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A Ceremony Unveiling the Portrait of THE HONORABLE JOE BARTON

April 21, 2008
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

COMMITTEE PRINT

A Ceremony Unveiling the Portrait of THE HONORABLE JOE BARTON

A Representative in Congress from the State of Texas

Elected to the Ninety-ninth Congress
Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce
One Hundred Eighth and One Hundred Ninth Congresses

PROCEEDINGS

before the

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

U.S. House of Representatives
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JOE BARTON

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U.S. House of Representatives

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The Honorable Joe Barton

Congressman Joe Barton was first elected to serve the Sixth Congressional District of Texas in 1984. In 2004, he was selected by his colleagues to be the chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce—the oldest standing legislative House committee. Congressman Barton was the first Texan since former House Speaker Sam Rayburn to chair this important committee. The Energy & Commerce Committee has arguably the broadest non tax-oriented jurisdiction of any congressional committee, with principal House responsibility over matters relating to commerce, public health and marketplace interests. Congressman Barton currently serves as the ranking Republican of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the 110th Congress.

The "House GOP's leading expert on energy policy" (Wall Street Journal, October 2002), Congressman Barton has led the House charge to pass comprehensive national energy policy legislation. In the past two congresses, he has shared authorship of the two most comprehensive energy policy packages to pass in the House since the 1930s. Congressman Barton has committed himself to passing legislation promoting an environment of high supply, low demand, consumer-friendly prices and environmental protection. A proponent of competition, Congressman Barton is additionally responsible for both the first electricity deregulation legislation to pass a House subcommittee, and for legislation which deregulated the natural gas industry.

Congressman Barton's diligent work to promote a conservative agenda and protect individual rights earned him notice from the National Journal as one of the "Republicans to Watch" (November 2003). In his first legislative victory as chairman, the House overwhelmingly passed legislation to limit indecency on the public airwaves. As a founding co-chairman of the Congressional Privacy Caucus, he continues in his new role to preserve the financial and medical privacy of Americans, and has used his jurisdiction to protect safety and privacy in the ever-expanding Internet universe. As founding co-chairman of Asthma Awareness Day on Capitol Hill, Congressman Barton has consistently supported common sense, environmentally-sound clean air policy at the local, state and national level. He remains committed to supporting advanced research and increased funding for diabetes, cancer and the issues of home, rural and mental health, and was responsible for the passage of landmark Food and Drug Administration reform legislation designed to improve the way the agency approves medical devices.

Congressman Barton remains among the steadfast House leaders on tax reform through the promotion of lower taxes and financial freedom. He has supported eliminating the marriage penalty and the estate taxes, reducing capital gains taxes, retirement of the current Tax Code and sweeping bankruptcy reforms. Congressman Barton will continue to fight for the basic traditional rights put forth by the Founding Fathers.

Joe Barton was born on September 15, 1949, in Waco, Texas. An avid baseball player growing up, he earned a 4-year Gifford-Hill Opportunity Award scholarship to Texas A&M University, where he was the outstanding industrial engineering student for the

Class of 1972. After earning a Master of Science degree in Industrial Administration from Purdue University, he joined Ennis Business Forms, where he rose to the position of Assistant to the Vice President. In 1981, he was selected for the prestigious White House Fellows Program, and served as an aide to then-Energy Secretary James B. Edwards. He returned to Texas in 1982 as a natural gas decontrol consultant for Atlantic Richfield Oil and Gas Company before being elected to Congress.

Congressman Barton and his wife Terri have homes in Ennis and Arlington, Texas. He has four children, two stepchildren, and four grandchildren.

(Reprinted from the program. Prepared for the portrait unveiling ceremony.)

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Laurel Stern Boeck, born in 1959 in New York City, is a highly accomplished portraitist, who started her career quite successfully in advertising.

She studied portrait painting at the School of Visual Arts in New York and the Art Students League of New York, with noted artist and teacher, John F. Murray.

