

According to the Department of the Interior there is an estimated 8.5 billion barrels of known oil reserves and 29.3 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of known natural gas reserves along our coastlines; with 82 percent of the oil and 95 percent of the gas located in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM). However, even more importantly, the Department of the Interior estimates that there are untapped resources of about 86 billion barrels (51 percent in the Gulf of Mexico) and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas (55 percent in the Gulf of Mexico) out there.

Similarly, the U.S. has been called the Saudi Arabia of oil shale. It has been estimated that oil shale deposits in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming hold the equivalent of as little as 1.8 trillion barrels of oil and potentially as much as 8 trillion barrels of oil. In comparison, Saudi Arabia reportedly holds proved reserves of 267 billion barrels. Unfortunately, oil shale is roughly equivalent to diesel fuel and a number of Clean Air Act regulations—such as low-sulfur diesel—and Federal motor fuel taxes, which favor gasoline over diesel fuels—have created a strong financial disincentive regarding the production and use of oil shale fuels. In addition, many of these deposits are on public land making it more bureaucratically complicated to exploit this resource. My bill provides a financial incentive for companies to invest in and produce more oil from oil shale.

Getting more domestic oil on the market is only half the solution. We haven't built a new refinery in this country in more than 25 years because the approval process for new refinery construction is estimated to require up to 800 different permits. While existing refineries have undergone significant expansion over the years, even as others have been shuttered, our aging refinery infrastructure leaves little margin for error. If we begin to produce more domestic crude oil we would need to turn it into home heating oil, gasoline, or diesel through the refining process. The ability to refine oil must keep pace with the demand for gasoline and diesel. My bill would expedite the construction of new refining capacity by streamlining the permitting process and opening up closed military bases for construction.

Clearly, developing new oil fields and refineries will take some time. In the interim my bill will help promote the switch to flexfuel and hybrid cars and trucks; extend important alternative energy tax credits; and provide individuals and truckers a vitally needed fuel price tax relief package. It also opens up land for the production of biofuel crops in order to provide relief from high food prices as a result of ethanol production.

Again, I believe in conservation, I believe in energy efficiency, and I believe in diversifying our energy supply by using wind, solar, coal-to-liquid technologies, ethanol and other renewable energy sources. But the fact of the matter is that oil and natural gas are still going to be a part of our energy mix for a long time to come and we must give our constituents some relief now.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS WATSON  
MOSS, JR.

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, tomorrow would be the 83rd birthday of Thomas Watson Moss, Jr. However, Mr. Moss passed little more than 1 month short of starting his 83rd year. I rise today to offer my condolences and prayers to his family and share the story of a remarkable man. It is an honor to have this opportunity. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a member of the "Greatest Generation" and a unique and notable individual.

Thomas Moss was born in Forsyth County, Georgia, on July 18, 1925, and grew up in the midst of the Great Depression. Like many of his generation, he answered the call of his country and proudly served in World War II after graduating from Gainesville High School and attending North Georgia College. During his service as a medic in the U.S. Navy, during which he was attached to the Marine Corps, he participated in some of the seminal battles in the Pacific theater, including the invasion of Okinawa. He received two Purple Hearts and a Presidential Military Citation for his exemplary service.

After returning from the Pacific, Mr. Moss joined the family business, Moss Equipment Company, in Buford, Georgia. In addition to his success in business, Mr. Moss was active throughout in his community and state. The dedication to his country and his value of serving others was clear through his time with the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce, Buford Kiwanis Club and the Georgia Farm Equipment Dealers Association. He was one of the founding members of the Gwinnett County Fair Association, served in the Georgia legislature and on the Buford school board.

The tremendous impact he had on his community is incredible and indicative of his generation; where service, duty and honor were the guiding principles. Despite the demands on his time in business and civic activities, Mr. Moss was the pillar of his family and is survived by his wife of 58 years, Martha Smith Moss, two children, Mark and Lisa, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Tom and Martha's daughter Linda preceded Tom in death many years ago.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues and the American people will pause with me in recognition of a life well lived and learn from the example Mr. Moss set for his family, his community and his country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 503 on the Bishop Amendment to H.R. 415, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO  
CLARIFY AUTHORITY OF SEC-  
RETARY OF AGRICULTURE RE-  
GARDING ADDITIONAL REC-  
RECREATIONAL USES OF NATIONAL  
FOREST SYSTEM LANDS SUB-  
JECT TO SKI AREA PERMITS

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to revise the 1986 law dealing with use of National Forests for ski areas in order to reflect current ways those areas are used and to provide clear authority for the Forest Service to allow additional recreational uses of those areas.

