

Deal that many of the reforms championed by CLNJ became law. CLNJ was a founding member of the National Consumers League (NCL), and worked with NCL and unions to bring about change. CLNJ also took up the cause of the "watch-dial" radium poisoning of female workers in Essex County, New Jersey.

In the 1960s and 1970s, CLNJ leaders spoke out for consumer protection laws, credit laws, usury limits, and enforcement of minimum wage and child labor laws. They looked into supermarket prices. They also went to the fields to support migrant farm-workers. Rutgers University of New Jersey has considerable archives about the early and middle years of CLNJ history.

From 1985 onward CLNJ has fought for consumer rights and basic justice. For fifteen years they promoted lower interest rates by publicizing lower interest credit cards. They gave away tens of thousands of credit card pamphlets. CLNJ also lamented bank mergers, which resulted in fewer choices, higher prices for consumers and interest rates that never went down. In addition, CLNJ supported the Fair Lending Coalition. They also helped enact New Jersey's Basic Banking law.

From 1986-89, CLNJ's President was a member of the Federal Reserve Board's Consumer Advisory Council. The president opposed "checkhold" delays. The common ground discovered between CL and bankers proved to be the formula which Congress enacted into law: the Federal Reserve must process checks quicker, and banks must end the long holds. In addition, the president supported Truth in Savings, which was also enacted.

CLNJ fought against weakening New Jersey's Secondary Mortgage Loan Act. When the Legislature legalized abuses, less than one year later, CLNJ testified before the United States Senate in 1987 about home equity loans, or as CLNJ put it "charge a blouse, put a lien on your house." Congress banned what New Jersey had approved: the "rate rise surprise" (the power to change a home equity contract after you borrowed significant funds).

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the United States of America, the State of New Jersey and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of the Consumers League of New Jersey.

HONORING MICHAEL L. PESCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Brooklyn's finest residents, Michael L. Pesce, who was recognized last night at the First Tri Block Association's June meeting.

Michael L. Pesce was born in the small coastal town of Mola di Bari, Italy. He and his family immigrated to America when he was 12 years of age and settled in the Carroll Gardens section of Brooklyn. He attended local public schools and graduated from City College with a Bachelor's degree in Economics.

Justice Pesce received his J.D. Degree from Detroit College of Law in 1969 and was admitted to the bar in 1970. He began his career working for the Legal Aid Society in their Hunts Point, Bronx office, handling a wide range of civil matters.

In 1972, he was elected to the New York State Assembly, representing the 52nd Assembly District. Over the next eight years, he served on many committees, including Labor, Governmental Operations, and Higher Education, and served as Chair of the Special Assembly Committee on Ports and Terminals. During this period, he was also a partner in the firm of Pesce & Levine.

Justice Pesce was elected to the Civil Court in 1980, and was assigned to the Criminal Court, where he served for three years. He was designated an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court in 1984 and was elected to a full term in 1989 from Kings and Richmond Counties. In 1996, he was designated Administrative Judge for the 2nd Judicial District.

He has long been actively involved in Carroll Gardens and in the wider Italian-American community. Justice Pesce serves on the Board of Directors of Amico, Inc., and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Visiting Nurse Association of Brooklyn. In 1986, the Italian government granted Justice Pesce the title of "Cavaliere" (Order of Merit). Please join me in honoring Justice Michael L. Pesce, one of Brooklyn's finest.

RECOGNIZING THE MILFORD HIGH
"WE THE PEOPLE" TEAM

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the "We the People" team from Milford High School in Milford, New Hampshire. These outstanding young students recently won an award at the "We the People" national finals held in Washington, D.C. As you may know, the "We the People" mock hearings test student knowledge of the U.S. Constitution. The Milford students were recognized for their expertise on the following subject: How Did the Values and Principles Embodied in the Constitution Shape American Institutions and Practices? The dozen Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors competed against 50 other classes from throughout the nation. The team demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

I had the privilege to serve as a judge for this year's state competition to come to Washington for the national competition. It was apparent to me then that the Milford High School students had the knowledge, team-work, and enthusiasm necessary to successfully compete against 50 other classes from throughout the nation. These students can be proud of their award winning performance.

