

IN HONOR OF INFINEUM'S LINDEN TECHNOLOGY CENTER FOR BEING NAMED AN OSHA VPP STAR SITE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Infineum's Linden Technology Center for being awarded the star site status by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration under its Voluntary Protection Program.

A distinguished petroleum additives company, Infineum has continued to lead the way in employee health and safety. It has been an active force, committed to improving the quality of life for its employees and for the residents of the City of Linden and the State of New Jersey.

Because of its dedication to achieving the utmost in safety regulations for its employees, Infineum's Linden Technology Center's program is one of the most comprehensive safety programs in the country. In fact, Infineum has voluntarily set the highest standards for safety and health at its facilities around the world.

The OSHA Star, one of the highest honors awarded by the department, hails businesses that not only comply with OSHA's strict health and safety guidelines but also strive to surpass them through additional self-imposed restrictions. This year, the Linden Technology Center has achieved this level of excellence and is recognized as an OSHA star site.

For its continued efforts in, and dedication to, occupational safety, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Infineum's Linden Technology Center, its management team, and all of its employees on being named an OSHA star site.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY NEILSEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a truly incredible woman. For the last two years, Dorothy Neilsen has embodied a true spirit of charity. In 1997, she began to use her vacation time from her job in Aspen, Colorado, to visit Cimpulung, Romania. These were not, however, pleasure trips. She went to give any assistance that she could offer to the eight to eighteen month old infants and children who had been orphaned by the tragedies occurring in their country. Before she left, Dorothy also spent months of her spare time collecting donations of clothing, toys, and medicines.

Though she had to endure difficult living conditions, Dorothy was not daunted. She continued to work with the children and many of them blossomed in her care. She was dubbed "the angel" of the orphans by the agency that arranged her volunteer position. Dorothy also began to teach the workers at the orphanage about the positive effects that

direct interaction, such as hugging and play, had on the children.

On her second month long trip to Romania she continued to work to better the lives of these children. She also caught typhoid fever which caused her to spend several weeks in bed recovering upon her return to the United States. However, even this did not deter her from planning a third trip to Romania. This trip, like the first two, were successes both for Dorothy and the children she went to help.

Mr. Speaker, few people are as selfless and giving as Dorothy Neilsen. She has volunteered a great deal of both her time and energy to children who have very little else in their lives. She has given hope to children in what would seem to be a hopeless situation. She has shown herself to be part of a rare breed. I feel that, as her fellow citizens, we own her a great debt of gratitude.

MICROENTERPRISES AROUND THE WORLD

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to laud the success of Microenterprises Around the World and in the United States as incorporated in H.R. 413, The PRIME ACT.

In the last decade, microenterprise development has changed the way that we think about the alleviation of poverty. Before our encounter with microenterprise, far too many of us were mired in the belief of the intractability of poverty and the similar impression that the poor are little able to help themselves. With respect to small business and financial services especially, some allowed themselves to fall prey to the misconception that, with so many other concerns to which to tend, it certainly would not be possible for the poor to save or to appropriately access financial services, much less to start and run their own businesses.

Thanks to the stunning successes of microenterprise around the world, these myths have been exploded. Today, millions of low-income people around the globe have taken a little bit of capital and used it as a springboard to transform their lives and those of their families. Women especially have used microenterprise to change their lives for the better.

The lesson of all of this is that the poor, like everyone, have the desire to build and to grow, but that their access to the same services and advantages that many of us take for granted is extremely limited. Again, it is not a lack of desire, but a lack of access that has damaged the lives of low-income people around the world. When given the opportunity and similar access, the results are clear. Microenterprise has been a stunning success indeed.

Armed with numerous success stories from around the world, we now have an opportunity to apply them at home as well. This spring the Banking Committee heard testimony from microentrepreneurs, from researchers, and from those working in the field. The message was simple and clear. Microenterprise can, and does, work in the United States as well.

However, we also heard a clarion call for different services and support. Foremost among them was the deep conviction among those in the field of business training and providing technical assistance. Particularly for very low-income entrepreneurs, this training and technical assistance is the vital ingredient that can mean the difference between success and failure, between economic security and a fear of what the next day might bring, between food on the table for the children and another night of hunger.

But the field of microenterprise needs our support. We also learned in the hearings that this money for critical business training and financial technical assistance is very difficult to come by. H.R. 413, the Program for Investment in Microentrepreneurs, would appropriate money to provide this assistance to those hard-working individuals who are most in need of it. This Congress is in a position to give the field a much-needed boost. And all indications are that there are many here in the House of Representatives who want very much to do this. But H.R. 413 is a modest bill and with so much work to do over the next month, I worry that it will get lost in the fray of all that remains to be done.

And so I implore my colleagues today. Let us not allow modest, but absolutely important legislation like H.R. 413 be forgotten as we proceed in this Congress. Let us work together to pass H.R. 413 this year, and to provide immediate funding for it. This is an investment with returns, but only if we take the time to capitalize on it.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my thoughts on a serious human rights issue. On July 16, 1999, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus held a hearing on the human rights situation in Kazakhstan. I attended the hearing and was moved by the testimony of witnesses before the Caucus. I would like to take this opportunity to share the following remarks, which I made at the hearing, with all of my colleagues.

The Congressional Human Rights Caucus is deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Kazakhstan and has called this briefing today to take a closer look at recent developments.

I am chairing this briefing on behalf of my colleagues, the Honorable TOM LANTOS of California and the Honorable JOHN PORTER of Illinois, the co-chairs and founders of the Human Rights Caucus. Both men are not able to attend this morning but that should not be taken as any indication that they do not take this matter seriously. The Caucus has for more than two decades been the leading voice in the United States Congress on the protection of human rights, civil liberties and basic freedom around the world. No one is exempt from our scrutiny or our concern.

Kazakhstan is a former Soviet Republic that held great promise early in this decade for