

in civil rights, democracy, and equality. I hope you will agree that his memory is worthy of national recognition and join my efforts to encourage the U.S. Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp in Willie's honor.

Now, more than ever before, the Hispanic voice has been heard and courted by both Democrats and Republicans. Today I urge all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize Willie's life-long work and the importance of the Hispanic vote with a commemorative postage stamp.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 4, SECURING AMERICA'S
FUTURE ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that this rule does not allow the Rahall-Petri-Kind amendment to be considered by the members of the House. Yesterday we went before the Committee on Rules to ask that our amendment striking Title II of Division F of H.R. 4 be made in order during floor debate.

This title addresses various aspects of oil and gas production from federal lease lands, both onshore and offshore. The title reportedly seeks to provide greater incentives and royalty relief to oil and gas producers to encourage exploration and development in these areas. These incentives raise several serious policy questions. Unfortunately, this amendment was not made in order, and the full House was denied the opportunity to address this important issue.

The incentives contained in this section are far too generous. They are not in the public interest. They will not provide for our energy security. Further, none of these provisions was contained in President Bush's report on Energy Policy. Indeed, this title is an oil and gas producer's dream, but it is a taxpayer's nightmare.

First, this section provides a full royalty holiday for certain offshore leases granted over the next 2 years. Royalty payment suspension will be allowed for drilling operations in water as shallow as 400 meters. Just a few weeks ago, Interior Secretary Norton testified before the Resources Committee that the Administration does not support granting relief for production in water under 800 meters in depth. And, importantly, the Secretary currently has the authority to waive royalties. We don't need to mandate it—especially at a time of high prices. The CBO cost estimates for this relief are only the tip of the iceberg—taxpayers will continue to lose hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars of revenue during the full lifetimes of these leases.

Second, this title proposes to allow the Secretary of the Interior to replace the current royalty system with a "Royalty-in-Kind" program which allows royalties for oil and gas taken from public lands to be paid in actual deliveries of crude oil or natural gas. This would require enlarging the size of the federal presence in these western states so that federal

employees can assume private sector responsibilities. This cannot be done efficiently; an audit of a recent royalty-in-kind pilot program in Wyoming found that it had lost \$3 million.

Third, this legislation would mandate a royalty holiday for, and expand the definition of, marginally producing oil and gas wells. Onshore wells producing less than 30 barrels of oil per day would be considered marginal. It is my understanding that approximately 85 percent of all the oil wells on public lands produce less than 30 barrels of oil per day. Clearly, this stretches anyone's definition of marginal. Moreover, relief for truly marginal wells is already provided in this bill through the expansion of the marginal well tax credit.

Fourth, the legislation contains several provisions which transfer the costs of regulatory compliance to taxpayers. Such fees are normally paid by permit applicants. There is no good reason to grant this type of financial relief, and I can think of no other federal program in which taxpayers bear these costs.

I agree that we need to address our energy future to assure all Americans access to reliable and affordable energy. But I fail to see how granting a royalty holiday for oil and gas production on federal leases will accomplish this goal. This title benefits the oil and gas industry without providing any benefit for taxpayers—these royalties are, after all, rent payments for the privilege of extracting energy resources from publicly owned land. Again, I am disappointed that the rule did not allow members to consider separately these questionable royalty relief provisions.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF EAGER

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I want to take the opportunity to publicly thank a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for his years of service to me and to the people of the Second District of Oregon.

Jeff was raised in Central Oregon, graduating from Mountain View High School and then Willamette University. Upon graduating from college, he embarked on Washington, D.C. to begin his public service as a staff member to my predecessor, then-House Agriculture Committee Chairman Bob Smith. Jeff honed his skills in the Congress immediately.

Upon my election to Congress, I was fortunate to successfully recruit Jeff and he joined my staff the day I took office in 1999. He started out as a legislative assistant. Jeff is a quick study, Mr. Speaker. He tackled some of the most complex and vexing issues that face Oregonians and Americans. From how we safely dispose of chemical nerve agents in Eastern Oregon to how we get better quality and more affordable health care to rural America, Jeff learned these issues quickly and worked on creative solutions.

Within a year, Jeff added the title of press secretary to his resume. Now, I have to tell you there's probably nothing more challenging than being a press secretary to a Member of Congress who was a press secretary to a

Member of Congress. Jeff rose to the challenge quickly and, frankly, made a difficult job look easy. He got to know the reporters and editors in my district and understood their needs and their deadlines. He excelled at the press secretary duties while continuing to work on his portfolio of legislative issues.

This week Jeff leaves the Nation's capital to return to Oregon where he will attend law school at the University of Oregon. I know he will do as well pursuing a legal career as he did in his work for me. While I wish him every success it goes without saying he will be difficult to replace. Jeff, thank you for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO THE LAKE CITY
HOUSING AUTHORITY ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT AND RECOGNITION
CEREMONY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fifth Annual Academic Achievement and Recognition Ceremony, being sponsored by the Lake City Housing Authority for the housing resident students of Lake City, Johnsonville, and Kingtree. This special ceremony will be held on August 5, 2001 in Lake City, South Carolina.

The purpose of the ceremony is to honor housing residents who have achieved academic excellence during the prior school year, and to recognize those who have obtained high school diplomas or college degrees. Special recognition will also be given to several individuals who ranked at the top of their classes. This innovative event has become an anticipated occasion for both the housing residents and the community. I commend Mr. Ronald L. Poston, Executive Director of the Lake City Housing Authority, and the Board of Commissioners of the Authority for instigating this creative, community-oriented occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring the Fifth Annual Academic Achievement and Recognition Ceremony. It is events such as this that hold our communities together, strengthen our future, and promote our values. I sincerely thank Mr. Ronald Poston and the Board of Commissioners of the Lake City Housing Authority for designing and implementing this innovative and important ceremony, and congratulate those students who will receive recognition this year.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW WOODSON

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable young man and his contributions to the seventh district of Virginia. Andrew Woodson has been a servant of the people, tackling any challenge handed him during his service in my Washington, DC office.