

unable to afford such inputs. In the meantime, the heavy use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides generated resistant pests and degraded the fertility of the soil, undermining the very basis for future production.

The growing use of patents to "protect" biotechnology innovations also threatens subsistence farmers in the developing world and could exacerbate hunger. Patents have been taken out on plants, animals, bacteria as well as genes, cells and body parts. Sanctioned and imposed by the global trading system, this "commodification of life" has allowed multinational companies to patent staple crops in developing countries such as yellow beans in Mexico, South Asian basmati rice as well as medicinal herbs, livestock and marine species. Such a predatory system threatens to enable companies to maximize their control over farming processes and the world's food resources.

Landmark studies are showing that traditional farming methods, including multi-cropping and small scale techniques are proving to be just as effective in producing high yields as conventional farming. Most recently, in one of the largest agricultural experiments ever, thousands of rice farmers in China were able to double the yields of their crops simply by planting a mixture of two different rices—a practice that did not require using chemical treatments or investing any new capital. Clearly, these types of farming methods are suited to local needs and ecosystems. They will protect the environment and increase an affordable food supply. Biotechnology, however, will likely repeat the failure of the Green Revolution's fertilizers and pesticides. Biotech will not solve the problem of world hunger but may exacerbate it.

HONORING BRUCE S. HASLAM

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Lieutenant Bruce S. Haslam, who is retiring after 26 years from the Abington Township Police Department in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Lt. Haslam began his career in law enforcement as a Patrol Officer and moved up the ranks to Detective Lieutenant. He has been involved in many programs throughout his tenure and the community has benefited greatly from his service.

Lt. Haslam developed and implemented one of the first Officer Street Survival programs in the region. He has been involved in the Abington Police D.A.R.E. program from its inception. Today, the D.A.R.E. program is taught in all Abington schools.

Helping victims of domestic violence has been a priority for Lt. Haslam. He coordinated domestic violence issues for the department by working with state and county agencies to combat this abuse.

Lt. Haslam served the larger community as well. He was in active duty in the United States Army and is now a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. He participated in special as-

signments in Haiti in 1994 and returned to service in Bosnia from 1998–1999.

It is an honor and privilege to recognize Lt. Bruce Haslam as he retires from the Abington Township Police Department. I congratulate him on 26 years of extraordinary service to the people of Abington and the United States of America.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO DEFEND AMERICAN JUDGMENT AND FREEDOM

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I submit legislation to save Americans' opportunities and to embrace Americans' judgment and freedom. This legislation defends the people's right to fully participate in government and to retain some measure of control over our own lives against this insatiable Administration, ever seeking greater powers over us, the people.

My bill extends the public comment period on the flawed regulatory proposals pertaining to clothes washers, air conditioners and heat pumps. I am proud that a bipartisan group of fifteen esteemed colleagues join with me as original cosponsors of the bill. The bill will ensure that the voice of America's working people is heard.

The special interests left the American consumers and taxpayers out of the backroom scam. The American family and the working people are being asked to bear the burden of these proposed regulations.

The average American family is not yet aware of the proposed mandate. They have not been informed of the cost they will be asked to shoulder—over one thousand dollars in total per household according to the scant government estimates. They have not been told of the loss of consumer choice that these intrusive regulations would entail.

Today's struggle hits American families where we live, in our homes.

1. The proposed mandate would hurt working Americans by severely limiting our options of clothes washers, air conditioning, and heat pumps.

2. Worse yet, the proposed mandate would force us against our will to buy products that we refuse to buy.

3. It gets still worse—we will have to pay hundreds of dollars more per product—paying as much as five times the cost of the product we currently select.

4. It gets even worse—the special interest groups know and have publicly stated that they know the American people don't want these products.

5. No, we're not done yet. The special interest groups themselves wrote the mandate!

6. Consumers and taxpayers were not represented.

7. In a backroom scam to benefit themselves, the special interest groups took an oath to work together purposefully to the detriment of consumer selection and to subjugate the will of the people.

8. Is there no end to the hypocrisy? A key part of the scam includes taking hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars over and above taking hundreds of millions of consumer dollars. That's right—the scam includes 60 million dollars per manufacturer in tax breaks over and above the hundreds of millions of dollars per manufacturer in increased revenue forcibly taken from the purchasers in sales of the products.

