmark legislation that I helped write and pass into law. The bill also blocks EPA's authority to oversee mountaintop removal coal mining, effectively allowing mountains to be carved away at corporate leisure. Finally, the bill would remove EPA's authority to make storm water programs more effective, which strikes me as curious given my Republicans' bent on making government leaner, meaner, and more effective. On a broader note, H.R. 2354 constitutes an attack on the integrity of the Clean Water Act, which has helped restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. Just as this bill would allow coal companies to carve away mountains, so too would it carve away EPA's precious and necessary authorities under the Clean Water Act.

H.R. 2354's assault on Americans and their environment extends beyond allowing the desecration of the beautiful waters they so treasure. The bill also curtails programs meant to advance economic recovery in a manner more sustainable for the environment. While I commend my colleagues on the House Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee for dedicating funding to repair the damage caused by the recent storms and floods, I do not agree with taking funding from critical infrastructure projects that offer enormous economic impacts in a myriad of communities across this country. If my colleagues recognize the storms and floods as emergency events, then they should have had the fortitude to allocate emergency funding to these

repairs outside of the normal appropriations process.

By nature high-speed rail funding are immediate economic generators. Under H.R. 2354, the 15th District is slated to lose more than $495 million in funding awarded to four highspeed rail projects in our district. The projects that would be derailed are the development of new train stations in Ann Arbor and Dearborn, the joint Midwest Regional Rail passenger rail equipment purchase, and the rehabilitation and improvement of track between Kalamazoo and Dearborn. This rescission will result in the loss of as many as 13,008 jobs.

And as if cutting funds for mass transit were not enough, H.R. 2354 also seeks to eviscerate the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing loan program, which helps automakers and suppliers produce more fuel efficient vehicles and decrease U.S. dependence on foreign oil. This is the height of folly and quite frankly indefensible.

Mr. Chair, for all of these reasons and more, I oppose H.R. 2354 and urge my colleagues to do so as well. Their children and grandchildren will thank them if they do.

TRIBUTE TO THORNE MAGINNIS AND OTHER YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 37TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is no exaggeration to say that the past few years have been among the challenging in our nation's history. The collapse of the housing market, the turmoil on Wall Street and the ensuing financial crisis, the severe economic downturn resulting in the loss of millions of middle-class jobs, and the ever present threat of terrorist attacks on our homeland are enough to make many question whether the American Dream is still attainable and to conclude that our best days are behind us.

I do not share this view. The future of our country is bright and I firmly believe that our best days lie ahead. One of the reasons I am so optimistic that 21st century will be known as the second "American Century" is the extraordinary quality, talent, commitment, and energy of the young people who will in time assume the responsibility of leadership.

Members of Congress know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

I rise today to pay tribute to the wonderful young men and women who have done this work in my office for my constituents.

Today, I bid farewell to an extraordinary young man, Thorne Maginnis, who joined my team in January of last year and who will be moving on to attend law school this fall at the University of Virginia. From his first day on my staff Thorne's talents as writer, analyst, and researcher were apparent for all to observe. These gifts, combined with his winning personality and cooperative spirit made him an invaluable staffer and a valued friend to his colleagues, who all will miss his good cheer but wish him well in his future endeavors, which I am confident will include continued service in furtherance of the public interest.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. When I was six years old I dreamed of becoming a public servant when I grew up so I could help others. As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King once said:

> Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated and I wish to acknowledge them. They are: Devin Benavidez, Elliott Blufer, Laura Sisemore, Chris Robinson, Carlos Jurado, Jerry Boies, Sunjay Bhatia, Jazmine Florence, and Renata Harris. In past years, my office has benefitted from the contributions of other volunteers, including Helen Lei, Navy San, Chris Prado, Jimmie Luthuli, Erika Wright, Peter Ward, Alyce Boatwright, Tom DeMaio, and Brittni Hamilton.

Mr. Speaker, the infusion of energy, intelligence, and idealism young people bring to their internships in my office and those of my colleagues helps keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

This is why I am so optimistic about our country's prospects for the future. As Margaret Mead said:

> Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great and as they age, they will ensure she stays forever young.

THE MEK STILL WAITS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, almost a year ago to the day, on July 16, 2010, the U.S. Court of Appeals ordered the U.S. State Department to go back and re-evaluate the "terrorist" designation of the MEK. Since then, the State Department has stalled. At hearings and in letter after letter, Congress has asked for updates but the State Department just plays the same tape over and over "we're working on it."

What exactly is taking so long? We haven't seen any new evidence. All the old evidence, classified and unclassified, does not describe a terrorist group, but a bunch of people that want to be free. They have given up their weapons, forsworn terrorism, and only ask that they can live in peace without being massacred by Iraqi troops or Iranian agents. Enough with the stalling. The State Department needs to get its act together and make a decision. If there is evidence of terrorism, show us. But if there is not, then take this group off the list today.

And that's just the way it is.

