

phenomenal potential. As of now, the majority of domestic wind development has been located in California, but there are numerous other states that have great natural potential, including North Dakota, Texas, Kansas, South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Iowa and

Wind energy projects also offer a boon to farmers, particularly those in the Farm Belt—one of the most promising areas for the development of domestic wind resources. Wind power projects and ranching and farming are fully compatible; wind plants can be located and operated with little or no displacement or interference with crops or livestock. And for farmers and ranchers, the lease payments paid to them by wind operators serve as a stable source of extra income.

Wind projects also create important new economic opportunities in the communities in which they are located. New wind facilities lead to increased local tax bases, new manufacturing opportunities, rental income for farmers and ranchers and new construction, and ongoing operational and maintenance jobs. This leads to more jobs and other economic opportunities in rural areas where those things can be scarce.

Equally important, wind energy is an environmentally friendly form of energy that produces no air or groundwater pollution.

Unfortunately, none of these benefits are possible without the production tax credit.

Wind energy is viable and working, but without the credit, development would be hindered dramatically. As we know all too well, energy prices are in a terrible state of flux now. This sort of fluctuation makes the financing and development of wind projects terrifically difficult. Put simply, the production tax credit abrogates this problem by leveling the costs of production through a guaranteed revenue stream. In the end, such a guarantee—which must be at least five years to ensure viability—will foster a cost-effective and environmentally sensitive energy sector. And that is exactly what we need.

For all these reasons, we owe it to ourselves to pass a five-year extension of the wind energy production tax credit. And I urge my colleagues in both the House and Senate to continue to support this important fledgling industry.

HONORING ROHM AND HAAS  
TEXAS, INCORPORATED

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rohm and Haas Texas, Incorporated for its participation in the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) Star Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). Rohm and Haas employees and management should be commended for maintaining excellent safety and health programs in their workplace that is recognized by OSHA as a model for the industry. The fact that Rohm and Haas has achieved Star Program status demonstrates that the company is capable and willing to meet all VPP requirements of excellence in safety.

Rohm and Haas Texas Incorporated has been a responsible member of the Deer Park community for 50 years, safely manufacturing chemicals for use in the disposable diaper, automobile, paint, coatings and communication industries. Construction on the Deer Park Plant began in 1947 and in July of the following year, the first shipment of acetone cyanohydrin was made to another Rohm and Haas plant in Pennsylvania to produce acrylic sheet.

The Deer Park Plant would become the company's largest and most productive with five major expansions in the fifties, followed by four in the sixties, two in the seventies, two in the eighties and six in the nineties. Employment has climbed from 132 in 1948 to more than 850 today, making the plant one of the largest industrial employers in the area. When wages, purchases and taxes are considered, the plant and employees are responsible for adding more than \$85 million each year to the local economy which, in turn, creates an estimated 4,500 jobs for others in the community.

Rohm and Haas' Deer Park plant has demonstrated a proven commitment to improving worker safety and health. By joining the VPP Association, Rohm and Haas' Deer Park plant has taken a leadership role in achieving safety, health, and environmental excellence through cooperation among communities, workers, industries, and governments in the United States.

Employees at Rohm and Haas are enjoying the benefits of a safer worksite through VPP. Since the VPP's inception in 1983, participation in the program has grown from three to more than 500 sites. By participating in this program, Rohm and Haas has chosen to improve safety at its worksite and to reduce injury and illness rates. Rohm and Haas employees are true partners in these improvement efforts and take on critical roles in helping their workplaces to achieve safety excellence. The total workforce of Rohm and Haas should be proud of the recognition by the industry and community that comes with being an OSHA Star worksite.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Rohm and Haas Texas, Incorporated for recognizing that compliance enforcement alone can never fully achieve the objectives of OSHA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from the House floor during last night's vote on S.J. Res. 6 (rollcall vote No. 33). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye," as I did on the rule earlier in the day.

OSHA's burdensome and excessively costly ergonomics regulations were not based on sound science, and were not subjected to the requisite legislative consideration. The estimated cost of compliance for their 600-page plan to regulate every nook and cranny of American workplaces ranged into the hundreds of billions of dollars. No one could even guarantee that OSHA's proposal would protect

workers from injury—but we do know that businesses would have to terminate employees just to be able to afford to implement the plan.