Ms. Boeck's likenesses are perfectly accurate. They capture the warmth and essence of her subject. A pleasure and professional to work with, Ms. Boeck's clients all sing her praises.

Lowell Steve Brock

PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
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Chaplain, U.S. House of Representatives
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The Honorable Roy Blunt
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ADDRESS
The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
PORTRAIT UNVEILING
Mrs. Terri Barton
BENEDICTION
Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin
Chaplain, U.S. House of Representatives

The Unveiling and Presentation of the Official Portrait of

THE HONORABLE JOE BARTON

APRIL 21, 2008

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC.

The ceremony was held at 5:00 p.m., in room 2123 of the Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. W.J. ''Billy'' Tauzin (master of ceremonies) presiding.

REMARKS OF HON. W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN

Former Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce

Mr. TAUZIN. Thank you very much. Good afternoon. I am Billy Tauzin. I am subbing for the famous Ralph Hall, who called in from Texas indicating he couldn't be in time to be here on this auspicious occasion. I want to first welcome you all to this unveiling of the portrait of former chairman Joe Barton of the illustrious Energy and Commerce Committee.

Let me first welcome all of you on behalf of Ralph and Joe, and to acknowledge the presence of some very special guests this evening for this very important occasion.

First of all, let's welcome former chairman Tom Bliley. Tom, where are you?

And the reason I wanted to welcome Tom so soon is because, of course, the picture on the left will be coming down. It will be moving over to this side of the room, and Tom is out of here. He is gone. I am not sure where the picture goes from now on, Tom.

Mr. BLILEY. I guess the Ford Building.

Mr. TAUZIN. Cecile, as you know, Joe, was the chairwoman of the project to get my portrait painted, and she said that she couldn't be here today for the coming-down ceremony. This is a big day and is long overdue when we honor Joe for his contributions as chairman of this, the most important and most historic of all the committees of the United States Congress. It is such a great pleasure to be with you again in this room and to be not only with Tom, but with John Dingell, who I will introduce shortly, and with Chairman Barton and so many of the

other members of the committee and those of you who have worked in this committee room for so many years.

Joe has also welcomed, and I hope you will welcome with me, many members of his family who are here for this occasion. First of all, his sister Jan is here, and her husband Mike, and their two kids, Parker and Whitney.

Would you please welcome the Gerros.

And his stepkids are also here, Lindsay and Cullen. Lindsay and Cullen, where are you? In the back.

And then he has his own children. Brad is here, who is married to Amy, and their children Blake, Brant and Bailey, three of his grandkids here. I welcome all of you. His daughter Alison is here with her husband Larry Day and their daughter Vivian. And his daughter Kristin is here also. Please welcome Kristin.

And, of course, I saved the most important member of his family, outside of his beautiful wife Terri, his lovely little son, 2½ year-old Jack. Please welcome Jack.

Mr. TAUZIN. This has been an auspicious week in Washington, DC. We have just had a wonderful visit from His Holiness, Pope Benedict, and the Pope couldn't stay for the ceremonies today, so he sent Father Dan Coughlin.

Father COUGHLIN. There are a lot of things that I don't have that the Pope does, including a German accent.

INVOCATION

Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin

Father COUGHLIN. Let us pray.

Oh, mighty God and Father of us all, this evening we gather and we offer you praise and thanksgiving for giving Texas and the House of Representatives of the United States the Honorable Joe Barton.

We thank you for his years of dedicated service as chairman and now the Republican ranking member on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

In this man, Lord God, you fashioned deep principles that provide inner strength and character and clear direction as a leader.

He is recognized by his colleagues and his constituents alike for his deep commitments, unafraid of questioners or critics because he stands in the light of integrity and remains informed on complex issues.

By promoting an environment of high supply, low demand, consumer-friendly prices and environmental protection, Joe Barton has always sought to bring to this Nation a comprehensive national energy policy. Lord, that is a mighty job.