IN SUPPORT OF KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL WALL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. HALL . Mr. Speaker, I am honored to introduce—together with Representatives SAM JOHNSON, HOWARD COBLE, JOHN CONYERS, JR., and JOHN DINGELL—a bill to amend legislation authorizing the Korean War Veterans Memorial to permit the addition of a Wall of Remembrance. P.L. 99–527 stated as a priority ". . .to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Korean War, particularly those who were killed in action, are still missing in action, or were held as prisoners of war." This bill seeks to further honor those who gave their lives to preserve freedom, not only for the Republic of Korea but for the entire non-communist world. To the 33,686 Americans killed in action this was not an abstract geopolitical issue, nor was it a "cold war." The Korean War, fought some 60 years ago, was a desperate fight to stop the spread of totalitarian regimes and signaled to North Korea that the United States would support our friends and allies.

The Korean War is sometimes referred to as the "forgotten war," a footnote between the Second World War and the Vietnam War. The sacrifice our young men paid to preserve our freedom should not be forgotten. This legislation will ensure that their deeds will be memorialized for all Americans to see on our National Mall. For, as the "greatest generation" of Americans fought World War II to save the world for democracy, the Korean War generation of Americans fought to save the world from communism.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1995. It is an extraordinarily moving memorial. Our legislation will permit, through private sector contributions, a glass Wall of Remembrance to encircle the outer edge of the existing Memorial Pool. This wall will list the Americans killed in action by name, and will list the wounded, missing in action, and prisoners of war by number. It will also honor the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) that served alongside their U.S. comrades in American units to maintain our frontline combat strengths. Over 8,000 members of the KATUSA gave their lives for their country and ours. Their names were lost to history, but their numbers deserve recognition for the sacrifices that would otherwise have been American casualties. This bill

will also allow for the Wall of Remembrance to list the number of casualties of our Republic of Korea allies and the United Nations allies that served in support of maintaining the freedom of the Republic of Korea and its people.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I was visited by a distinguished veteran of WWII and the Korean War, Colonel Bill Weber. Bill is a double-amputee of the Korean War and would have died of his wounds but for subzero temperatures that prevented him from bleeding to death. The sculptor of the Korean War Veterans Memorial used Bill's image to model one of the 19 soldiers. Bill spoke passionately and convincingly to me about the need to enhance the existing memorial with the Wall of Remembrance. As Bill said, "This is our final battle, and we must succeed for over 33,000 of our brothers who cannot speak for themselves and whose sacrifices remain largely unknown."

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring our Korean veterans by supporting this legislation.

IN HONOR OF MRS. ANNETTE LANTOS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 80th birthday of Mrs. Annette Lantos, a praiseworthy individual and dear friend of mine, who has devoted her life to fighting for human and animal rights.

Born in Hungary in 1931, Annette came to the U.S. at the age of 16 after surviving the Holocaust. She graduated from high school and went on to receive her bachelor's degree and teaching certificate from San Francisco State University.

Annette was married to the late Congressman Tom Lantos for nearly 58 years. Congressman Lantos was also a survivor of the Holocaust, and shared his wife's commitment to human rights. Annette worked full-time in her husband's office for the nearly three decades that the late Congressman held office. She served as Executive Director of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which was co-founded by Congressman Lantos, and helped her husband in co-founding the Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus.

Outside of Congress, Annette has worked tirelessly to help human rights victims and to further human rights causes. In 1977, she founded the International Free Wallenberg Committee to raise awareness of Raoul Wallenberg's humanitarian efforts in Hungary during World War II. Today, Annette is Chairman of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice. She continues to uphold the Lantos legacy of furthering human rights throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing this remarkable woman as she celebrates her 80th birthday surrounded by friends and her wonderful family.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS IDENTITY THEFT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation to strengthen the federal criminal laws punishing identity theft.

Identity theft is a serious and growing threat. The Federal Trade Commission estimates that as many as 9 million Americans have their identities stolen each year.

Identity thieves use identifying information such as a consumer's Social Security number, credit card numbers, or other financial account information in order to conduct such fraud as opening up new credit cards and gaining access to bank accounts. The ramifications can be financially disastrous for citizens and can be extremely difficult to resolve. We must crack down hard on these criminals.

The fear of identity theft is also consistently cited as a reason many Americans are cautious about engaging in more transactions online. This is unfortunate because of the multitude of ways the Internet can help consumers shop, do business and communicate efficiently and at low cost.

The United States has many federal statutes targeting identity theft. However, some of these laws were weakened by a recent Supreme Court case.

18 U.S.C. 1028 and 1028A contain criminal punishments for certain identity theft violations when those violations are in connection with other federal crimes and state felonies. In 2009, the Supreme Court ruled that the language of those federal statutes require not only that the criminal use the identification documents of another person, but also that the criminal knew the documents were those of another actual person.

The context of that case was that an illegal alien had given an employer counterfeit social security and alien registration cards containing his name but the identification numbers of other individuals. He was charged with two immigration offenses as well as aggravated identity theft. The Supreme Court overturned the conviction on the aggravated identity theft count explaining that the language of the relevant statutes required prosecutors to prove not only that the defendant used identity documents that were not his own, but also that the defendant knew the identity documents were those of another actual person.

