

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIOMASS
ENERGY EQUITY ACT OF 1999

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague, Mr. MATSUI, and our cosponsors—Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. CAMP, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. WELLER, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. THOMAS—to announce the introduction of H.R. 1731, The Biomass Energy Equity Act of 1999, legislation that will help sustain the economic and environmental benefits provided to the public by the biomass power industry in the United States. This bill is a new and improved version of H.R. 4407 that we introduced in the 105th Congress. Also, I am pleased to announce that a companion bill, S. 984, has been introduced in the Senate by Senators COLLINS and BOXER.

The biomass power industry is a unique source of renewable electricity. It generates electricity by combusting wood waste and other nonhazardous, organic materials under environmentally controlled conditions as an alternative to disposal or open-incineration of these materials. In effect, the biomass power industry makes constructive use of waste materials that would otherwise become a public liability.

Mr. Speaker, the organic materials used as fuel by this industry are gathered from the agricultural and forest-related sectors of our economy and from our urban waste streams. In addition to the jobs that are generated by this activity, a range of quantifiable benefits arise: the risk and severity of forest fires is diminished, air pollution from open burning of agricultural residues is avoided, and landfill space is preserved. In the absence of this \$7 billion per year industry, the nation would face a series of negative consequences above and beyond the loss of the renewable electricity itself.

Congress recognized the importance of the biomass power industry when it enacted a biomass energy production tax credit in 1992. Unfortunately, the production tax credit provided by this code section—due to expire this year—has never been accessible to the biomass power industry due to excessively narrow drafting. Our legislation corrects this defect in order to recognize and retain the public benefits, including the national security and system reliability benefits, of this important industry.

Mr. Speaker, when I introduced this bill last year I truly believed that this is a “good government” issue whose clear merits and environmental benefits transcend partisan and regional politics. Today, as I reintroduce the Biomass Energy Equity Act, I remain convinced of the merits of the proposal, and I would urge all of my colleagues—on both sides of the

aisle—to cosponsor this important and much-needed legislation.

ADDRESS OF THE HONORABLE
MILES LERMAN AT THE NA-
TIONAL CIVIC COMMEMORATION
OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 13, Members of Congress joined with representatives of the diplomatic corps, executive and judicial branch officials, and Holocaust survivors and their families to commemorate the National Days of Remembrance in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol.

The ceremony coincided with the 60th anniversary of the voyage of the SS *St. Louis*, which set sail from Germany in April 1939, carrying more than 900 Jews away from Nazi terror. Denied entry to both Cuba and the United States, the *St. Louis* was forced to send its frightened passengers back to Europe just months before the onset of World War II. Many of them were eventually murdered in Auschwitz, Treblinka, and the other death camps of Hitler's Holocaust.

While we cannot rectify the wrongs of generations ago, we can apply the lesson of the *St. Louis* to the crises of today. In the Europe of 1999, innocent civilians are once again being deported, abused, raped and murdered. While the scale of Serbian atrocities in Kosovo does not approach the enormity of the Holocaust, the precedent that would be set by ignoring this ethnic cleansing cannot be tolerated.

Miles Lerman, the Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council since 1993, eloquently expressed the moral cost of inaction at the Days of Remembrance ceremony. “As we remember the victims of the *St. Louis* and all of the eventual victims of the Holocaust, we have a better understanding why we are in Kosovo and why the free world cannot afford to stand with their hands folded while murder and mass atrocities run rampant. This is a lesson that the world has learned in the past and cannot afford to forget.”

In addition to his responsibilities with the Holocaust Memorial Council, Miles Lerman serves as a member of the Advisory Board of the President's Commission on the Holocaust. Prior to his appointment to lead the Council, Mr. Lerman directed its International Relations Committee and served as National Chairman of the Campaign to Remember. During the Holocaust, he fought as a partisan in the forests of southern Poland. He and his wife, Chris, a survivor of Auschwitz, rebuilt their lives in the United States. They have two children.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the full text of Mr. Lerman's address to the Days of Remembrance ceremony to be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

REMARKS BY MILES LERMAN, DAYS OF
REMEMBRANCE

The greatness of the United States of America rests on the fact that America and its people have the courage to acknowledge its mistakes of the past and draw lessons for the future. This virtue is reflected in today's program.