9. Worse yet, the U.S. government colluded with the special interests and the U.S. Department of Energy has rubber stamped the mandate that the special interests concocted.

10. On top of all that, taxpayer dollars are being used in egregious public relations for the mandate against the people's will. Specifically, our tax dollars are being used for a free country/western music concert series to promote the mandate. Also, our tax dollars are being used to give away free washing machines to the people in Bern, Kansas, and Reading, Massachusetts as a promotion for the mandate.

Americans are not able to respond without additional time over and above the absolute minimum 60 days allowed by law. American working families are not equipped to read the voluminous and tediously technical Federal Register each day. In contrast, the special interest groups have fleets of lobbyists and computers and lawyers to comb through and analyze on a daily basis the regulatory proposals that affect them. The special interest groups exploit the disparity to tread on the will of the people. Well, sixteen of us Members of Congress have already taken up the "Don't Tread on Me" flag and more will join us.

A real issue here is the rush to regulate. Secretary Bill Richardson stated the Department is "on a rush to establish a . . . legacy." The Department has done the absolute minimum it can to allow the people's voice to be heard by setting the minimum comment period of 60 days. The Department has given Congress virtually no time to act, just proposing the regulation on October 5, 2000. We the people deserve more time than the minimum to defend our will.

This situation is exactly the type in which more time for people's comments is in order. All the elements for a comment extension are present here:

1. Virtually all American families are affected by the mandate;

2. The burden of regulations affects the American people so directly;

3. The inclination of the American people is thwarted by the mandate;

4. These mandated products are available now and people, as a rule, refuse to purchase them;

5. The cost increase of the mandate is so high, more than doubling the cost in many cases;

6. A last-minute rush to regulate has been admitted by the Secretary;

7. Having stated on May 23, 2000, that the rule would be proposed in June of 2000, the Department of Energy is grossly behind schedule with an October 5, 2000 publishing of the proposal;

8. Working Americans should not suffer as a result of gross bureaucratic delays and ineptitude, thus we Americans should not have our

comment limited as a result of bureaucrats rushing to make up for their administrative problems and errors; and

9. American families do not have the luxury to read the Federal Register daily.

We are here to represent Americans' interests in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

When it comes to clothes washers, these regulations will impact the vast majority of households in America—over 81 million households. The Administration's own analyses show that millions of consumers will never be able to recoup the higher cost. Low-income households, households with fewer occupants—such as senior citizens living alone—who use washers less frequently, and those households in areas where energy costs are disproportionately harmed.

Purchasing a new washer, air conditioner or heat pump for one's home or apartment is not a trivial matter. Several hundred dollars must be parted with, typically with little if any ability to plan for such a large expenditure. Now the Administration is making such a purchase much more expensive and in the process eliminating consumer choice. Even according to the most favorable determinations, the cost of a new washing machine will increase by at least an extra \$240. In viewing available costs for front-loading machines, that number appears quite low. Several of the front loading machines are actually twice the cost of a standard top-loader and in some instances cost over \$1000. When it comes to new air conditioners and heat pumps, the added initial costs are estimated to be at least \$274 and \$486 respectively. Keep in mind that these products are available now and the people refuse, as a rule, to purchase them.

Apart from the higher cost and reduced freedom of choice, the Administration has not been fair to consumers and taxpayers during the development of the standards. DoE is supposed to disclose potential standards and impact analyses in a public process. Instead it bases its regulatory decisions on proposals submitted by special interest groups meeting in backrooms. Persons and groups who normally would speak to and defend the interests of consumers and taxpayers, and who have in years past been invited to participate, have been excluded.

Under the clothes washer standards, the agreement reached by the special interest groups and submitted to DoE on July 27, 2000 demonstrates that the interests of consumers and taxpayers are not represented. Not only would the proposed standards impose huge additional costs, but also the "joint stakeholders" have proposed and agreed to lobby jointly for massive new tax credits for appliance manufacturers for each energy-efficient appliance that they produce. Up to \$100 per new unit manufactured with a cumulative of up to \$60 million per manufacturer. This new tax shelter for appliance manufacturers means that the U.S. taxpayer carries an even larger share of the federal tax burden in addition to the higher appliance costs.