Identity theft occurs when someone intentionally and unlawfully uses identity documents that are not his own. Our federal statutes should reflect this reality.

Today, I am introducing legislation to amend these federal statutes to make clear that when an identity thief intentionally and unlawfully uses identity documents that are not his own, prosecutors do not need to show that the criminal also knew that the identity documents were those of another actual person.

This clarification will help prosecutors put identity thieves behind bars and will help safeguard American citizens from identity-related crimes. I urge the Members of the House to support this bipartisan legislation.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2354, the Fiscal Year 2011 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

The bill slashes funding for clean energy efficiency and research programs. It also makes steep cuts to flood control and environmental cleanup programs. In short, the legislation fails to protect our communities and it jeopardizes American innovation and job creation.

The last place to cut is in the area of investments in clean energy technologies. In my Silicon Valley District, innovation is the coin of the realm. I've seen dozens of burgeoning companies who are at the cutting edge of clean energy technology. Our nation has the capacity to lead the world in clean energy technology, and there are domestic industries poised for economic explosion if we help, not hurt them.

According to the Brookings Institution, the nation's clean energy economy, defined as goods and services with an environmental benefit, employs about 2.7 million people, more than twice the size of the fossil-fuel industry.

Investments today will lay the foundation for our future.

I oppose H.R. 2354 and urge my colleagues to do the same because hobbling our future is neither smart fiscally or policy-wise.

IN HONOR OF MR. IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ignacy Jan Paderewski—the second Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, a highly acclaimed musician and humanitarian.

In 1919, after Poland had officially become an independent nation, Mr. Paderewski became its first Prime Minister. He was also the chief framer of the Polish Constitution. Mr. Paderewski also served as the Polish representative in the League Nations as well as Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

As a philanthropist, Mr. Paderewski used his personal home in Switzerland as a safe place for refugees from various countries during WWII. A popular pianist and composer, Mr. Paderewski was also known to be a strong supporter of the arts. He made substantial contributions to improving the lives of unemployed musicians and playwrights and he worked toward the construction of many concert halls and monuments.

A bust of Ignacy Jan Paderewski will be honored on July 16, 2011 at the Cleveland Cultural Gardens with a dedication speech by Poland's current Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Robert Kupiecki, as well as a concert.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me remembering the life and accomplishments of Ignacy Jan Paderewski. His dedication to his native country has been an integral part of Poland's history.

CONGRATULATIONS CUNNINGHAM FAMILY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my good friend and military fellow Marine Corps Major Samuel Cunningham and his wife Danielle on the birth of their son Dorin Samuel Cunningham. Dorin was born on Thursday, July 14, 2011, in Bethesda, Maryland. He is welcomed home by his sister, Aida.

Dorin Samuel Cunningham is eight pounds and eight ounces and twenty one inches of pride and joy to his loving grandparents, Carl and Josephine Cunningham of Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Bob and Betty Fox of Butler, Pennsylvania.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Cunningham family and wish them all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I was briefly absent from the House floor during two separate vote series on July 12, 2011. I missed rollcall votes 541 and 560. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 541 and "nay" on rollcall vote 560.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAMONA HAHN

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to rise today to inform the House of the death of Mrs. Ramona Hahn. The wife of legendary Los Angeles County supervisor Kenneth Hahn, Ramona was the proud matriarch of a family whose members have devoted their lives to public service. Ramona Hahn passed away on Monday morning at the age of 86—a mere day before her daughter Janice was elected to join us in this body, representing California's 36th Congressional District. My deepest condolences go out to our new colleague, Congresswoman Janice Hahn, and the entire Hahn family, as they mourn the loss of a devoted wife and loving mother. Ramona was a great lady; she was my friend.

Born to American missionaries in Tokyo, Japan, Ramona Hahn was a service-minded individual who committed her life to God and family. Ramona has been described by her children as the "driving force" behind their family of public servants. She worked hand in hand with her husband as he fought to improve the lives of his constituents. She provided strength and support as he took bold stands for civil rights, including the decision to greet Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at LAX when he visited Los Angeles in 1961. He was the only elected official from California to do so. This act of political courage has never been forgotten, but is in keeping with the character and commitment that has been the hallmark of the Hahn family for more than a half century.

Ramona's community involvement and selfless attitude was a powerful example for her two children. Her son James Hahn has served as Los Angeles City Controller, Los Angeles City Attorney, and Mayor of Los Angeles, and is currently a judge on the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Her daughter Janice Hahn has served in the Los Angeles City Council and on the Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission, which modernized Los Angeles city government, making it more responsive to the city's diversity and challenges. In the coming days, she will be sworn in on the House floor.

I know that the entire Hahn family wishes that Ramona could have lived to see her daughter sworn in as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. For Janice, the loss of her mother must make this monumental achievement bittersweet. However, I hope that Janice and her family can take comfort in the knowledge that their mother's loving spirit lives on through the lives that she touched and the good works that Janice will do in this body.