The theme of today's commemoration is to remember the *St. Louis*, a ship with more than 900 Jewish refugees who were promised safe harbor in Cuba but as the ship approached Havana, their entry visas were rejected. The desperate pleas of the passengers not to be sent back to Germany and to be granted temporary entry to the United States fell on deaf ears.

When all pleas were exhausted, the *St. Louis* with its passengers had to return to Europe where many of them eventually perished in the Holocaust.

Very few countries in the World would lend their national rotunda to recall a moment in their nation's history, which should have been different than it was.

This is what makes America the great country that it is because it understands that nations must have the strength to come to terms with their own history.

America clearly understands that if it is to be the world leader among nations, it must lead the way in acknowledging its own shortcomings. It must be the first among nations to acknowledge the fact that standing by idly while genocidal crimes are being committed, is tantamount to being a partner to these crimes.

When we look back to the early years of Hitler's rise to power, it becomes clear that had the leaders of the Western nations of those days been more decisive in their actions, the outcome of history could have been quite different.

These are facts that the world can never forget.

Remembering the tragic lessons of the past can only have meaning if we apply these lessons to today and to the future.

It is encouraging to know that our nation remembers the wrongs of yesteryear and is leading the way in finding solutions to injustices that have been lingering on for over 50 years.

Last December, the State Department jointly with the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, co-chaired an International Conference on Holocaust-era assets.

Forty-four nations participated in this Conference, which produced very encouraging results. These results can be attributed to the fact that the U.S. Government has set the tone by creating a Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States. This Commission was charged by the President to explore whether all U.S. agencies have acted judiciously regarding the restitution of all Nazi-era assets to the rightful owners.

This Presidential Commission is hard at work to ensure that just and legal procedures will be applied to all cases at hand and

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

will not rest until a proper resolution is found.

However, it is essential that we bear in mind that no matter how important it is to deal with the material issues and find a way to compensate the rightful owners for what is justly theirs, the last word on the Holocaust cannot be bank accounts or insurance policies.

The last word on the Holocaust must be remembrance and an ongoing process of Holocaust education.

We must create a global educational initiative—a process that will serve as a lesson and a warning to future generations to the dangers of racism, xenophobia and indifference.

The Holocaust Memorial Museum and its Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies stands ready to lend its expertise in this field and we hope to be one of the leading factors in implementing a worldwide educational network on all levels, ranging from middle schools to graduate schools.

So as America remembers the *St. Louis*, America is saying to the world, we too are not totally free of some guilt. In the early years, we had an opportunity to set examples, which we did not set.

These are facts from which we must draw lessons for the future.

We remember this unfortunate event of sixty years ago, not for the purpose of chastising ourselves but to learn from it. If we want a better world for tomorrow, we must look back and remember the past. Today, as we remember the victims of the *St. Louis* and all of the eventual victims of the Holocaust, we have a better understanding why we are in Kosovo and why the free world cannot afford to stand with their hands folded while murder and mass atrocities run rampant. This is a lesson that the world has learned in the past and cannot afford to forget.

CONGRATULATING GARRET
DYKHOUSE ON HIS SERVICE TO
THE CHRISTIAN HEALTH CARE
CENTER

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Garret Dykhouse on his nine years of service as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Christian Health Care Center in Wyckoff, New Jersey. Gary, as he is known to his countless friends, is one of the most dedicated public individuals in the field of health care. He is stepping down after serving the past four years as chairman of the board. His inspirational leadership will be missed, but his many accomplishments will never be forgotten.

The Christian Health Care Center is a not-for-profit organization that has been serving the elderly and mentally ill for the past 88 years. Mr. Dykhouse has led the center in maintaining the highest level of devotion to the provision of quality care to the center's patients. Guiding a joint effort of the governing body and staff, he developed a comprehensive mission and vision statement that will guide the center into the next century. His efforts have allowed the center to continue to grow and expand its ability to assist the most

vulnerable individuals among the elderly and mentally ill in the communities the center serves.

In addition to the intangible qualities of leadership, Mr. Dykhouse has supervised the creation of a number of very real, "bricks and mortar" projects for the center. Among them have been Evergreen Court, a 40-unit supportive housing facility for low and moderate income seniors; Southgate, a specialized long-term care program for adult dementia patients who require more care than a nursing home can provide but do not need to be in a psychiatric hospital; and the soon-to-open The Longview, the first non-profit assisted living residence in Bergen County. In addition, the center's Heritage Manor nursing home has received a perfect score from the state Department of Health and Senior Services, while the Ramapo Ridge Psychiatric Hospital has seen its accreditation rise to the level of "accreditation with commendation." It is important to note that all of these accomplishments have come while Mr. Dykhouse has served above and beyond the call of duty as a member of the Board of Trustees.