Lord, this portrait in the halls of Congress will mark his place in history, but the living respect and gratitude of those gathered here who have worked with him on this committee will remain a life-giving trib-

ute to him, for they see him as one who continues to give of himself, to his family, his beloved State of Texas and to this Nation.

Lord, You also see him as a dedicated public servant and a servant of Yours in building Your kingdom here on Earth. Amen.

Mr. TAUZIN. Thank you, Father.

You know, in 2004, when I received an awful call that I had been diagnosed with a potential killer cancer, and I had to leave this committee and go do battle for my life, I faced that awful moment when you are leaving behind something you loved and something you cherished and something you enjoyed so much in your life and passing it on to someone you hope would carry on that tradition in this great committee. And it was in that moment that I realized that I had nothing to worry about because Joe Barton was there not only ready to pick up the reins of the leadership of this committee, but to lead the committee to even greater heights during the time in which he had a chance to serve it.

So, Joe, I want to personally thank you for that because it was a very comforting thought for me when I knew the committee I loved, and Tom Bliley and John Dingell and so many other chairmen before you, going back to Harley Staggers and Sam Rayburn, the committee we love so much would be in such good hands.

Father said it best: Joe brought principle, he brought incredible work ethic, he brought an incredible Texas style, he brought a willingness to work with anybody and anyone to get something good done for this country out of the committee that had delivered so much good for so many decades.

And so, Joe, I wanted to take a minute on a very personal level to thank you for taking up the challenge on that awful month back in 2004 and for delivering so mightily on behalf of this Congress and the people of this country and this amazing opportunity to serve as chairman of this great committee.

I want to introduce a few of his colleagues today who will pay tribute to him. One of his colleagues, one of my dearest friends here on the committee who is now sitting in my old office place back where I spent so many years, is here with us today. And I want you to please welcome with me, from the great State of Michigan, the Honorable Fred Upton.

REMARKS OF HON. FRED UPTON

Member of Congress, Sixth District, Michigan

Mr. UPTON. Thank you. I was surprised Billy didn't come by because I said there is always a cold one in the refrigerator.

It really is a delight to be here. Joe has been a special friend for a long, long time now. Some of you may not know, but he and I were actually the two deputy whips when Newt was the whip of the House. And I am sorry to those who wished that Newt had never moved from

the back bench to the front center because it wouldn't have happened without Joe Barton and the two of us.

Joe and Terri are both very close friends. Now, Joe, of course, is an Aggie, and I am a Wolverine. Neither team is known to be particularly flashy, we don't have a west coast offense, neither one of us, we don't have any trick plays. Basically we rely on a strong defense and a strong ground campaign. In other words, what you see is what you get. And particularly important in this place is your word and your bond, because that gets you where you need to go.

Tonight we stand in this marvelous committee room where true giants have steered the helm of our storied committee, whether it be Harley Staggers or Tom Bliley, obviously a great John Dingell, Billy Tauzin. You look at the pictures, they are larger than life. Joe, you stand shoulder to shoulder now with these folks who have gone before us, and every one of us in this room, Republicans and Democrats, are certainly grateful for your continued service.

Joe's reign as chairman is no different than any other in terms of pushing through major landmark legislation. Look at the energy legislation! When we passed the landmark legislation back in 2005, you take up legislation that people said no one could get done: reauthorizing the NIH, something that I don't think had been done in my lifetime, maybe not even in John Dingell's lifetime, but we got it done; oversight investigations, even though somewhat of a friendly administration, they knew that they had to be on their toes when we sent requests down; and obviously telecommunications, an issue where Joe and I worked very closely together with all of the members on this committee, and again we passed landmark legislation.

Now, Joe is known as a staunch conservative. A lot of us didn't know how conservative he was until we got to look at his life a little bit. Terri, I think, would acknowledge such. Here is a guy, we are working on telco legislation, he doesn't have cable or satellite. In fact, he goes out to buy a new TV, and he buys the biggest one he can find. And guess what? It is analog, not digital.