I ask all Members to join me in a moment of silence in honor of the memory of the late Ramona Hahn.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

Last week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that only 18,000 jobs were created in June and more than 14 million people are still looking for work—many for over six months.

As members of Congress, our focus must be on pursuing policies that will rebuild our economy by providing these Americans with opportunities to work hard and succeed—the very idea that underpins the middle class.

This legislation is a missed opportunity to respond to the jobs challenge in a serious way. Instead of investing in our infrastructure and supporting innovative new job-creating industries in the renewable energy sector, this bill under-invests in both these areas.

For example, this bill reduces funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs by $491 million—or 27 percent below the already abysmal FY2011 funding levels and 59 percent less than what President Obama requested.

The bill also cuts funding for the Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA–E) by $88 million, which is 44 percent below current levels and 81 percent less than requested. ARPA–E is modeled after the successful Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) which has been a catalyst in technological innovation since its creation in 1958.

Together, these programs fund crucial research and development in a variety of renewable technologies with the goals of ending our national dependence on fossil fuels, more efficiently powering our homes and businesses, and lessening the cost of energy for families.

These types of investments are incredibly important in my home state of Hawaii. We are the most oil dependent state in the nation—we must import 90 percent of the oil products that fuel our cars, homes, and businesses. So when the world markets that set the price of oil gyrates—as it has in recent months—our economic growth and quality of life are significantly impacted.

So renewable energy isn't just a feel-good idea—it's an economic and national security imperative both for Hawaii and our nation's future. Cutting funds that provide incentives for the private sector to continue innovating and growing jobs in this sector may seem pennywise; but it is most certainly pound-foolish.

I am also disappointed that this bill fails to make a real dent in our nation's water infrastructure needs. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has given our nation's overall infrastructure a grade of "D." ASCE also estimates that Hawaii needs $1.97 billion to meet our water infrastructure needs. While I understand the need to carefully prioritize how we spend precious federal dollars, I believe that infrastructure should be at the top of that priority list. Infrastructure investments create jobs, strengthen our communities, and improve public health.

These are just two areas where this legislation fails to improve our economy, help rebuild the middle class, or lay the groundwork for our future prosperity. As a whole this bill is a disappointment, and I strongly oppose its passage.

THE STOP GUN TRAFFICKING AND STRENGTHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce important legislation, the Stop Gun Trafficking and Strengthen Law Enforcement Act, with Representatives CUMMINGS, MCCARTHY, CONYERS, TIERNEY, CONNOLLY, CHU, NORTON, RANGEL, MORAN, LYNCH, SPEIER, FILNER, and ACKERMAN, which will put

in statute a gun trafficking prohibition, empowering law enforcement with the tools to stem the tide of illegal weapons into the hands of Mexican drug cartels and other criminals.

The Mexican drug cartel wars are raging and have claimed the lives of at least 40,000 people since 2007. They are fueled, in part, by illegal weapons procured in the United States and smuggled into Mexico. According to Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Mexico has seized approximately 100,000 guns in the last four years, and 84% of those guns came from the United States. According to ATF, 70% of firearms recovered in Mexico in 2009 and 2010 and traced to determine their source were either manufactured in the U.S. or first imported into the U.S. before being trafficked to Mexico.

In hearings and interviews before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, law enforcement agents have said they are hamstrung in their attempts to stop illegal gun trafficking by the lack of a federal gun trafficking bill. Law enforcement agents identified three areas of current law that, if improved, would allow them to more effectively counter firearms trafficking—a reporting requirement for multiple long-guns purchases, stiffer penalties for straw purchasers, and a specific firearms trafficking prohibition in the criminal code.

Just this week, the Obama Administration announced that they have approved the ATF's request to use their authority to request reports of multiple long-gun purchases, and earlier this year in April, the United States Sentencing Commission announced proposed amendments to the sentencing guidelines that will essentially cause most straw purchasers to be ineligible for probation, and once in effect, Congress can reevaluate the impact of these changes and if additional changes are needed.

With administrative action on two of the three proposals, our legislation accomplishes the third—a firearms trafficking prohibition in statute, with stiff penalties for traffickers and so-called trafficking ''kingpins.'' Under current law, prosecutors are forced to charge straw purchasers and traffickers with mere paperwork violations. This bill empowers law enforcement by criminalizing firearms trafficking, offering a sensible solution to ensure that weapons do not end up in the hands of criminals and drug cartels.

Given the ongoing violence and the glaring loopholes in U.S. gun trafficking laws, it's time Congress gets serious about enacting narrowly tailored, sensible laws to combat illegal trafficking.

HONORING THE ENSHRINEMENT OF COACH BARRY ALVAREZ INTO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the enshrinement of Coach Barry Alvarez into the College Football Hall of Fame. Offering more then just winning strategy, our Coach has come to epitomize Badger athletics.

In the four seasons prior to the Coach's arrival in 1990, our football team was 9–36 and struggled to fill historic Camp Randall Stadium with fans. However, Coach Alvarez's innovative coaching techniques breathed new life into Wisconsin's football program and quickly reignited our community's passion for the team. As Head Football Coach for sixteen seasons from 1990 to 2005, Coach Alvarez distinguished himself as the winningest coach in school history. In 2004, Coach Alvarez also became the University's Director of Athletics, a position he continues to hold since retiring as Head Football Coach in 2005.

