

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ENERGY POLICY CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO FARMERS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following opinion piece written by Mr. Bryce Neidig, president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation, which appeared in the November 27, 2001, York News-Times. Mr. Neidig makes a convincing case for passing legislation which would implement a national energy policy. As Mr. Neidig stresses, farmers are heavily reliant on petroleum products and could suffer great hardship if Congress fails to develop a meaningful energy policy.

On August 2, 2001, the House approved an energy bill which would diversify our energy sources and create greater energy reliability and independence for the United States. Now is the time to enact a long-term energy policy. Congress must help assure farmers and all Americans of the increased development of diverse, reliable, and affordable energy sources.

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY NEEDS FARMERS' SUPPORT

American agriculture is intensely dependent on petroleum. In fact, it's the lifeblood of farming. Our nation is facing an energy crisis, and farmers stand to suffer as a result—unless federal legislation is passed soon to end the crisis.

The House of Representatives adopted a comprehensive energy package in August—the National Energy Security Act 2001—that holds many keys to solving the nation's energy dilemma. It includes fuel alternatives, incentives to reduce consumption, aid to low-income fuel programs, and a provision for oil exploration and production in a tiny portion of the Coastal Plain in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The Senate needs to pass the act this year.

Farmers could be among the hardest hit if we fail to enact a national energy policy. Oil or gas shortages, scarcity, or worse, embargoes, could send the price of energy soaring. Higher input costs and low commodity prices are squeezing many producers at this time.

Petroleum products and natural gas provide heating oil and diesel to run equipment and they are a key ingredient in virtually all fertilizers and many other production inputs. Increases in energy prices ripple through the entire farm economy, spiking the costs to run farms and ranches.

Conservation and development of alternative fuels are important components of the legislation and are critical to agriculture's support for a national energy policy. However, exploration and production of domestic oil and gas are a critical part of this proposed act as well. As our nation grows and as the economy expands, so grows the need for

more oil and gas. More oil and gas production is a must in order to stabilize energy prices for farmers and consumers, which is why many producers support the environmentally safe development of domestic and off-shore oil production.

It is my understanding that there could be upwards of 16 billion barrels of recoverable oil under Alaska's Coastal Plain. At full production, some estimates indicate that Coastal Plain oil could contribute about 25 percent of our energy needs. What Coastal Plain oil provides as well is a secure source of domestic energy. Farmers who lived through the Arab oil embargo of the early 1970s and the energy supply problems of the last two years can testify to the disruption and economic pain caused by an unstable oil supply. Coastal Plain oil could serve as a buffer against Iraqi or Iranian led embargoes, for example.

Farmers and ranchers work long, hard hours to keep their operations successful. The hard reality is that for most farmers, the line between success and failure is thin. Sudden spikes in energy prices because of shortages or embargoes could spell doom for many of America's farmers.

The National Energy Security Act 2001 is our nation's best opportunity to chart a course out of a crisis that was many years in the making. Farmers and all of us who make our living through agriculture need to encourage our members of Congress to back this legislation, for the sake of our families and farms.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT VET- ERANS DAY CONTINUE TO BE OBSERVED ON NOVEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN D. KERNS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. KERNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 298, a resolution to preserve the spirit and true intention of Veterans' Day. Throughout the course of our Nation's history, courageous men and women have stepped forward in times of war and peace to serve in our Armed Forces. They have done so to protect the freedoms that we, as Americans, are blessed with each day.

Their service has often taken them far away from their homes, their family, and their friends, and has placed them in harms way. Whenever and wherever called upon they answered that call to duty, and their blood has been shed in defense of our liberty.

Now, as our Nation is leading the war on terrorism, the heroic acts of our American service men and women overseas and the 48 million who came before them to defend our country, deserve nothing less than a commit-

ment by the Congress to preserve the sanctity and true mission of Veterans' Day.

While we can never adequately repay our men and women in uniform for the sacrifices they have made to keep America free, we can honor and thank them for their service. With our way of life, our freedoms, under attack at home and abroad, now more than ever, it is imperative that we guarantee that our veterans are honored. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and maintain November 11 as Veterans' Day—a special day of national observance that we, as a nation, set aside to remember our veterans and the sacrifices they made to uphold our freedoms.

MEDICATIONS FOR DIABETES

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, for years too many Americans have suffered the ravaging effects of Diabetes. While there have been many promising advancements in the diabetes research field, there have also been many disappointing setbacks.

One key to proper treatment of Diabetes has been the development and the use of new medications. However, the Congress, questions have been raised about the safety of Rezulin and other medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for this use.

In my home state of South Carolina, Mrs. Francis Geddings took Rezulin as a treatment from April 1997 to January 1998. She was hospitalized in 1999 and tragically passed away from liver failure last year. She left behind her husband, Eugene, and many questions about the safety of this drug.

Rezulin was eventually removed from the market, but many questions remain. To avoid future tragedies like the one that visited the Geddings family, we must continually review how medication is made available for public use. Attached are documents that show only a small part of the Rezulin story. It is up to Congress to continue doing everything we can to make the FDA approval process as safe and open as possible.

Americans need to know that according to an FDA document created by several of the FDAs premier scientists, 1 in 1,000 patients who took Rezulin for more than one year will die of fatal liver disease. Pharmaceuticals companies everywhere can learn from the tragic history of Rezulin.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.