

projects under Section 536, this bill will expand the scope of the work underway to preserve and restore vital fish and wildlife habitat. We must do more to bring back the stability and biodiversity that makes the Columbia River basin one of the lushest fish and wildlife habitats in the world, and this legislation is an important step.

One specific ecosystem restoration program included in the bill is the Willamette Floodplain Restoration Study, which seeks to restore natural floodplain function to the region and improve flood storage along the river. In addition, the bill includes an investment in invasive species monitoring and prevention through provisions that allow the Army Corps to establish watercraft inspection stations and other preventive measures. This is an investment worth making. Invasive species threaten ecosystems as well as infrastructure, including the Pacific Northwest's hydropower system.

One provision in this bill is especially important to a hard-hit community in my district, and I would like to thank the conferees for including it. In Warrenton, Oregon, the Hammond Marina has long been operated by the City of Warrenton, but the land on which it sits is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers. House and Senate conferees agreed to include language conveying ownership of this land to the city. This has been a priority for the City of Warrenton, which is prepared to improve the marina at Hammond Basin, a project that will benefit the economy of Oregon's North Coast. It will come at no cost to the federal government, and represents another provision of this bill that will help my constituents and, importantly, support economic growth in coastal Oregon.

Another key provision of this conference report, authored by my Oregon colleague Senator JEFF MERKLEY, is the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority (WIFIA) pilot project. This program will provide low-cost financing to state and local governments—along with tribes, corporations, and others—to undertake low-cost water infrastructure improvement projects. This proposal is widely supported by my constituents and groups across Oregon, from the Building Trades to the utility districts, and I applaud the conference committee for including it in this report.

I still have concerns about environmental review provisions in the conference report, and I will continue to advocate for improvements that my colleagues and I tried to make by amendment when this bill was considered on the House floor. Attributing permitting backlogs to the environmental review process ignores the funding challenges that have beset the Army Corps in recent years, as Congress has repeatedly failed to provide adequate funding for the review of all necessary projects. Though more can be done to improve that section, the conference report includes compromise environmental review language from the bill that is preferable to the House version, and I am glad to see that change.

The conference report before us today is a positive step toward robust, bipartisan investment in infrastructure development. This must be done to keep our country competitive and keep our goods moving efficiently on our waterways, and to protect habitat from the impacts of increased trade and transport. I thank the Committee Chairmen and Ranking Members for their hard work to pass a strong bipar-

tisan bill and urge my colleagues to support final passage.

HONORING 22 TEACHERS FROM
BOCA RATON SELECTED AS
TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of 22 outstanding teachers from my district who have been selected Teachers of the Year. Through their incredible devotion to their students, these exemplary teachers have displayed a level of commitment to public service that can be admired by all.

The Teacher of the Year Award is presented to teachers who have been recognized by their principals for excellence in teaching. These teachers not only excite their students in the classroom but help them make connections to the real world and prepare them to move forward successfully in their education. As a parent and a public servant, I understand the need for a commitment to a globally competitive education for all of our nation's children.

Congratulations to District 5 Teachers of the Year Agnes Nemeth, Jasmin Deboo, Rachel Bennett, Bethany Garena, Allison Bradley, Fara Krinsky, Sue Mochtak-Heller, Katie Schmidt, Marisa Schweder, Twila Saupe, Renee Frias, Nora Buck, Evelyn Temple, Nirmala Arunachalam, Sue White, Michelle Gunning, Charles (Kevin Turner), Allison Lazarus, Judith Schachleiter, Bonnie Sonenson, Maria Aparicio, and Lisa Finn. I am proud to honor them as a sign of my appreciation for these outstanding teachers and the countless other dedicated teachers across the country. I hope that they can continue to inspire South Floridians to live by their example.

HONORING EDWARD C. KIERNAN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Edward C. Kiernan on the occasion of his retirement after more than 45 years in the radio business, including more than two decades as the longtime head of WBAL Radio and 98 Rock in Baltimore.

Under his leadership, WBAL has become one of the most honored stations in the country. During his tenure, it has become the market's longtime talk news leader as well as the recipient of numerous Associated Press and Edward R. Murrow Awards. Mr. Kiernan has helped expand the station's web and mobile presence and secured media rights to Baltimore Orioles, Ravens and Navy football games. In fact, he won back Orioles rights in 2011 after a 4-year run on a competing station.

An active industry leader, Mr. Kiernan has served as president of the Advertising Association of Baltimore, as a board member of the Baltimore Radio Association and as chair of

the Federal Emergency Broadcast System for the State of Maryland.

Mr. Kiernan also has a passion for his community, and his civic and charitable efforts are too numerous to list in their entirety. He has served on the boards of the Baltimore Bicentennial Committee and the Partnership for a Drug Free Maryland. He is on the Visitors Board of the University of Maryland Children's Hospital, is a member of the Life Board of the American Red Cross, the Leadership Council of Johns Hopkins Bayview Hospital, the Board of Directors for the Hampden Family Center and a supporter of Our Daily Bread.

He oversaw the WBAL Radio Kids Campaign, of which every dollar benefits underprivileged children in the listening area. The effort has earned WBAL the National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation "Service to Children Radio Award."

Prior to his time in Baltimore, Mr. Kiernan spent 17 years as Vice President and General Manager of WCBS Newsradio 88 in New York, where he worked to acquire rights to New York Jets football games and launched two new political programs. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University and holds an honorary doctorate from St. John's University.

I have considered Mr. Kiernan a friend and colleague for many years. I know him to be a hard worker with a great sense of humor and commitment to our city. It is with great pride that I congratulate him on his retirement and wish him continued success and happiness in the next chapter of his life.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN ON THE 96TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF REPUBLIC DAY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 96th anniversary of Republic Day on May 28th.

Azerbaijan and the United States have developed a robust and growing relationship over the last two decades. Today we remain indispensable friends, which is an asset as we face many common challenges.

Although located in a geopolitically tough location between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan has consistently looked to the United States as an ally despite these difficult neighbors. A secular country with a predominantly Muslim population, Azerbaijan has also been home to vibrant Christian and Jewish communities representing a role model for peaceful coexistence and harmony of different religions and ethnic groups. It is remarkable that Azerbaijan provides roughly 40 percent of Israel's oil consumption. Azerbaijan's relations with Israel can serve as a model for many countries.

Azerbaijan was also the first country to open Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. and European companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project, supported by successive U.S. Administrations, is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region. Currently Azerbaijan plays a leading role in opening up the Southern Gas