

to India's independence and will host a cultural celebration to commemorate the occasion with traditional patriotic dances and youth performances.

Madam Speaker, let us join with Americans of Indian origin from across the country to celebrate Indian Independence Day and take this opportunity to appreciate the rich culture, traditions, and history that have contributed so much to the United States of America. I invite my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me, Naperville Mayor George Pradel, and the residents of the 13th Congressional District in celebration of India's Independence Day.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INCORPORATION TRANSPARENCY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2010*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Incorporation Transparency and Law Enforcement Assistance Act. The bill would require the States to obtain information about the true ownership of the corporation, when they allow someone to create a corporate entity. As some have put it, this bill is a "no-brainer." And it is fairly straightforward: it would require that the person creating the corporation to state the "beneficial owner" of the corporation and provide some form of identification.

Although this is as straightforward as it sounds, the implications for law enforcement are broad reaching. Criminal organizations are infamous for using shell corporations, both foreign and domestic to open bank accounts, launder money, perpetrate fraud, and finance terrorism. And it isn't difficult for them to do. Virtually no States require people applying to create corporations to provide the identity of the corporate owner. In fact, 48 of 50 States, except for Alabama and Alaska, allow for the unfettered creation of an anonymous corporate entity. As a result, just about anyone can easily manipulate the system to fund criminal activity.

Here is an example from a recent investigation in NY by the Manhattan District Attorney. The office announced investigations involving the movement of funds through banks in NY by entities controlled by the Iranian Military. In at least two cases, domestic shell companies were opened in two different States to further secret Iranian interests. Through a NY shell company, individuals working on behalf of the government of Iran were able to move funds to secret accounts held in offshore jurisdictions. Shockingly, the offshore government was able to give the Manhattan DA more information about the ownership of the NY entity than the State of NY could.

Although the DA does not contend that requiring a declaration of beneficial ownership would have stopped this activity, it would have at least been a piece of evidence to go on. And if the declaration of beneficial ownership had been required but falsified, it would have

been an extra tool for law enforcement to shut down the entity and prosecute the perpetrators.

The bill I am introducing today will provide the kind of transparency that law enforcement needs to investigate financial crimes. However, it is narrowly drafted so that it is not overly burdensome on either States or incorporating entities. In fact, most corporations would be exempt from the bill's requirements including companies that are already regulated by federal banking regulators and companies that are over 20 employees. This bill is meant to capture beneficial ownership information from companies that are able to escape regulation and oversight through other federal entities.

Senator LEVIN has already introduced a similar bill in the Senate, and President Obama was the lead sponsor when he was a U.S. Senator. It is supported by numerous law enforcement associations, including the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys, the National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition, the United States Marshals Service Association, and the Association of Former ATF Agents.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING THE TOWN OF UPTON,  
MAINE

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2010*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Town of Upton, Maine as it celebrates its sesquicentennial on August 21, 2010.

Upton was incorporated February 9, 1860, prior to which it was known as Letter B. Plantation. In 1870, the population was 187 people; and in 1880, the population grew to 245 people. The Town of Upton now boasts 64 full-time residents.

The citizens of this small town have experienced their fair share of history, both within the State of Maine and the greater United States. During the Civil War, 16 soldiers from the town left to fight for the Union; six did not return. Today, the town continues to attract residents and visitors with its beautiful location and the outdoor recreation in the Umbagog Region. Author Richard E. Pinette described the Upton area as, "nature's playground with a rich forestland heritage."

Upton is steeped in the history of logging days and working forests and will honor its traditions on August 21, with an event recognizing Upton's history and celebrating with events such as a horseshoe tournament, skillet throwing contests, a quilt display, a spinning demonstration and a town-wide square dance in the evening.

I am pleased to share in the celebration as Upton looks back on 150 years of rich and varied history.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing all the citizens of Upton, Maine well on this joyous occasion.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUBLICATION OF "OLD MOTHER WEST WIND"

**HON. BILL DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 10, 2010*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the publication of "Old Mother West Wind," the hallmark nature book penned by author and naturalist Thornton W. Burgess. The first of over 150 nature books and 15,000 stories, Burgess' "Old Mother Wind" introduced children to a wide variety of local animals, their habits, and habitats. These engaging stories of the natural world have helped generations of children gain a greater understanding of the timeless importance of conservation of our natural resources and a love of wildlife.

A native of Sandwich, Massachusetts, Thornton Burgess (1875–1965) went on to achieve national and international recognition for these children's stories and his monumental leadership and initiatives in preserving our Nation's natural heritage. For 100 years, generations of children throughout the world have grown up with Old Mother West Wind. Her Merry Little Breezes skipping across the meadows, Peter Rabbit and his animal friends—including Jimmy Skunk, Grandfather Frog, Johnny Chuck, Sammy Jay, Reddy Fox, Hooty Owl, and many others—continue today to both regale and teach us about our natural surroundings.

These characters have become friends to children and adults alike. Their antics, questions of "why" and "how," and their love for one another, demonstrate and teach the value of our natural heritage. They stimulate and fascinate children's interests in the natural world, all the while constantly reminding parents and adults of the importance of preserving and conserving our natural heritage for future generations.

Thornton W. Burgess' work is continued today through the non-profit Thornton W. Burgess Society, headquartered in his native town of Sandwich. As we celebrate the centennial anniversary of "Old Mother West Wind," I salute the Thornton W. Burgess Society for its preservation of the writings, teachings, and memorabilia of a pioneer environmentalist; its mission of inspiring reverence of wildlife and concern for the natural environment; for its operation of the Thornton W. Burgess Museum, Green Briar Nature Center and Shirley G. Cross Wildflower Garden, and the many programs and exhibits it provides in conjunction with their operation; and its 34 years of promoting the study of the natural sciences and environmental education in the schools of Cape Cod and throughout southeastern Massachusetts.