He assembled a topnotch staff. Look at the folks that surround him, whether it was Andy or Bud, David today, Ryan, his personal staff as well, loyal as the day is long, talented, doing wonderful things.

Now, they gave us a preview of this portrait, and I don't know if my eyesight is getting a little bad. Someone said that this was a gavel that is between his hands. I guess we will be able to see here when they unveil it. From this far, I thought it might be a pair of aces that he has in his hand. He is known to be quite a card player. And for that I don't know how either, because he is—you know, again, you can read Joe like a book. His word is his bond. He will tell you right off where he stands on literally every issue. He doesn't play any tricks. But he is probably, I am sure, the best poker player on Capitol Hill bar none,

and I don't know how he got to be that. So this has got to be two aces here that he is holding, at least from afar.

The bottom line is this: All of us on the committee, Republicans and Democrats, cherished the time that Joe was chairman. He had a great relationship with his good friend John Dingell and all the Members on the Democratic side. Whether they be left or right, didn't matter, because Joe was known to be as fair as could be. He is hard-working, wants to get the job done right, and that was very important.

And so I know that, in closing, John Dingell has established what I think is a pretty good precedent. You lose the chairmanship, and then you come back. A lot of us Republicans are anxious to have Joe come back with this gavel sitting in the front. Let's have just a quick toast to a great chairman and a good friend of all of us, the Honorable Joe Barton.

AUDIENCE. Here, here.

Mr. TAUZIN. John Dingell was heard to comment from the back of the room, ''I ain't done yet.''

Now it is my great pleasure to introduce to you the Republican whip of the United States House of Representatives from the great Show-Me State of Missouri, the Honorable Roy Blunt.

REMARKS OF HON. ROY BLUNT

Minority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives

Mr. BLUNT. Thank you, Billy.

Ralph Hall told me to come over here, that we were going to hang Joe Barton. I had no idea what we really—no, at least I am not here to try to substitute for Ralph Hall. But as Billy has shown in so many ways, and all the chairmen that have been mentioned today, this is a committee that has had great leadership, and Joe Barton was part of that great leadership. John Dingell is in his 16th year as chairman of the committee, happily interrupted by some of us for 12 years when he was the great ranking member. But when I came on this committee in my second term of the Congress, I always had a hard time not referring to both Chairman Bliley and Chairman Dingell. Chairman Dingell was right there in every fight for whatever was the jurisdiction of the committee and whatever we needed to do to protect the rights of our committee, whether it was with Tom or with now Joe Barton serving as the chairman, and Billy in between while I was here.

Joe's family is here. I think that is a significant thing, for so much of Joe's family to be here. Joe is a guy who cares about his family. Joe and Terri came to a little event I hosted not too long ago, and I was telling people who was going to be here, and I told one lady who was going to come. And her only question was, is Jack coming? So Jack is very popular. There he is. Jack is right over there. He is a popular guy around here.

Probably the only thing that would make Joe happier would be if this many members of his family were at the congressional baseball game. He is our coach, the coach of our Republican team. You know, whether it is Coach Barton or Chairman Barton, or Ranking Member Barton, or just our good friend Joe Barton, Joe Barton is just a guy that we respect and appreciate.

As the whip of the House, I probably spend more time than anybody else trying to figure out Members, just trying to figure out where they are going to be at any given time on any given issue. Not particularly hard to figure out with Joe, to tell you the truth. Whatever is the most conservative position is usually the one Joe is going to have. But I also see—I am thoughtful about how I say this because I don't mean it to be in any way negative because it is not—there are—you know, Joe brings a lot of different and sort of contradictory strengths to what he does. First of all, he is an engineer and a politician. Now, I will tell you, engineer and politician don't work very well together. Engineer is very much, this is the way it is. The politician is, well, let's see how we get things done. And Joe knows the facts. So he always sort of starts from the premise of what has to be done and then figures out with the rest of us how you get to what can be done. And that is an important part of who he is.