In addition to his work at the Christian Health Care Center, Mr. Dykhouse and his wife, Raeann, are long-standing volunteers with the American Red Cross. Mrs. Dykhouse's work with the Red Cross began in 1984 in response to a call for volunteers to aid flood victims in Wayne. Five years later, both she and Mr. Dykhouse officially enlisted in the National Disaster Program. They regularly travel to the sites of natural disasters throughout New Jersey and across the United States to assist with relief efforts—including fires, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes and ice storms—often for weeks at a time. In fact, they were honored earlier this month as "Outstanding Community Volunteers" by the Bergen Crossroads Chapter of the Red Cross.

Mr. and Mrs. Dykhouse have also been members of the Wyckoff Volunteer Ambulance Corps, holding every officer's position in the corps between the two of them. They are very active members of Faith Community Christian Reformed Church in Wyckoff. Mr. Dykhouse has also been a member of the Board at the Eastern Children's Retreat in Wyckoff and the Eastern Christian School Association in North Haledon.

Aside from his volunteer activities, Mr. Dykhouse spent 41 years with the Royal Insurance Co. before his retirement in 1989 as a top executive. He is a graduate of the College of Insurance in New York, and taught insurance both there and at Seton Hall University. He is a former chairman of the Inland Marine Underwriters Association and a member of numerous other insurance trade associations. He and Mrs. Dykhouse have three sons, David, Larry and Tom, and 11 grandchildren.

Mr. Dykhouse is truly an inspiring example of volunteer efforts that are totally unselfish and completely devoted to improving the lives of others. Mr. Dykhouse lives his life in a manner that reflects his obedience to the Lord's command to "love your neighbor as you love yourself." I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in offering our thanks and congratulations to this extraordinary gentleman.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GORDON
MURCHIE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 1998 Virginia Wine Industry Person of the Year, Gordon Murchie. This honor was bestowed upon Mr. Murchie by the Virginia Winegrowers Advisory Board. Murchie holds several key positions including the Presidency of the Vinifera Wine Growers Association and the Executive Director position for the Licensed Beverage Information Council. Murchie tirelessly promotes the Virginia wine industry around the world. He is only the second East Coast wine industry individual to ever receive the coveted ranking of Supreme Knight by the Brotherhood of the Knights of the Vine. He organizes and manages many state and regional wine events including the Annual Virginia Wine Competition and festival in Northern Virginia which is one of the oldest running wine festivals on the East Coast.

Murchie regularly conducts wine tasting of award-winning Virginia wines in California and other locations for wine enthusiasts and trade people. He also has conducted similar wine presentations at major U.S. Chamber of Commerce meetings and at U.S. Congressional receptions.

As the former Executive Director of the National Wine Coalition, trade association umbrella for the U.S. wine industry, he served as an industry liaison and lobbyist during four sessions of the U.S. Congress, as well as organizing the first nationwide wine issues forum focusing on health and wine which contributed to the overall industry effort to gain national recognition of the potential health benefits of responsible, moderate consumption.

"Gordon's contributions to the Virginia wine industry has been invaluable," said Virginia Winegrowers Advisory Board Chairman Doug Flemer. "Our industry is fortunate to have such an individual with his expertise and experience working on our behalf," added Flemer.

Additionally, Murchie serves as a wine consultant and provides guidance and advice to Virginia wineries. He also acts as consultant for the very successful Mount Vernon wine festival, now in its third year.

He is nationally considered an authority on many subjects relating to wine and is a frequent guest lecturer for groups on topics such as "The History of the Virginia Wine Industry." Murchie is often selected to lead U.S. viticulture and enology delegations to international wine growing regions such as the People's Republic of China, South Africa, Australia, Argentina and Chile.

Given Murchie's extensive U.S. Foreign Service background and his experience in international diplomacy, it is natural that he has chosen to pursue the Jeffersonian dream of promoting an American wine industry.

The Virginia Wine Industry Person of the Year award annually recognizes outstanding contributions to the industry. This year's award was presented to Murchie at the Virginia Wine Honors at the Library of Virginia in downtown Richmond.