Congress must assure that consumers are protected against faulty Administration regulations. A public comment period of 120 days more is necessary, given that the public has been largely excluded from the rulemaking

process. This time will allow a thorough review and evaluation to be conducted and a proper determination as to whether consumers interests are being protected.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 585, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF DIANE JOHNSON FOR HER PUBLIC SERVICE AND FOR HER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Diane Johnson, who has been a dedicated public servant, working tirelessly to implement housing programs and promote community development across the State of New Jersey.

As the housing director of Mt. Carmel Guild, Newark, Diane Johnson was responsible for publicly funded housing programs for low- and middle-income families, which placed over 150 families in jobs or training programs, enabling many families to purchase their first homes.

Mrs. Johnson has worked for the New Jersey Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) since 1972, during which time she has held a variety of leadership positions, such as director of the Housing Management Division, deputy office manager, and acting office manager.

In 1994, President Clinton appointed Mrs. Johnson as a HUD State Coordinator. Her duties included overseeing a staff of 126 employees, and administering HUD funds and \$300 million of HOPE VI grants. Mrs. Johnson also manages one of our Nation's largest housing and community development portfolios, and she is HUD's representative to New Jersey's congressional delegation, Governor, and State legislature.

Mrs. Johnson is the chairperson of the Federal Executive Board of Northern New Jersey; vice chair of St. James Prep School; vice chair of Newark Federal Kids-Care, Inc.; member of the board of trustees of the United Way of Essex & West Hudson; and member of the board of trustees for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

In recognition of her hard work and dedication at HUD and her community service, Diane Johnson has received many distinguished service award certificates, proclamations, and commendations from the New Jersey congressional delegation and a variety of State agencies, community groups, and professional associations.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Diane Johnson for her hard work at HUD, and for her years of service to the State

of New Jersey, where she has helped build houses, develop and revitalize communities, and change lives for the better.

TRIBUTE TO JAPANESE DIPLOMAT CHIUNE SUGIHARA, HONORED AT LAST IN JAPAN FOR SAVING LIVES OF JEWS DURING THE HOLOCAUST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on September 1, 1939—the day the Second World War began with the Nazi invasion of Poland—the government of Japan named Chiune Sugihara its consul in Lithuania. As the war progressed in its destruction and as the Nazi anti-Semites began their systematic extermination of Jews in Nazi-conquered territory, Sugihara was besieged by Jews seeking visas to flee the Nazi Holocaust.

After requesting authorization three times to issue Japanese visas to these victims of Nazi persecution and being rejected twice and ignored once, he disregarded his government's instructions and issued thousands of visas to Polish Jews. Mr. Sugihara signed visas day and night for thirty days. Thanks to these documents, many of the refugees were able to escape to Kobe, Japan, and from there were able to find refuge in other countries.

Not long after issuing these visas in Lithuania, Mr. Sugihara was assigned to serve in Germany. When he returned to Japan at the end of World War II, the Japanese government forced him to resign from the diplomatic service. He was told that this was because of "that incident in Lithuania." Mr. Sugihara died in 1986 at the age of 86 without ever being officially recognized for his outstanding humanitarian service by the government of Japan.

Outside Japan Chiune Sugihara has long been recognized as a hero. The government of Lithuania named a street in his honor. Israel has designated him a "Righteous Gentile." The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum here in Washington has presented a special exhibit paying tribute to his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month—at long last—the government of Japan acknowledged the true heroism of its own citizens. On the 100th anniversary of the birth of Chiune Sugihara and 14 years after his death. In a modest ceremony at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo, Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono apologized to Yukiko Sugihara, the widow of Chiune Sugihara: "Here we praise Chiune Sugihara's courageous and humanitarian act conducted in an extreme situation amid the Nazi persecution of Jews." He apologized to Mrs. Sugihara "for the long neglect" and promised that he would "see that his achievements are known to future generations."

On this occasion, the Foreign Minister unveiled a plaque honoring Mr. Sugihara. The copper plaque was placed on the wall of the Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Record Office in Tokyo, and it reads, in part: "A courageous diplomat of humanity. In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his birth."