He is a strong guy, a stubborn guy, in some ways very open. And I don't know many people in the Congress who kind of have that ability to start out with all of the facts and then figure out how you bring all the other facts you discover into making things happen.

He is determined, and he is one of the softest-hearted, kindest, gentlest men in Congress. If there is anything that affects his family or his friends, you know that that response is immediate, you know what it is going to be, you know it is going to be heartfelt. It is who he truly is. He knows how to build a consensus.

When Joe became the chairman of this committee, we had the opportunity to pass what was for the third time, and in the three Congresses, an energy bill, but one that we thought this time was going to get signed into law. And Joe literally knew more about energy than anybody else in the room. He knew about it from his professional life, he knew about it from his State, he knew about it from his 24-year congressional career. And one of the things I was most interested in is how could you take all of those facts and all of that information and know the moment that you have to step back and say, here is what I know is absolutely the way to do this, but here is how I know to get it done. And I watched that, and I appreciate that. And I think I told Joe after we passed that Energy Act in 2005 that it would have never happened without him, and nobody would have had the same sense of where to accommodate the pressure points to make it happen.

And as Fred Upton mentioned, first time in 13 years we were able to reauthorize the National Institutes of Health, the NIH. And there was a reason it hadn't been done for 13 years. And when Joe Barton said we were going to do it in the last Congress, nobody else thought it was going to get done in that Congress as well. And it almost didn't. But Joe just persevered right up until the last minute, the last days of that Congress, and that NIH authorization happened. There is a plaque in Joe's office, and I think it is not exactly the 12 commandments; he has kind of got it down to three commandments. The plaque in Joe's office says, ''Fear God, tell the truth, make a profit.'' That is a Republican if I ever heard of one.

He is a good leader. He is a good legislator. He is a good friend, and I am pleased to be here with my other colleagues and tonight to be here for this important moment for our committee and for this Congress. Thank you all.

Mr. TAUZIN. I am sure most of you are aware that this committee has produced some extraordinary leadership for the House, not, of course, to forget the retired Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, who came from this committee; Roy Blunt, who has been in the leadership of the House, providing great leadership on so many issues for so many years now.

Roy, thank you for your service to this Congress and your great leadership from this committee again.

Speaking of leadership, the gentleman for whom, I guess against whom, we are all humbly measured in our roles as chairmen of subcommittees and chairman of this full committee has always been John Dingell. I told the story to you before, but it is worth repeating.

I joined the committee against his wishes. He didn't want another southern oil and gas guy from Louisiana on this committee at the time we were doing southern gas fights, but I got on anyway. I figured I had better go make up with him real quick, so I went to visit him in his office.

I remember that first meeting with the incredible John Dingell, the guy who has been literally on the lips of everyone in oil and gas country for years, the greatest and biggest, most powerful voice on energy you can imagine, and the guy is making the policy that we all had to follow. And I am going to go and finally meet him.

It was an amazing moment to come and sit down with him and get to know him. We hit it off beautifully. We were fast friends. I mean, immediately we found connection and rapport, and we were having a great time together. We got so loose, we started exchanging jokes, and I started telling this wonderful Polish joke. And I got about halfway into it, and John stopped me and he said, Billy, you do know that I am Polish. I said, oh, my God. I didn't know, John. He said, yeah, we were ''Dingellaviches'' when we first arrived in Michigan, and our

name got changed to Dingell. But he says, my family is Polish. I said, look, John, I swear I didn't know it. I said, I promise you I didn't do this on purpose. So I will tell you what I will do, I will start the joke all over, and I will go a lot slower this time.

Well, John looked at me like he wanted to eat me, first of all. He gave me that hard look he always gives to someone in hot water. And then he had a great wonderful belly laugh. If you ever hear John Dingell's belly laugh, it is a wonderful, Earth-shaking moment, and he had a great belly laugh. We have been and remain the closest of friends ever since.

