

grant program, communities must be located in a fire hazard area and take steps toward the implementation of the model ordinance. These grants, administered by FEMA, can be used to enforce local ordinances and codes, develop incentive programs to improve code compliance, educate local planners on fire resistant planning, zoning and home construction, as well as train local fire departments on emerging technologies such as GIS fire mapping;

Providing grants to States on a 50/50 cost share basis to create or update fire hazard maps. Authorizes \$15 million annually for States to develop or update statewide fire hazard maps which identify communities at risk of wildfire;

Establishing incentives for communities that decide to become more fire safe by changing the federal share of firefighting and emergency expenses reimbursed under FEMA's Fire Management Assistance Grants. Currently states and local communities can have 75 percent of their firefighting and emergency service expenses reimbursed by the federal government, if FEMA determines that a fire threatened a significant number of homes and structures. Under this bill, communities in fire hazard areas that adopt the new model ordinance would be eligible to have 90 percent of their firefighting and emergency service expenses reimbursed under the Fire Management Assistance Grants program;

Authorizing the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to offer grants to local communities for fire safe practices. The bill makes revisions to the authorization of the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to allow them to administer grants to local communities for model ordinance compliance and for responsible zoning and fire protection strategies. The U.S. Forest Service would administer \$35 million in fire-safe grants. The Department of the Interior would administer \$15 million in these grants.

#### WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION AND RENEWABLE BIOMASS UTILIZATION ACT

This bill would revise the definition of "renewable biomass" in section 201 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 so as to facilitate and encourage the use of biomass removed from certain additional forest lands as an energy source, in order to reduce the risk of severe wildfires to communities, infrastructure, and water supplies.

Specifically, the bill would expand the current definition of "renewable biomass" to include biomass removed from lands within the wildland-urban interface in connection with an authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects.

The bill uses the definitions of "hazardous fuel reduction project" and "wildland-urban interface" that are used in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.

That Act defines the term "wildland-urban interface" as including "an area within or adjacent to an at-risk community that is identified ... in a community wildfire protection plan" or, with regard to a community that has not developed a community wildfire protection plan, lands within a specified distance from the community's boundary (a distance that can vary depending on the presence of steep slopes or other geographic features) as well as areas adjacent to an evacuation route for an at-risk community that require hazardous fuel reduction to provide safer evacuation from an at-risk community.

These definitions provide greater specificity than the term "immediate vicinity"

now used in this part of the new energy law, and will broaden the scope of its applicability. I supported enactment of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, and I think it is appropriate to follow its example in this respect.

#### RECOGNIZING COREY DYLAN JEPSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Corey Dylan Jepson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Corey has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. He has held several leadership positions in the troop including Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader. Not only has Corey had many accomplishments within his troop, but he has also earned the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Corey Dylan Jepson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### HONORING VERIDIAN HOMES' BUILDER OF THE YEAR 2008 AWARD

##### HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Veridian Homes for receiving Professional Builder magazine's Builder of the Year for 2008, one of the homebuilding industry's most prestigious and coveted awards. This honor not only demonstrates a unique level of innovation but also a vigorous dedication to quality and customer service.

As the largest residential builder in the State of Wisconsin, Veridian builds nearly 500 homes and condominiums each year. This level of productivity has earned it a market share of over 30 percent while offering a variety in price, style, and size. In only 4 short years, Veridian Homes has claimed the spotlight as an industry leader despite the uncertainties presented by the current market.

Co-founders David Simon and Jeff Rosenberg have successfully combined the conventional wisdom of community development with a creative blend of environmentally conscious business practices and quality improvement strategies. All of Veridian's homes and condominiums meet Green Built Home and Energy Star program standards. The company has also built six LEED-certified homes and initiated its own recycling program, in addition to actively experimenting with more resource and material-efficient processes.

Even more impressive, though, is their attention to partnership and accountability. Simon and Rosenberg have consistently demanded feedback from their employees, trade partners, and customers alike to ensure a level of continuous development. This customer and product-first approach leaves no aspect of quality improvement unattended.

To the truest extent, Veridian Homes has made Wisconsin a great place to live. I am proud to have such an extraordinary innovator and trendsetter right here in Dane County. I wish Veridian Homes many more years of success as a model for excellence and customer satisfaction.

#### CONGRATULATING DR. HAN SEUNG-SOO ON HIS NOMINATION AS PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

##### HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEAGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. FALEOMAVEAGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to my friend, Dr. Han Seung-soo, on his nomination as the next Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea by President-Elect Lee Myung-Bak.

Dr. Han, currently serving as Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Climate Change, has had a long and distinguished career in public service. He has previously served as South Korea's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economy, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Minister of Trade and Industry, Ambassador to the United States, and Chief of Staff to the President of the Republic of Korea. He served three terms in the South Korean National Assembly and thus has been, like us, a member of his country's legislature.

Moreover, in recognition of his exemplary record as a diplomat, Dr. Han was also elected President of the 56th session of the UN General Assembly in 2001. He was to be officially elected to the presidency on the fateful morning of September 11, 2001 but was, instead, sworn in on the next day. His leadership was instrumental in the passage of a resolution by the UN General Assembly session denouncing the terrorist attacks. He wrote about these experiences in his new book entitled "Beyond the Shadow of 9-11: A Year at the United Nations General Assembly." He recently sent me a signed copy of his memoirs, which I greatly appreciate.

Over the years, Dr. Han and I have crossed paths on more than one occasion due to our mutual interest in international environmental policy and, in particular, the issues surrounding global climate change. As chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Global Environment, I have always been personally impressed by Dr. Han's depth and breadth of knowledge, his ability to listen to people with different—and sometimes technically complex—ideas, and his capacity for synthesizing the best of available knowledge for eventual decisionmaking.

Last November, speaking in Bangkok at the Committee on Managing Globalization of the