I was honored to have the team visit me here on Capitol Hill during their trip to Washington for the national competition. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the following students for their performance at the

national "We the People" competition: Adam Berger, Jon Butt, Jenn Catherine, Vanessa Chretien, Mike Gott, Keith Holt, Pam Murphy, David Norway, Mike Parisi, Abby Parker, Pete Phillips, and Ashley Standbridge.

HONORING MR. RYAN PATTERSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the accomplishments of an outstanding student, Ryan Patterson. His innovative mind has won him a parade of awards, most recently he has won top prize in the Colorado Science Fair. He also represented Colorado at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, in which he won almost \$10,000.

His outstanding invention rightfully called "Sleuthbot" is a computerized device schools can use to seek out bombs or suspicious individuals without getting put into harms way during a crisis. Mr. Patterson traveled to Detroit with 1,200 other students from 40 countries to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. His accolades from the competition are extensive, but most admirable is the \$250 and a paid internship he received from Axonne Corp. Mr. Patterson is a model for all students to follow and one that will be sure to achieve great things for the good of mankind. He has proven to be an asset to his school and community.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say congratulations to Ryan Patterson on a truly exceptional accomplishment. Due to his dedicated service and ingenuity, it is clear that Colorado is a better place.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2559,
AGRICULTURAL RISK PROTECTION
ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Agriculture Risk Protection Act (H.R. 2559) conference report. I commend Chairman COMBEST and Ranking Member STENHOLM for their efforts to craft comprehensive legislation which will help restore the safety net for agriculture producers.

Risk management tools such as crop or revenue insurance provide protection from yield or price declines within a growing and marketing season. Indeed statistics for North Carolina show that over the last ten years the number of acres insured has increased from 581,764 in 1988 to 2,844,524 in 1999. Participation is very high, with 82 percent of acres covered for tobacco, 83% of acres covered for peanuts, and 89% covered for cotton.

In 1999, \$131 million in liability was paid to North Carolina producers who suffered crop damages, first from drought and then from

three hurricanes and subsequent historic flooding in eastern North Carolina. Even with these payments North Carolina producers will benefit greatly from their portion of the additional emergency assistance monies, which nationwide total \$7.1 million over two fiscal years (2000 & 2001), provided by this legislation. This includes \$340 million for tobacco farmers to compensate for economic losses along with \$47 million in economic assistance for peanut producers, which equates to \$30.50 per ton for quota peanuts and \$16 for additional peanuts. I am especially thankful that we have included provisions which address conditions created when producers suffer multiple years disasters.

Additional emergence assistance provisions include:

\$40 million for USDA to provide soil, water and natural conservation assistance for farmers in the form of cost share or incentive payments;

\$10 million for USDA's Farmland Protection Program

\$34 million FY 2000 and \$76 million in FY 2001 for USDA to purchase additional food commodities for distribution to schools participating in the school lunch program

\$32 million in FY 2001 available for a variety of agricultural research programs including those related to soil, science, forest health and management, tobacco research for medicinal purposes and reducing and managing waste in livestock and poultry operations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to support and vote for the conference report.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2559, AGRICULTURAL RISK PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide a more detailed explanation—including a section-by-section analysis—of the Biomass Research and Development (R&D) Act of 2000 included as Title III of H.R. 2559, the Agricultural Risk Reduction Act.

The Biomass R&D Act of 2000 combines features of three separate bills that were referred to the Committee on Science: Title I of S. 935 and H.R. 2827, the National Sustainable Fuels and Chemicals Act of 1999; and H.R. 2819, the Biomass Research and Development Act of 1999. This important piece of legislation would help fund the research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) necessary to bring to market affordable biobased industrial products, including fuels, chemicals, building materials, or electric power or heat produced from biomass.

I want to express my appreciation to many Members of the House and Senate for all of their hard work in crafting the Biomass R&D Act of 2000. This includes: the Ranking Minority Member (Mr. HALL of Texas) and Mr. UDALL of Colorado of the House Committee on Science; the Chairman (Mr. COMBEST) and

Ranking Minority Member (Mr. STENHOLM) of the House Committee on Agriculture; the Chairman (Mr. EWING) and Ranking Minority Member (Mr. CONDIT) of the House Committee on Agriculture's Subcommittee on Risk Management, Research and Specialty Crops; the Chairman (Mr. LUGAR) and Ranking Minority Member (Mr. HARKIN) of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; and the Chairman (Mr. MURKOWSKI) and Ranking Minority Member (Mr. BINGAMAN) of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS—BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) ACT OF 2000—(TITLE IV OF H.R. 2559, THE AGRICULTURAL RISK REDUCTION ACT)

SECTION 401. SHORT TITLE.

