

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