Enshrinement in the College Football Hall of Fame is no easy feat. Nominated coaches have won at least 60 percent of games over a minimum ten year and 100 game head coaching career, an accomplishment very few ever achieve. Coach Alvarez's résumé also boasts an overall record of 118–73–4, three Big Ten Conference Championships and three Rose Bowl victories. Furthermore, he has the highest bowl game winning percentage for a coach with at least 11 bowl appearances and is the only coach in Big Ten history with back-to-back Rose Bowl wins. In 2009, he was inducted into both the Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame and the Rose Bowl Hall of Fame and finally, on May 27, 2010, Coach Alvarez was unanimously selected by his peers to join the 2010 class of the College Football Hall of Fame.

While Coach Alvarez achieved exceptional success on the football field, we must also acknowledge his wider contributions to the University and the people of Wisconsin. His commitment to the education of student-athletes during his tenure is inspirational. During his first year as Director of Athletics in 1996, Badger student-athletes registered the highest cumulative grade-point average on record. In 2000, Coach Alvarez and his wife, Cindy, created a $250,000 endowment scholarship at the University of Wisconsin helping to ensure that student-athletes are better prepared to become fully participating adults in our democracy.

Coach Alvarez remains committed to the advancement of Badger student-athletes, the Athletic Department and the entire University of Wisconsin. He selflessly dedicates his time, talents and resources to improving the lives of those around him. With Coach Alvarez's influence, athletics will continue to hold a prominent place at the University of Wisconsin. The contributions of such a legendary figure ensure that Badger fans in our community, across the state of Wisconsin and nationwide can stand proudly and cheer, ''On Wisconsin!''

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise to express my strong disappointment with the FY2012 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. As our Nation struggles to recover from the economic recession that has kept unemployment above 10 percent in my home State of Rhode Island, one message I hear over and over again from constituents and economists is the need to invest in new industries, including manufacturing, while addressing our reliance on foreign and dirty sources of energy. During this time of economic uncertainty, we have an opportunity to create new industry while working to build up and stabilize clean, domestic sources of energy.

Unfortunately, this effort will be slowed because of the draconian cuts in this bill, including a 27 percent cut to energy efficiency and renewable energy research programs, which means cuts to solar energy, fuel efficiency investments, and research to improve energy efficiency in our buildings, which account for 40 percent of all U.S. energy use.

Next week, I am holding a roundtable to hear from one of Rhode Island's leading renewable energy companies, Alteris, as well as students and faculty from the University of Rhode Island's Energy Center, because I want my State and our Nation to be capitalizing on every opportunity to invest in the energy jobs of the future. Our budget savings should come by ending the subsidies for big oil companies that don't need them, not by harming up-and-coming businesses like Alteris that can create sustainable job growth.

I am also particularly concerned with cuts to weatherization programs, which have helped to reduce energy bills by one-third for low-income families in Rhode Island. Further, this bill rescinds critical funding to modernize and build our Nation's high speed rail system, including investment in the Northeast Corridor and Rhode Island. Construction of high speed rail will not only create jobs immediately, but the expansion of our infrastructure will create new opportunities for growth in our communities across the region.

Another disappointing provision in this bill is the $123 million cut to the National Nuclear Security Administration's, NNSA's, contribution to our naval reactors work. This funding decrease jeopardizes what the Navy has called ''the nation's only day-to-day assured nuclear response capability,'' our ballistic missile submarines. Defense strategist Loren Thompson recently noted the vital need for our ballistic submarine force stating, ''Today, about half of the warheads in the nuclear arsenal are carried on 14 *Ohio*-class submarines that are nearly impossible to find much less target. . . . the reason each sub needs to be so fearsome is that deterrence depends on what's left after an enemy attacks, since the threat of retaliation is what deters the attack in the first place.''

These subs are already at the end of their lifespan, but due to refueling and modernization efforts, they will stay in the fleet for another decade. This sounds like a long time until you consider that it takes nearly two decades to design, build, and test a successor ship through the SSBN(X) *Ohio* replacement program. Design work for the SSBN(X) is finishing this October, leading to an incredibly tight schedule which according to CRS could result in a smaller force than is necessary to continue our nuclear deterrent. We need this ship to come in on time and on budget for the

sake of global nuclear security, and the cuts to naval reactors in this bill directly threaten our future national security.

Mr. Chair, our Nation is facing too many challenges at home and abroad to afford such cuts to critical investments in our energy future and important nuclear deterrent programs, while at the same time increasing funding for the Fossil Energy Research and Development program. I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill and reinvest in those programs that look to our future, rather than relying on outdated technologies of our past.

HONORING CHIEF PAUL HARTSTEIN FOR HIS DEDICATION TO THE CAMDEN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Hartstein, Fire Marshall for the Camden County Fire Department. Chief Hartstein will be retiring after decades of exemplary service to his community. His dedication is an extraordinary example for the entire South Jersey community.

