SMALL BUSINESS REFINERS COMPLIANCE WITH THE HIGHWAY DIESEL FUEL SULFUR REQUIREMENTS

HON. STEPHEN HORN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 16, 2001

Mr. HORNE. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this year, on January 18, 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implemented heavy-duty engine and vehicle standards and highway diesel fuel sulfur control requirements. I strongly supported the final rule by the EPA as a necessary tool to reduce pollution. Under this new regulation, oil refiners must meet rigorous new standards to reduce the sulfur content of highway diesel fuel from its current level of 500 parts per million to 15 parts per million by June 1, 2006. The new rule goes a long way in reducing the amount of pollution in our air.

Small business refiners produce a full slate of petroleum products including everything from gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel to asphalt, lub oil, and specialty petroleum products. Today, among the 124 refiners operating in the United States, approximately 25 percent are small, independent refiners. These small business refiners contribute to the nation’s energy supply by manufacturing specific products like grade 80-aviation fuel, JP–4 jet fuel, and off-road diesel fuel.

In order for oil refiners to comply with the new rule, the EPA estimated capital costs at an average of $14 million per refinery. This is a relatively small cost for major multinational oil companies, but for smaller refiners, this is a very high capital cost that is virtually impossible to undertake without substantial assistance. Small business refiners presented information in support of this position to EPA during the rulemaking process. In fact, EPA agreed that small business refiners would likely experience a significant and disproportionate financial hardship in reaching the objectives of the diesel fuel sulfur rule.

There is currently no provision that helps small business refiners meet the objectives of the rule. That is why I am introducing a tax incentive proposal that would provide the specific, targeted assistance that small refiners need to achieve better air quality and provide complete compliance with EPA’s rule. A qualified small business refiner—defined as refiners with fewer than 1,500 employees and less than a total capacity of 155,000 barrels per day—will be eligible to receive federal assistance in complying with EPA’s requirements. Without such a provision, many small business refiners will be unable to comply with the EPA rule and could be forced out of the market. Individually, each small refiner represents a small share of the national petroleum marketplace. Cumulatively, however, the impact is substantial. Small business refiners produce about four percent of the nation’s diesel fuel and in some regions, provide over half of the diesel fuel. Small business refiners also fill a critical national security function. For example, in 1998 and 1999, small business refiners provided almost 20 percent of the jet fuel used by U.S. military bases. Small business refiners’ pricing competitiveness assures the larger, integrated companies to lower prices for the consuming public. Without that competitive pressure, consumers will certainly pay higher prices for the same products.

Over the past decade, approximately 25 U.S. refineries have shut down. Without assistance in complying with the EPA rule, we may lose another 25 percent of U.S. refineries.

This legislation is critical—not because small business refiners do not want to comply with the EPA rule due to differences in environmental policy—but because it will help keep small business refiners as an integral part of the industry and on their way to cleaner production and full compliance with all environmental regulations.

MEDAL OF HONOR, ED FREEMAN
HON. C.L. “BUTCH” OTTER
OF IDAHO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 16, 2001

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Idaho’s greatest citizens. Ed Freeman, 73, of Boise, who will be awarded the Medal of Honor today by the President for his acts of valor during the Vietnam War. The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States.

On November 14th, 1965, Captain Freeman risked his life more than once to deliver ammunition and supplies to 450 men who had been surrounded by more than 2,000 North Vietnamese. In addition, each time he delivered supplies, he carried out wounded U.S. military personnel to safety.

On November 14th, 1965, Captain Freeman voluntarily flew his Army Helicopter on 14 missions to the La Dang battle zone in less than 14 hours. For each trip, he risked his life to save and supply his fellow countrymen.

Without the courage of Captain Freeman and his crew, the 450 men in the La Dang Valley would have been quickly overrun by the North Vietnamese. By the end of the day Captain Freeman had saved an estimated 30 soldiers.

Mr. Speaker I am pleased to salute Captain Freeman today for his act of bravery in 1965 and I congratulate him for receiving the highest military honor anyone can receive, the Medal of Honor.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND ECONOMIC CONVERSION ACT OF 2001
HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 16, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act every year since 1993, and I will continue to introduce this bill until the threat posed by the world’s nuclear arsenals is eliminated. This issue was brought to my attention by constituents who have been vigilant to the continuing need to focus on nuclear proliferation. Moreover, today missile defense is being pressed by the Bush Administration, which has refused to acknowledge urgent domestic needs from health care to affordable housing.

Long after the end of the Cold War and the breakup of the Soviet Union, the threat of nuclear weapons remains. Today, the United States continues to hold approximately 7,295 operational nuclear warheads while Russia controls 6,094, and the other declared nuclear powers of Great Britain, France, and China are estimated to possess approximately 10,000 operational warheads. Furthermore, proliferation of nuclear weapons, especially in countries who are the one of the leading military threats to the national security of the United States, its allies, and the world.

The United States, as the sole remaining superpower and the leading nuclear power in the world, has an obligation to move first and take bold steps to encourage other nuclear powers to eliminate their arsenals and to prevent the proliferation of these weapons. That is why I have chosen today, the 56th anniversary of the first test of a nuclear explosive in Alamogordo, New Mexico, to reintroduce the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act of 2001. The bill would require the United States to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons and to refrain from replacing them with weapons of mass destruction once foreign countries possessing nuclear weapons enact and execute similar requirements.

