

service to the nation as an astronaut, educator, and advocate for the next generation of women scientists and engineers.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, in the past 10 years, the price of crude oil has risen by more than 400 percent, accounting for much of the nearly 200 percent increase in gasoline prices during that time. America should have spent the past decade investing in renewable energy and infrastructure, but we instead remain the number one importer of oil. Foreign oil accounts for 23.5 percent of United States energy consumption, the largest component of our energy profile. To meet its needs, the U.S. spends over \$100 billion on foreign oil, helping to sustain corrupt political systems and state terrorism. This will continue to persist as long as we are dependent on oil, as nearly two-thirds of proved world oil reserves reside in countries considered "not free" by leading human rights organizations.

America's dependence on oil is a threat to our national security, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability.

Forty-five years ago, President Kennedy pledged to send man to the moon. We need a similar "moon shot" program to end our dependence on foreign oil. The bill I stand here to introduce, the Apollo Energy Independence Act, taps the greatest asset of the United States, Yankee ingenuity and free markets, to boost alternative vehicles and increase renewable energies to get off foreign oil. By cutting funding for low-priority programs, we can fund a massive effort to end our dependence on the Middle East.

The Apollo Energy Independence Act first and foremost permanently extends investment tax credits for renewable energy such as wind; closed-loop biomass; open-loop biomass; geothermal; small irrigation; hydropower; landfill gas; marine power; trash combustion facilities; solar energy property; fuel cell property; micro-turbines; and nuclear energy. The bill also permanently extends a number of energy efficiency tax incentives.

Each Congress, lawmakers scramble at the last minute to renew these effective incentives, then shortsightedly extend them for just a short period. This has undoubtedly stifled the growth of our renewable energy industry. Some studies estimate that renewable energy could supply up to 37 percent of our electricity needs by 2030, resulting in \$700 billion in economic activity and 5 million new U.S. jobs by 2025. Yet in years which the production tax credit is set to expire, investments significantly decline. In the wind energy sector alone, investments drop an average 80 percent every other year when the credits expire. In order to realize our full renewable potential, it is absolutely essential that we provide long-term incentives to engender enough market confidence to generate sustained investment.

If the proposals established in the Apollo Energy Independence Act are implemented,

renewable energy use could increase by more than 320 percent and comprise the largest segment of U.S. energy use. Foreign oil use would plummet by more than 730 percent, based on estimates from the National Hydrogen Association (NHA), the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) and the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

The Apollo Energy Independence Act also establishes a number of permanent tax incentives to purchase and produce advanced vehicle technologies and alternative fuels, such as cellulosic and hydrogen fuel. The legislation also permanently extends the hybrid tax credit, increases it by 50 percent and eliminates the obstructive limitation. Since current law limits the hybrid tax credit to just the first 60,000 vehicles, the full credit was available for the most popular vehicles for just 9 months after its establishment. The quarter in which the credit began to phase out, Toyota saw its hybrid vehicle sales decline by nearly 30 percent. My legislation repeals this limit to facilitate the constant proliferation of hybrid vehicles.

In order to spur the development and deployment of even more advanced vehicles, we establish an advanced vehicle technology credit for plug-in electric drive, fuel cell and flexible fuel vehicles. But our failure to fully deploy alternative fuels and vehicles is not simply a lack of development, it also stems from a lack of proper infrastructure. My legislation increases and makes permanent the alternative fueling property credit. It also provides a steady funding stream, via Corporate Average Fuel Economy penalties, to the Department of Energy's Clean Cities Initiative, which establishes local public-private partnerships to find alternative fueling infrastructure solutions to reduce our oil consumption.

Americans currently import 12 million barrels of oil daily. The policies of the Apollo Act could decrease foreign oil consumption by up to 10 million barrels per day by 2030, according to a study commissioned by the NHA. At today's crude oil prices, this would save America over \$500 billion annually.

The bill establishes a number of other measures to help consumers reduce their energy and gasoline costs, including providing market incentives to boost public transportation use, reducing costly boutique fuels, providing grants for green school improvements and eliminating ethanol tariffs.

To fund this effort, the legislation cuts Federal funding for congressional earmarks and agriculture subsidies while consolidating a number of lower priority Government functions. By spurring new energy technology, resulting spin-offs promise to generate additional economic growth and jobs. According to NASA, since 1976 more than 1,500 technologies emerged from the space program, creating thousands of new jobs and industries.

The United States spent \$19.5 billion to realize one of her most prestigious accomplishments—landing on the moon. We should invest in a similar national effort that will be equally important for the sustainability of our society and could have even far more reaching and long-term benefits than the Apollo program. I hope my colleagues will join Representatives JUDY BIGGERT, CHRISTOPHER SHAYS and me in taking the first step toward

achieving this goal and support the Apollo Energy Independence Act.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER ELSON
"SKIP" EHRHARDT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent heroic action of Eldora, Iowa Police Officer Elson "Skip" Ehrhardt.

On March 5, 2008 at 12:48 a.m., while Officer Ehrhardt was on patrol, he received an emergency page indicating that a woman was in active labor a half block away in the Merritt Mobile Home Court. When Officer Ehrhardt arrived on the scene, he had to urge a hesitant woman to leave the bathroom where she had begun to go into labor. When she eventually came out, Ehrhardt realized that her water had broken and that there was no time to get her medical assistance. He noticed that the baby's head was on its way out, and about a minute later, at 12:57 a.m., Officer Ehrhardt had the baby in his arms. He then quickly unwrapped the umbilical cord and rubbed the baby vigorously until the baby began to cry, just as an ambulance arrived with paramedics.

Officer Ehrhardt's alertness and decisive decision making in such a critical situation goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country. His courage illustrates the compassion of Iowans; willing to do whatever it takes for a neighbor in need. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Officer Ehrhardt on a job well done. It is an honor to represent such a compassionate Iowan in Congress, and I wish Officer Ehrhardt the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE WALKER TAVERN
FARMER'S PICNIC

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize the one hundredth anniversary of the first Walker Tavern Farmer's Picnic held in Brooklyn, Michigan in 1908. It is with great enthusiasm that I honor the Farmer's Picnic on behalf of the many Michigan families who have experienced the joy of this unique event.

Started by a group of business owners in 1907, the first Walker Tavern Farmer's Picnic was celebrated in the Irish Hills and quickly became a highly anticipated annual event. This day-long picnic, originally called the Businessmen's Picnic, brought families, friends, and visitors together to share food, partake in games, and exchange stories. The picnic offered over 25 summers of community entertainment from 1908 to 1935 until halted by the Depression.

This historic event is known for the bringing together workers of many trades, such as