

THE ADMINISTRATION'S HARBOR
SERVICES FUND ACT OF 1999

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce by request the Administration's Harbor Services Fund Act of 1999 which provides a source of funding for the development, operation and maintenance of our Nation's harbors. This legislation establishes a fee that would be charged to commercial vessels for the services provided at ports within the United States. Generally, these services are those provided by the Army Corps of Engineers in their maintenance dredging program and in their construction of new navigation channels.

This bill also repeals the Harbor Maintenance Tax that has served as a source of funding for maintenance activities since 1986. It also transfers the surplus in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to a new fund where it could be spent for intended services. Last year the Supreme Court ruled that this tax, as it applies to exports, is unconstitutional. The intent of the Administration's bill is to structure a revenue mechanism to meet the constitutional test for a user fee and to prevent a large surplus from developing in the fund.

The Administration's bill raises a number of significant questions and issues. Predictably, this controversial proposal has raised concerns among those who would pay—either directly or indirectly—the new fee. One common principle shared by both proponents and opponents of the bill, however, is the need to find a replacement to finance port infrastructure needs.

Our Nation's ports are a vital link in our intermodal transportation network that is the foundation of our competitiveness in international trade and our economic well-being. Our deep draft ports move over 95% of US trade by weight, and 75% by value. International trade accounts for \$2.3 trillion, or 30% of our Gross Domestic Product. Addressing the question of how to fund the Federal cost of maintaining and improving our harbors is an important part of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's business this year.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee intends to explore this proposal and others over the next several months. We will be working with the Administration, ports, shippers, carriers and others in order to develop a fair and dependable source of funding for this important Federal function.

A TRIBUTE TO PIETER
BOELHOUWER

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pieter Boelhouwer of Wethersfield, CT, a distinguished 1998–99 White House Fellow.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

For nearly three decades, the White House Fellowship Program has honored and employed the talents of outstanding citizens who have demonstrated excellence in academics, community service, leadership, and professional achievement. Each year there are between 500 and 800 applicants nationwide for 11 to 19 fellowships. White House Fellows are chosen on the merit of remarkable achievement early in their career and the evidence of growth potential. It is the country's most prestigious fellowship for public service leadership development.

As a White House Fellow, Mr. Boelhouwer works in the Office of the Vice President. In this capacity, he focuses on domestic policy issues such as Social Security reform, domestic impact of foreign trade, creating livable communities, agriculture and transportation issues. He has also had the unique opportunity to meet and work with America's leaders in the private, public and non-profit sectors as part of his White House Fellowship curriculum.

Mr. Boelhouwer earned a bachelor's degree in history, Phi Beta Kappa, from Trinity College and a JD from Yale Law School. He is a management consultant with McKinsey & Co., where he has designed an innovative approach to connecting schools to homes via the Internet to improve children's education. Prior to joining McKinsey & Co., he served as a legislative aide in the U.S. Senate, where he developed and drafted legislation creating the National Civilian Community Corps, a resident service program passed as part of President Clinton's AmeriCorps bill. Mr. Boelhouwer's community involvement is quite extensive. Most notably, he originated and led a probono project to help the President's Summit for America's Future design its plan to reach the nation's communities. In addition, he created and wrote a guidebook, published by America's Promise, to help neighborhoods and communities around the country develop their own local action plans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in commending Pieter Boelhouwer for his service as a White House Fellow and for his distinguished leadership in civic and community endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RODNEY GRAHAM
AND AKILAH HUGINE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two of my constituents in the Sixth Congressional District of South Carolina, Rodney K. Graham and Akilah L. Hugine. These two exceptional young people have been selected to participate in the 1999 NASA Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program (SHARP) PLUS.

The SHARP PLUS program is sponsored by NASA and the Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network. They are 2 of 300 high school students who will be participating in this summer's program. Rodney and Akilah were chosen from over 1,200 applicants representing 195 high schools in 34 states, the

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District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Since the 6 years the SHARP PLUS program has been in existence, it has provided almost 1,500 summer research apprenticeships to rising high school juniors and seniors interested in mathematics, science, engineering, and technology. Although Rodney and Akilah were chosen based on their exceptional math and science skills, they have not had the opportunity to apply this knowledge in a research environment. The SHARP PLUS program will give them the opportunity to work with professional research scientists and engineers in university and industry settings. They will be working on research projects and presenting papers based on their findings at the end of the program.

Mr. Speaker, I commend NASA and the QEM Network for this outstanding program, and I ask you to join me in expressing my most sincere congratulations and best wishes to Rodney K. Graham and Akilah L. Hugine from South Carolina for being selected for the 1999 NASA Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SAN MANUEL
BAND OF MISSION INDIANS AND
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride that I rise today to pay tribute to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the U.S. Department of Commerce on the occasion of the opening of the newest associate office of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service on June 4th, 1999.

This joint venture marks the first time that the Department of Commerce has opened an office of this nature on tribal lands. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the Department of Commerce are forging a new path for future expansion of these types of programs to other tribes. It is my hope that more agencies will follow this path and work with all tribal governments to open new offices on tribal lands. Future expansion of United States government agencies on these lands not only helps tribal governments, but also benefits local communities, and can help foster more interaction between a tribe and the community around it.

The purpose of the Foreign Commercial Service is to support U.S. commercial interests by increasing sales and market shares of domestic companies in overseas markets. The San Manuels, by bringing this agency to their tribal lands, have given all local businesses an advantage in increasing their sales and the local workforce, by increasing the avenues for locating new customers overseas.

By locating the offices at the San Bernardino International Trade Center, which is located at the former Norton Air Force Base, I see an even greater opportunity for new local business. Not only can entrepreneurs get help in opening new ventures by