Section 401 cites Title III as the "Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000" (hereafter, "Act").

SECTION 402. FINDINGS.

Section 2 lists 13 findings.

SECTION 403. DEFINITIONS.

Section 403 defines ten terms: (1) "Advisory Committee," (2) "Biobased Industrial Product," (3) "Biomass," (4) "Board," (5) "Initiative," (6) "Institution of Higher Education," (7) "National Laboratory," (8) "Point of Contact," (9) "Processing," and (10) "Research and Development."

The term "biomass" means "any organic matter that is available on a renewable or recurring basis, including agricultural crops and trees, wood and wood wastes and residues, plants (including aquatic plants), grasses, residues, fibers, and animal wastes, municipal wastes, and other waste materials." The conferees gave specific consideration to a proposal to exclude old-growth timber and unsegregated municipal solid waste (garbage) from the definition of biomass, and rejected the proposal as being scientifically unsound.

Also, the term "research and development" means "research, development, and demonstration." Department of Energy (DOE) activities conducted under this Act are subject to the cost-sharing provisions of section 3002 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486).

SECTION 404. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Section 404 mandates cooperation and coordination between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy with respect to policies and procedures that promote R&D leading to the production of biobased industrial products. In order to facilitate this cooperation and coordination, a senior official in each of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and DOE is to be designated as a "point of contact." The points of contact are to assist in arranging interlaboratory and site-specific supplemental agreements for research, development, and demonstration projects relating to biobased industrial products; serve as co-chairpersons of the Board; administer the Initiative; and respond in writing to each recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

SECTION 405. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

Section 405 requires the Secretaries of Energy and Agriculture to jointly establish the Biomass Research and Development Board to coordinate programs within and among departments and agencies of the Federal Government for the purpose of promoting the use of biobased industrial products. This

Board is to supercede the Interagency Council on Biobased Products and Bioenergy established by Executive Order 13134. This section also specifies the Board's: (b) membership, (c) duties, (d) funding, and (e) frequency of meetings.

SECTION 406. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Section 406 establishes the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee, which is to supercede the Advisory Committee on Biobased Products and Bioenergy established by Executive Order 13134. This section also specifies: (b) the Advisory Committee's membership and appointment process; (c) duties; (d) coordination; (e) frequency of meetings; and (f) terms. With respect to terms, section 406(f) specifies that members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, except that—(1) 1/3 of the members initially appointed shall be appointed for a term of 1 year; and (2) 1/3 of the members initially appointed shall be appointed for a term of 2 years.

SECTION 407. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

Section 407(a) requires the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy, acting through their respective points of contact and in consultation with the Biomass Research and Development Board, to establish and carry out a Biomass Research and Development Initiative under which competitively awarded grants, contracts, and other financial assistance are provided to, or entered into with, eligible entities to carry out research, development, and demonstration on biobased industrial products.

Other provisions of Section 407 address: (b) the purposes of grants, contracts, and other financial assistance under this section; (c) eligible entities; (d) uses of grants, contract, and assistance; (e) technology and information transfer to agricultural users; and (f) authorization of appropriations.

Section 407(c)(2)(D) requires that preference be given to applications for grants, contract, and assistance under this section that: (i) involve a consortia of experts from multiple institutions; and (ii) encourage the integration of disciplines and application of the best technical resources. However, this "preference" is not meant to negate the requirements of Section 407(c)(2)(D) requiring that "grants, contracts, and assistance under this section be awarded competitively, on the basis of merit, after the establishment of procedures that provide for scientific peer review by an independent panel of scientific and technical peers".

Section 407(f) provides that in addition to funds appropriated for biomass R&D under the general authority of the Secretary of Energy (which may also be used to carry out this Act), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Agriculture to carry out this Act \$49.0 million for each of fiscal years 2000 through 2005.

SECTION 408. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDS.

To the extent administrative support and funds are not provided by other agencies under section 408(b), section 408(a) authorizes the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide such administrative support and funds of DOE and USDA to the Board and the Advisory Committee as are necessary to enable the Board and the Advisory Committee to carry out this Act. Section 408(c) provides that not more than 4 percent of the amount appropriated for each fiscal year under section 407(f) may be used to