

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 than 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 resumé 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