Chief Hartstein, a native of Camden County, created a career serving his community. Prior to his appointment as Fire Marshall, he served as Fire Chief for the city of Audubon. Later, he worked as Vice President of the Audubon Fire Department and as a New Jersey Fire Commissioner. Try as he might, the chief can not fully retire; he will be acting as a part-time code official for the cities of Audubon and Haddonfield.

Chief Hartstein has been honored on several occasions, demonstrating his enduring commitment to South Jersey. He recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Greater Philadelphia Burn Foundation. Previously, the International Association of Arson Investigators honored Chief Hartstein with both the President's Award and the Investigator of the Year award. These decorations exemplify his dedication and ability as a firefighter.

Married for 29 years, Chief Hartstein and his wife are the proud parents of a daughter, who is studying in Boston, and a son who is following in his father's footsteps as a firefighter with the Cherry Hill Fire Company.

Firefighters are essential members of every community. Chief Hartstein has demonstrated the dedication, bravery, leadership, and sacrifice necessary to excel at this noble calling. I thank him for his decades of service to Camden County and wish him the best in his semi-retirement.

HONORING ROSEMARY WAHLBERG

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosemary Wahlberg, a loving mother, wife and long-time community advocate, who recently celebrated her 80th birthday on May 18, 2011.

Rosemary has dedicated her life to the service of the less-fortunate, inspired by her short time as a resident of public housing in the Quincy neighborhood of Germantown in the late 1950s and early 1960s. A mother herself, she was distraught by the plights of numerous widows and single mothers struggling to hold their families together. Never a woman to be deterred, Rosemary began her own personal "war on poverty" campaign, beginning as an employee of a recently-enacted federally-funded nutrition program. It did not take long for both her employers and those she served to understand the merit of her work ethic, passion and dedication.

For 25 years, Rosemary served as Executive Director of Quincy Community Action Programs, where she and her colleagues provided indispensable services from adult education and workforce development training, to food and nutrition services to housing assistance programs. With Rosemary at the helm, no fight on behalf of those families was lost, no goal left unattained.

Rosemary is known throughout Massachusetts as a fighter for the underprivileged, and a champion for the rights of all residents of the Commonwealth. She commands respect and admiration from law enforcement officials and local and federal government officials alike. To reflect on her work for our community is to reflect on a life of selflessness, devotion, drive and, above all, care for her fellow man.

The City of Quincy and surrounding communities are a better place thanks to Rosemary's patience, values and unrelenting strength. She is truly a modern-day hero of community activism, and one whose legacy will not soon be forgotten. Congratulations, Rosemary, on your 80th birthday and best wishes on many more years of fulfillment.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, today's FY 2012 Energy and Water Appropriations bill continues the majority's record of missed opportunities and misguided priorities when it comes to our Federal budget.

First and foremost, thoughtful Americans from across the political spectrum agree that we need to end our current dependence on foreign oil and replace it with affordable, reliable, homegrown clean energy. Yet this bill slashes funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy research programs by 40 percent below President Obama's request—and it decimates the game-changing work being done by the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA–E) with a proposed 80 percent cut below the President's recommended level.

The health of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and the rest of our Nation's waterways often rely on the Army Corps of Engineers. But today's legislation actually blocks the Corps from clarifying which waterways are covered by Clean Water Act protections.

Finally, this bill shortchanges nuclear nonproliferation and environmental cleanup efforts, reducing our ability to secure nuclear materials around the world and mitigate the impact of more than a half century's worth of national security-related nuclear activity here at home.

I urge a no vote.

IN RECOGNITION OF BUNA VESTIRE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Buna Vestire Romanian Orthodox Cathedral as it celebrates 75 years of service to the Cleveland orthodox community this September.

The original Buna Vestire Orthodox Cathedral was founded on September 2, 1936 on Detroit Avenue in Cleveland. Since then, the church has relocated several times and today it is located on Wooster Road in Rocky River. Throughout the past 75 years the congregation has been deeply involved in the community. Parishioners have organized festivals, picnics, and bake sales to help promote and celebrate Romanian culture and traditions including traditional food and Romanian folk dance. Since its inception, the Church has celebrated both its Orthodox traditions and Romanian heritage. Additionally, the Church and its priests have actively promoted a "good Faith relationship" amongst pastors and communities of other denominations.

On September 10 and 11, 2011, Buna Vestire Romanian Orthodox Cathedral will celebrate its 75th anniversary of service to the orthodox community of the greater Cleveland area. Recently, the church has experienced an increase in attendance and has plans to build a new church and Romanian Cultural Center in Olmsted Township. The Church intends to continue to promote and enhance their mission amongst the community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Buna Vestire Romanian Orthodox Church as it celebrates 75 years of service. I extend my sincere congratulations to all members of the Buna Vestire congregation.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF DAVIS-BACON PREVAILING WAGE REQUIREMENTS

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today I voted against an amendment, offered by Representative GOSAR, that sought to prohibit funding in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill from being used to enforce Davis-Bacon prevailing

wage requirements for federal contracts. Throughout the appropriations process for the upcoming fiscal year, I have voted against other similar amendments that seek to give federal contractors the ability to undercut the local wage levels on contracts valued at more than $2,000.