I have long thought it is in the national interest to encourage Americans to engage in outdoor recreational activities that can contribute to their health and well-being, and that National Forest lands, including ski areas, can play a role by providing opportunities for such activities.

And my interest in the subject was heightened earlier this year when representatives of the National Ski Areas Association brought to my attention the fact that the National Forest Ski Areas Permit Act of 1986, which speaks only to "nordic and alpine skiing," does not reflect the full spectrum of snowsports for which ski areas are now used, and what they described as the absence of clear authority for the Forest Service to permit use of ski areas for other summer, seasonal, or year-round outdoor recreational activities and facilities in support of those activities.

To better understand the matter, I sent a letter asking the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and the Environment whether current law could be clearer on those points. Under Secretary Mark Rey replied that the 1986 legislation indeed did not address those matters and that, if requested, the USDA "would be happy to work with you to amend" the law to provide the Forest Service with clear authority regarding such activities and facilities.

I did request and receive technical suggestions from the Forest Service, and have considered their input as well as suggestions from the National Ski Areas Association and other interested parties in developing the bill I am introducing today.

The bill intentionally uses a number of terms and phrases based on the terminology of the Forest Service's regulations, manual, or other official documents because those terms and phrases are familiar not only to the Forest Service but also to permittees and others with an interest in the management of the National Forests. Thus, as used in the bill the term "developed recreation" means recreation that occurs at an area which has been improved or developed for that purpose—such as camping in constructed campgrounds or developed opportunities for off-highway-vehicle use as well as downhill skiing. Similarly, the term "natural-resource-based recreation" is intended to have the same meaning as when used in the Forest Service manual 2300 (Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Management).

It also should be noted that the bill deals only with the 1986 National Forest Ski Areas Act, and would not in any way affect any other law applicable to management of the National Forests or any permits issued under any of those laws.

Ski area permits under the 1986 law do give their holders a priority with respect to commercial use of the lands subject to the permits, but they do not preclude general use of those lands by the public for compatible, non-commercial uses, and the bill would not change that. In fact, the bill does not affect the status, the duration, or any other provision of any permit already issued under the 1986 law, nor does it provide for any new permits. Instead, it makes clear that the Forest Service is authorized—but not required—to allow a current or future holder of a permit under the 1986 law to provide opportunities for additional developed recreational activities (and to place associated facilities) on the lands covered by that permit if the specified requirements are met and if the Forest Service decides it would appropriate for that to occur.

And it would not affect any existing or future permit related to use of lands that are not subject to ski area permits under the 1986 law or in any way reduce or otherwise modify the extent to which the Forest Service can allow any particular use on any of those lands outside ski areas.

Madam Speaker, this is a narrowly-targeted bill that I think can be valuable regarding an important aspect of the management of the National Forests and in facilitating the provision of additional opportunities for seasonal and year-round recreational activities on the parts of those lands that are subject to permits under the 1986 law. I think it deserves the approval of our colleagues, and for their reference I attach a more detailed outline of its provisions:

OUTLINE OF THE BILL

Section 1 sets forth findings regarding the basis for the legislation, and states its purpose. The findings note that it is in the national interest to provide, and encourage Americans to take advantage of, opportunities to engage in outdoor recreational activities that can contribute to their health and well-being; that National Forests, including those areas used for skiing, can provide such opportunities during all four seasons; that increased use of ski areas for that purpose can reduce impacts on other National Forest lands; and that it is in the national interest to revise the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act. The purpose is to amend that 1986 law so as to reflect that other snowsports, in addition to nordic and alpine skiing, occur at ski areas and to clarify the Forest Service's authority to permit additional appropriate seasonal or year-round recreational uses of lands subject to permits under that law.

Section 2 would amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 in three ways:

(1) by replacing current language that refers only to "nordic and alpine skiing" with broader terminology to reflect that additional ski areas are also used for additional snowsports, such as snowboarding.

(2) by providing specific authority for the Forest Service to authorize the holder of a ski area permit under the 1986 law to provide ad-

ditional recreational opportunities (and to have associated facilities) on lands covered by that permit. This authority is limited to activities and facilities that the Forest Service determines appropriate, that encourage outdoor recreation, and that harmonize to the natural environment to the extent practicable. The bill makes clear that the activities and facilities will be subject to such terms and conditions as the Forest Service determines appropriate. It also specifies that no activity or facility can be authorized if the agency determines that authorization would result in the primary recreational purpose of lands covered by a permit under the 1986 law would not be skiing or other snowsports.