Mr. Speaker, owners of small and large businesses through the Fourth Ohio District know the vital importance of maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for their employees. Without exception, all of them have voluntarily taken steps to protect their workers—without the heavy hand of government forcing them to do so. Employers know that their productivity will suffer otherwise, as will their workers' paychecks.

I am gratified that our first use of the Congressional Review Act will stop these new rules from going into effect, and look forward to President Bush's signature on this joint resolution of disapproval.

OTPOR

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago I had the opportunity to meet five representatives from the independent, non-governmental organization Otpor. "Otpor," in Serbian, means "resistance," and the organization was founded in the mid-1990s by students from Belgrade University and elsewhere in Serbia, who had enough of Slobodan Milosevic's choke-hold on the neck of Serbian society.

Their efforts have forged a strong bond between idealism and realism. Otpor members engaged in passive resistance, never advocating violence nor returning the blows they received from the police and other thugs under Milosevic's control. Instead, they had a stronger weapon—determination and persistence. Fear would not keep them from putting up their posters, from wearing their black-and-white emblem of a clenched fist. Moreover, they kept their eye on the goal of a democratic and tolerant Serbia at peace with its neighbors and with itself. The organization appointed no specific leader, in a strategy to thwart any attempt to compromise the individual—they had learned the lesson from observing the many opposition politicians in Serbia who had been compromised.

During the past two years, more than 1,500 Otpor activists, of about 50,000 based in over 10 Serbian cities, were arrested and interrogated by security forces under Milosevic's control. One of the five who visited my office had himself been arrested on 17 occasions. Prior to the September 2000 elections, Otpor worked closely with the democratic political opposition, independent trade unions, NGOs and other youth groups to mobilize voters. Otpor's activists played a crucial role in the street demonstrations that began immediately following the elections and led to Milosevic's downfall.

The impressive delegation of five Otpor activists visiting Washington included Slobodan Homen, Nenad Konstantinovic, Jovan Ratkovic, Jelena Urosevic and Robertino Knjur, all in their mid- to late-20s and very

good English speakers. It is amazing to realize that they all grew up in the cruel, hateful and impoverished world Slobodan Milosevic had created for them in the 1990s. In the meeting, they provided one piece of very good news. One Otpor activist, Boris Karajcic, had testified in 1998 before the Helsinki Commission which I co-chair and was beaten up on the streets of Belgrade a few weeks later. Today, Boris is a member of the Serbian parliament. He is an active part of Serbia's future.

Otpor itself will also be part of Serbia's future. While Milosevic is out of power, there is much to be done to recover from the nightmare he created. First, they are investigating and compiling complaints about the police officers who brutalized them and other citizens of Serbia who opposed the regime, and they will seek to ensure that officers who seemed to take a particular delight in beating people for exercising their rights are held accountable. They want to see Milosevic himself arrested, both for his crimes in Serbia and the war crimes for which he faces an international indictment. The Otpor group also advocates the founding of a school of public administration, which does not exist in Serbia and is desperately needed as the government bureaucracies are swollen with Milosevic cronies who have no idea how to implement public policy. Along similar lines, they hope to begin an anti-corruption campaign. Finally, they pointed out that, with the fall of Milosevic, the united opposition now in power has no credible, democratic political opposition to it. Until Serbian politics develop further, they intend to serve some of that role, being a watchdog of the new leaders.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the Otpor group with which I met has a track record of accomplishment, ideas for the future, and a good sense of how to bring those ideas into reality. While they have had the heart and the courage, they also have had the assistance of the United States through the National Endowment of Democracy and other organizations which promote democratic development abroad. I hope my colleagues will continue to support this kind of assistance, for Serbia and other countries where it is needed, which serves not only the interests of the United States but the cause of humanity.

COLEMAN INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2001*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the owners, Don and Diane Coleman, and the employees of Coleman Industrial Construction of Kansas City, Missouri, for their recognition by the National Railroad Construction Maintenance Association (NRC). Coleman Industrial Construction has been presented with the NRC's Contractor Safety Award. The NRC annually recognizes one firm with less than 25 employees from among more than 200 firms nationwide for their outstanding, accident-free record among small railroad contractors.