The Davis-Bacon Act has been law since 1930, and simply requires that federal contractors, performing work for the government valued at more than $2,000, must be paid at least the local prevailing wage and fringe benefits in the area. This ensures that any workers that are working on a federal contract receive the same compensation as the work done by their neighbors. In a time of great economic difficulty and uncertainty for so many working families in our country, I will staunchly oppose efforts to undermine or weaken common-sense protections like those put in place by the Davis-Bacon Act.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW YORK STATE SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the New York State Sister Cities Conference being held today in Cheektowaga, New York.

For the first time in over a decade, New York State Sister Cities will be holding a conference to connect all interested parties to share their mutual visions and plans to continue to bring together community leaders and motivated citizens in an effort to improve their community and the world.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower created the organization in 1956 to develop international bonds between communities in the United States and abroad while working with ordinary citizens to build relationships that transcend politics and promote world peace. Sister Cities now represents more than 700 US communities and nearly 2,500 partnerships with sister communities in 134 nations.

Sister Cities International is a leader for local community development and volunteer action. It fosters the development of partnerships between municipalities in the United States and similar jurisdictions in other nations. These long-term friendships allow citizens to experience and explore other cultures, implement and strengthen economic and community development, and stimulate environments through which communities collaboratively solve problems through reciprocal cultural, educational, municipal, business, professional, and technical exchanges.

This conference will give citizens the opportunity to network, share proven practices, and discuss recent trends in diplomacy leaving everyone prepared to connect communities and strengthen partnerships worldwide.

The mission of this program is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation—one individual, one community at a time. And never has there been a time when organizations like Sister Cities have been more vital to promoting peace, cooperation, and the ideal of the United States than there has been now.

My district benefits tremendously through Sister Cities' partnerships with communities in nations such as Ghana, China, Germany, Israel, and Poland. I fully support the efforts of this beneficial program to continue to promote transparency between communities and cultures.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride I stand today to recognize the 2011 New York State Sister Cities Conference. I also call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the great work that it is doing every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 573, I mistakenly voted nay instead of yea. It had been my intention to support final passage of H.R. 2018, the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011. While I am aware that a vote may not be changed after a rollcall vote has been closed, I would like the Record to reflect this error and to reiterate my support for H.R. 2018.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF PAUL H. PROTZENKO

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor Paul H. Protzenko of Enfield, Connecticut. Paul was killed on July 9, 2011, when his vehicle was attacked by small arms fire in Afghanistan, where he was training local officers on crime scene investigation techniques and police tactics.

Born in Agawam, Massachusetts, Paul had been a proud resident of Enfield of many years. Paul served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army for 6 years and went on to serve for 22 years as a Connecticut State Trooper First Class. After retiring from the force in 2009, Paul selflessly decided to serve his country in Afghanistan by employing his talents and expertise in law enforcement to help local officers protect their communities and take charge of their future.

Paul's life can only be described as a life of service to others. His passionate love for his country and community afforded him two life-saving medals as a trooper and an additional medal while serving in the military.

In Enfield, Paul was a communicant of St. Adalbert Church. Outside of his professional life, he stayed active as an avid martial artist, marksman, and skier. Neighbors and friends remember Paul as a standout figure in the community who—whether in uniform or not—always sought to keep the people around him safe.

Above all, he was devoted to his family. Paul will be deeply missed by his wife, Lyse; his three children Jennifer, Anthony, and Matthew; his parents; and his grandchildren. We must always remember those who dedicate their lives to serving this great country. Paul made the ultimate sacrifice for us and we will always remember and honor him for it. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, his neighbors, and his brothers on the state police force. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss and honoring the life of this courageous man, Paul H. Protzenko.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Chair, I rise today in opposition of the McClintock amendment to H.R. 2354, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2012.

This amendment would eliminate regional economic development commissions, and I believe that it comes at exactly the wrong time for thousands of communities throughout the United States.

Regional development commissions have a successful track record of spurring much needed investment into the economic development of distressed communities. They should be preserved and expanded, not eliminated.

One of these commissions directly contributes to the economy in my home State of Maine. The Northern Border Regional Commission, NBRC, is charged with investing in the economic development of the most distressed areas of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and northern New York.

By working directly with each state and existing economic development districts, the NBRC is in a unique position to address our region's shared challenges and obstacles in a coordinated way that cuts across state lines.

Since fiscal year 2010, the NBRC has been funded at $1.5 million. Despite these limited resources, it has already awarded $1.3 million to meaningful projects throughout the region.

For example, last September, the NBRC made its first investments in Maine, including an expansion of the Port of Eastport, which is part of a project that will result in the retention of 18 jobs and the creation of 26 new ones.

The NBRC is now preparing to accept applications for a second round of projects, which will spur additional investment and job creation through our region.