(3) Finally, the bill would delete from the 1986 law obsolete language related to a deadline for conversion of previously-issued ski-area permits to permits under the 1986 law, while retaining the requirement that regulations be promulgated to implement that law—a requirement that will apply to the law as it would be amended by the bill.

Section 3 specifies that the bill will not affect any authority the Forest Service now has under laws other than the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986, including authority with respect to recreational activities or facilities.

OP-ED SUPPORTING EDUCATION ON CORONARY HEART DISEASE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an Opinion Editorial from the Washington Afro-American News that reflects support for educating people of color on the symptoms and prevention of coronary heart disease.

The editorial which was published on July 5, 2008 is entitled; "Taking on the Attack: Lessons from Tim Russert's Death." The author of the Op-Ed, Honorable ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, recognizes the devastating reality of the disease. The fact is that heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women, killing more than 700,000 people a year.

The sudden death of NBC-TV's Tim Russert brings to light the importance of heart health. In the editorial, Congressman CUMMINGS states that "African-American adults are less likely to be diagnosed with coronary heart disease; however, we are more likely to die from it," emphasizing the disparities that exist among people of color. He advises to quit smoking, engage in regular exercise, reduce alcohol consumption, reduce stress and make healthy choices about the food that you eat in order to reduce the risk of heart disease.

Congressman ELIJAH CUMMINGS encourages everyone to attack the number one killer in the U.S. by living heart-healthy lives and to acknowledge that "everyday we wait to adopt a better lifestyle is another day we put ourselves at needless risk."

[From the Washington Afro-American News, July 5, 2008]

TAKING ON THE ATTACK: LESSONS FROM TIM RUSSERT'S DEATH

(By Elijah E. Cummings)

Shocked. Even this word fails to describe the reactions of people when they heard about the sudden end premature death of legendary NBC newsman Tim Russert.

On the day of his wake, hundreds of people lined up at St. Albans School in Washington, DC, to pay respect to a man whom they had never met, but whose death had caused a deep sense of loss in their lives. Because of Tim Russert, Sunday was not simply a day of worship and rest. As he would say, "If it's Sunday, it's 'Meet the Press.'"

He was a top television journalist, a best-selling author, a statesman in the world of politics and, more importantly to him, a proud husband, father and son.

By all accounts, Tim was as famous as one could get and, yet, he was an everyday man—someone to whom we all could relate. So, when the news spread of his death from a heart attack at age 58, middle-aged men across the country got scared. They hit the gym and passed up dessert.

Women grabbed measuring tape to wrap around their loved-one's waists while vowing to create healthier household diet and fitness regimes to bring those waist circumferences down to below 40 inches. (According to the American Heart Association, a waistline of more than 40 inches places a man at a high risk for heart disease.)

The fact is heart disease is the country's leading cause of death for men and women, killing more than 700,000 people a year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In the African-American community, the outlook is even more troubling. African-American adults are less likely to be diagnosed with coronary heart disease; however, we are more likely to die from it.

We also develop high blood pressure at an earlier age and, on average, our blood pressure readings are higher than those of other groups. In fact, the prevalence of hypertension in our communities is among the highest in the world.

Compared to White Americans, ages 45-65, the premature death rate from heart disease for Black men is twice as high. For Black women, it is three times as high.

The statistics are no better in Maryland, where African Americans make up less than 28 percent of the population, but we experience the highest rates of heart disease deaths in the state. According to the CDC, from 1996 to 2000, African Americans in Maryland had a heart disease death rate of 620 per 100,000, compared with 500 per 100,000 for Whites. In Baltimore City, African Americans are 15 percent more likely to die from heart disease than Whites.

There is good news. Although there are risk factors for heart disease beyond our control such as increasing age, gender and heredity, there are steps we can take to reduce the dangers of heart disease.

We must take better care of ourselves. We can quit smoking, engage in regular exercise, reduce our consumption of alcohol, reduce the stress in our lives and make healthy choices about the food that we eat.

We must educate ourselves. In the case of a heart attack, every second counts and we have done an excellent job of informing men of the signs and symptoms they may have when experiencing a heart attack (including chest pain, shortness of breath and discomfort in the arms).