This distinction does not come about easily. It is the result of many hours of work, seminars, and training provided by Coleman Industrial Construction coupled with the tireless efforts of all its employees to focus on reducing the risks of accidents and injury. Due to the work of the experienced and professional employees and their "safety-first" attitude, Coleman Industrial Construction has been able to go 14 years without a "lost time" accident.

While Coleman Industrial Construction is being recognized among other small railroad contractors, their performance is a standard for all industries. Their continued emphasis on job safety serves as a worthy model nationwide.

Again, I congratulate and commend the owners and employees of Coleman Industrial Construction on their outstanding performance in reducing injuries at the workplace.

A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO REPEAL THE REQUIRED USE OF CERTAIN PRINCIPAL REPAYMENTS ON MORTGAGE SUBSIDY BOND FINANCINGS TO REDEEM BONDS, TO MODIFY THE PURCHASE PRICE LIMITATION UNDER MORTGAGE SUBSIDY BOND RULES BASED ON MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**HON. AMO HOUGHTON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 8, 2001*

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. NEAL, in introducing our bill, "The Housing Bond and Credit Modernization and Fairness Act." Our joining together in introducing this bill today is indicative of the broad bipartisan support Housing Bonds and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit) programs enjoy.

The Congress has an unusual opportunity, without creating any new program, to create new housing opportunity for tens of thousands of low- and moderate-income families every year. All it will take is enactment of minor legislative changes to eliminate obsolete provisions in the two principal Federal programs that finance the production of affordable housing: Housing Bonds, or single family Mortgage Revenue Bonds (MRBs), as they are commonly known, and the Housing Credit.

This bill builds on important legislation Representative NEAL and I introduced and supported in the last two Congresses to increase the Housing Bond authority by nearly 50 percent to make up for the effects of inflation. In the 106th Congress this piece of legislation, as well as the Housing Credit legislation, had the phenomenal support of 375-plus House cosponsors from both parties, from all regions of the country, and from rural and urban districts. Finally, in late 2000, legislation applicable to both the Housing Bonds and Housing Credit was enacted into law.

The Housing Bond and Credit Modernization and Fairness Act does three things. First, the

bill would repeal the Ten-Year Rule, a provision added to the MRB program in 1988 that prevents States from using homeowner payments on such mortgages to make new mortgages to additional qualified purchasers. States estimate that, between 1998 and 2002, the Rule will mean the loss of over \$8.5 billion in mortgage authority, denying tens of thousands of qualified lower income homebuyers each year the ability to obtain affordable MRB-financed mortgages. Second, the bill would replace the present unworkable limit on the price of the homes these mortgages can finance with a simple limit that works. No reliable comprehensive data exists in all areas of the country to determine average area home prices. The current price limits were issued in 1994 based on 1993 data. They are obsolete and well below current home price levels in most parts of the country. Many qualified buyers simply cannot find homes that are priced below the outdated limits.

The answer is to modify the present limit, set in Washington, with a simple formula limiting the purchase price to three and a half times the qualifying income under the program.

We would like to acknowledge the leadership and support of our colleague Representative BEREUTER, who introduced last year and reintroduced in this Congress this element of our legislation as a freestanding bill.

Finally, the bill makes Housing Credit apartment production viable in rural areas by allowing statewide median incomes as the basis for the income limits in that program. This change would apply the same methodology in determining qualifying income levels that is used in the MRB Program. HUD data shows that current income limits inhibit Housing Credit development in at least 1,700 of the 2,364 non-metropolitan counties across the country.

It is noteworthy that the changes proposed by The Housing Bond and Credit Modernization and Fairness Act were endorsed by the bipartisan National Governors Association at its recently concluded meeting. The governors know how important the Housing Bond and Housing Credit programs are in giving states the ability to meet the housing needs of low- and moderate-income families. The governors know that we need to do more to ensure that the important increase in authority that over 375 House Members cosponsored last year really can reach as many qualified people as possible.

Even after the passage of last year's legislation, over 100,000 qualified lower income homebuyers are not able to get an affordable MRB funded mortgage and over 70 percent of non-metropolitan counties across the country will be inhibited in full use of the Housing Credit program.

For those of you that cosponsored those bills last year, and those of my colleagues who are new to the Congress, we hope you will join our bipartisan effort to see that these important provisions are enacted as part of tax legislation this year.