If Congress eliminates funding for the NBRC, it cannot build on the progress that has already been made. The NBRC and other commissions like it would not be able to continue their mission of creating and protecting job opportunities in some of the most economically disadvantaged parts of our country.

Madam Chair, during tough economic times it is unacceptable to shut down these commissions, which share a common mission of partnering with states and local communities to create jobs and further economic development.

I urge my colleagues to reject the McClintock amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, 2011, for rollcalls 574–576 my vote was recorded as ''aye.'' I ask that my vote be recorded as: rollcall No. 574: ''no'', rollcall No. 575: ''no'', rollcall No. 576: ''no.''

IN RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HEAT & FROST INSULATORS & ALLIED WORKERS, LOCAL 16, SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, and Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY to congratulate the International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators & Allied Workers, Local 16, San Francisco Chapter, on its 100th anniversary celebration.

On August 1, 1911, Local 16 was chartered as a member of the International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators & Allied Workers International Union, AFL–CIO/CLC. For the past century, Local 16 has worked to ensure the health and safety of consumers and has reduced both carbon dioxide emissions and energy costs through advancements in insulation installation.

Local 16 has played a key role in raising public and industry awareness of the health dangers associated with handling asbestos materials. Certified professionals of the Insulators and Allied Workers Unions continue to safely remove asbestos and replace it with more environmentally friendly insulation material. In the last decade, Local 16 has trained an average of 125 Hazardous Waste Handlers and Firestoppers annually. This leadership and dedication to public safety helps to provide Americans with healthier homes and working environments.

With professional installations, Local 16 ensures that less energy is lost through insulation, saving Americans money and reducing the amount of carbon dioxide that is generated. This commitment to consumers and to the planet has helped the Local 16 membership base expand across two states, representing over 1,000 active members, retirees, and families throughout California and Nevada. For these members, Local 16 strives for workplace equality and improved job opportunities, all while working to stimulate our regional and national economies.

Mr. Speaker, we are truly honored to pay tribute to our friends in the International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators & Allied Workers, Local 16, in recognition of their 100th anniversary. We ask our colleagues to join with us in congratulating the San Francisco branch for its continued leadership and commitment to service, and we wish them success in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. WILLYE MAE PAYNE OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, it is often difficult to find words to express the depth of one's feelings with the passing of a constituent. Nevertheless, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Willye Mae Payne, who made her heavenly transition on Tuesday, July 12, 2011.

Mrs. Payne dedicated her life towards making a difference in the lives of other people. She was a shining example of how God can use even the ordinary to accomplish the extraordinary. Indeed, many who have had the privilege of knowing and associating with her have come to recognize that they are much better the person as a result.

A member of the Salem Baptist Church of Chicago, Mrs. Payne worked for over thirty-five years at the Children's Audy Home and the Cook County Hospital. She attended Malclom X Community College and graduated from Olive Harvey Community College as a Licensed Practical Nurse. I have been privileged to know and work with her granddaughter, Cheryl Hyman, the Chancellor of the City Colleges of Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage her children Katherine McMurtry, Jacklyn Payne, James Payne, Walter Payne and Christine Jackson, her brother Mr. Johnny Robinson, her grandchildren, great grandchildren, the entire family and the many friends of Mrs. Willye Mae Payne to always remember to look to the hills from which comes all of their help, trusting that their help will surely come from the Lord. I am honored to pay tribute to this outstanding woman and privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING MULTISORB TECHNOLOGIES

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise today to congratulate Multisorb Technologies on 50 years as a thriving company in Western New York and an innovator in the field of active packaging.

Founded in 1961 by John S. Cullen, Multisorb Technologies set out to address the needs of protecting products against moisture. They are now the world leader in active packaging.

Multisorb sends their product protection all over the world with main facilities in Buffalo and in Telford, England. They have built a report as a reliable and consistent company over their 50 years.

Multisorb employs hundreds of skilled technicians, researchers, engineers and sales people that all work hard everyday to produce the best product possible.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor I stand today to commemorate Multisorb Technologies 50th anniversary. I extend my thanks to their contribution to the Western New York community in which they call home; as well as my best wishes for continued success.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Fortenberry amendment to increase funding for the NNSA Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation program.

This amendment, which I cosponsored, provides a $35 million increase to the nonproliferation account. Unfortunately, this increase represents only a small percentage of the $463 million in cuts to nonproliferation in the bill.

Nonproliferation efforts are vital to our national security. These programs ensure that loose nuclear material is secured and prevent nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of hostile countries or terrorists. To implement drastic budget cuts does very real damage to the progress we are making toward these goals.

Just last year at the Nuclear Summit, President Obama gained the agreement from several countries to work with the U.S. in securing nuclear weapons-grade material. Through the NNSA Global Threat Reduction Initiative, we will work with nations like Poland, Ghana, Nigeria, Kazakhstan and others to remove highly enriched uranium and to convert their reactors.

There is no question: taking these steps is very much in the national security of the U.S. There are those who would do anything to gain and use this material to do significant harm to our troops and our country.

I am supportive of this amendment, but it represents only a step toward the resources that are necessary for this important program.