My bill has an important complementary provision that the resources used to sustain our nuclear weapons program be used to address human and infrastructure needs such as housing, health care, education, agriculture, and the environment. By eliminating our nuclear weapons arsenal, the United States can realize an additional “peace dividend” from which critical domestic initiatives can be funded, including new programs proposed in the Administration’s FY 2002 budget.

Many courageous leaders in the United States and around the world have spoken out about the obsolescence of nuclear weapons and the need for their elimination. These leaders include retired Air Force General Lee Butler and more than 60 other retired generals and admirals from 17 nations, who, on December 5, 1996, issued a statement that “the continuing existence of nuclear weapons in the armories of nuclear powers, and the ever-present threat of acquisition of these weapons by others, constitute a peril to global peace and security and to the safety and survival of the people we are dedicated to protect” and that the “creation of a nuclear-weapons-free world [is] necessary and possible.”

The United States and the world community must redouble their efforts to obtain commitments from the nations that possess nuclear technology to refrain from actual deployment of nuclear weapons, as well as to help contain other countries that aspire to become nuclear powers, such as Iran, Iraq, and North Korea.
from moving forward with their programs. The United States will be far more credible and persuasive in these efforts if we are willing to agree to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur. As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 17, 2001 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

**SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The United States will be far more credible and persuasive in these efforts if we are willing to take the initiative in dismantling our own nuclear weapons program and helping armed industries to convert plants and employees to providing products and services that enhance the wealth and quality of life of citizens. I ask my colleagues to cosponsor the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act of 2001 and the committees with jurisdiction over the bill to mark it up quickly so that it can be considered and passed.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

**Commerce, Science, and Transportation**

*To hold hearings to examine safety of cross border trucking and bus operations and the adequacy of resources for compliance and enforcement purposes, focusing on the impact on United States communities, businesses, employees, and the environment as well as the application of U.S. laws to the operations.*

**SR-253**

**Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee**

*To hold oversight hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funding for fiscal year 2002 for the Department of Defense and the Future Years Defense Program, focusing on active and reserve military and civilian personnel programs.*

**SR-222**

**Indian Affairs**

*To hold oversight hearings on tribal good governance practices and economic development.*

**SR-85**

**Energy and Natural Resources**

*To hold hearings on proposals related to energy and scientific research, development, technology deployment, education, and training, including Title II, and Subtitle B of Title IV of S. 388, the National Energy Security Act of 2001; Title IX, and Division E of S. 597, the Comprehensive and Balanced Energy Policy Act of 2001; Sections 111, 121, 122, 123, 125, 127, 204, 205, Title IV and Title V of S. 472, the Nuclear Energy Electricity Supply Assurance Act of 2001; S. 90, the Energy Department Nanoscale Science and Engineering Research Act; S. 193, the Department of Energy Advanced Scientific Computing Act; S. 202, the Energy Department University Nuclear Science and Engineering Act; S. 209, the National Laboratories Partnership Improvement Act of 2001; S. 636, a bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a decommissioning pilot program to decommission and decontaminate the Sodium-cooled fast breeder experimental test-site reactor located in northwest Arkansas; S. 1180, the Fusion Energy Sciences Act of 2001; and S. 1166, to establish the Next Generation Lighting Initiative at the Department of Energy.*

**SD-366**

**Appropriations**

*To hold hearings on S. 1098, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to develop the United States Climate Change Response Strategy with the goal of stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, while minimizing adverse short-term and long-term economic and social impacts, aligning the Strategy with United States energy policy, and promoting a sound national environmental policy, to establish a research and development program that focuses on bold technological breakthroughs that make significant progress toward the goal of stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations, and to establish the National Office of Climate Change Response within the Executive Office of the President.*

**SD-342**

**Budget**

*To hold hearings to examine defense spending and budget outlook.*

**SD-608**

**2 p.m.**

**Governmental Affairs Investigations Subcommittee**


**SD-366**

**Armed Services**

*To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funding for the U.S. Export-Import Bank, proposed legislation authorizing funds for the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act; the nomination of Mark B. McClellan, of California, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers; and the nomination of Sheila C. Bair, of Kansas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Institutions.*

**SD-538**

**Aging**

*To hold hearings to examine long term care issues, focusing on costs and demands including state initiatives to shift Medicaid services away from institutional care and toward community based services.*

**SD-628**

**Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs**

*Business meeting to markup proposed legislation authorizing funding for the U.S. Export-Import Bank, proposed legislation authorizing funds for the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act; the nomination of Mark B. McClellan, of California, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers; and the nomination of Sheila C. Bair, of Kansas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Institutions.*

**SD-538**

**Budget**

*To hold hearings to examine defense spending and budget outlook.*

**SD-608**

**2 p.m.**

**Intelligence**

*To hold closed hearings on intelligence matters.*

**SH-219**

**JULY 19**

**9 a.m.**

**Appropriations**

*To hold hearings on S. 128, Capitol*