That is the hallmark of John Dingell, not just great leadership, but incredible friendship, enduring, lasting, always there, always extraordinarily present in your life. And he and Debbie have made such a mark on this committee over the years.

I have got to tell you, John, I had enormously mixed feelings when the House leadership changed and you had the tough job of handing over the chairmanship, because I knew how hard it was for you. I know how much you loved being chairman of this committee as much as I did. At the same time, I had this enormous warm feeling about John Dingell having the chance to do it again. He loves this committee perhaps more than anyone I know. He literally lives and breathes the work of this great committee. It is part of his being, part of his soul. Joe, I hope when John Dingell is finished with it, that you will have a chance to come back and serve again.

For the time being, ladies and gentlemen, the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Honorable John Dingell.

REMARKS OF HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce

Chairman DINGELL. Thank you, Billy, and welcome back. We are always happy to see our old friends and our former chairmen, like you and Tom Bliley, come back to share fellowship with your old friends in a room where we have done so much good for the public interest, and which is so much a part of our personal history and the wonderful committee of which we are all so proud.

First of all, like all of you, I am honored and delighted to attend today's public hanging of Joe Barton. And I want to say that the lovely Debra and I, like the other wives and Members, are particularly proud of this committee, and, Joe, also of you and your leadership.

Joe, I have been able to enjoy working with you now for the better part of 25 years. That is a long time. And you are a talented and a dedicated legislator who has led the committee well and fairly. And we are proud of you and the work that you have done here in this room.

Joe, you bear the distinction of following in the footsteps of one of my great mentors and friends, Sam Rayburn. As history tells us, Sam

was the first Texan to serve as the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and he set the standards for the way in which the committee should be run. And he would have been proud of what you have done as the second chairman from Texas of this committee.

This committee is the oldest and, it is my belief, as it is that of our colleagues who serve here, the greatest and the most important in the Congress of the United States. And, Joe, you have helped to extend the great history of this wonderful committee. Now, we sat on opposite sides of the aisle, but there is a tradition in this committee that we are, first of all, proud of the committee; second of all, we want it to work; and third of all, it is our belief that we serve the public interest best by working together. And you have always been an important partner and friend, and we have accomplished a great deal, both as chairman and as the ranking member, regardless of who it was that enjoyed the support of the majority.

Like everyone else here, I am very anxious to see this masterpiece, and I am especially curious to find out whether Joe wore his armadillo tie or his Lone Star State tie when he posed.

Mr. BARTON. I wanted to.

Chairman DINGELL. I suspect there are many here who share this curiosity.

In any event, in this room in which so much has happened, and in which you and all of our colleagues have made so many great contributions, not just to the committee, but to the public interest, it is a great pleasure to see you join with our other colleagues, Mr. Bliley and Mr. Tauzin, and the others who are up on the wall, and I want you to know that it is a real pleasure to share a wall in this room in which you have done so much to serve the public. And we are going to see that you have a doggone good place to hang in this room.

Thank you, all my friends, for honoring my friend Joe Barton.

Mr. TAUZIN. Well, now we come to that moment, the moment of unveiling. Joe, you know, I have always been a respecter of your frankness, and what Roy said about you, what you see is what you get, and Fred mentioned it, too. But I have to tell you, I am reading on the back of this program, the artist Laurel Boeck, who did the portrait we are going to unveil today, apparently Ms. Boeck's likenesses are perfectly accurate. I will tell you, John, I have never seen you look this good. It is a good picture of you, kiddo.

But more importantly, Joe has never looked as good since Terri came into his life. And Terri has in so many ways made the Joe that most of us came to love and admire so much during his chairmanship. She has made such a difference in his life, not to mention the presence of Jack in his life. But Terri is going to do the unveiling. And she is going to show us exactly just how perfect Laurel Boeck has come to capturing the warmth and incredible personality of Joe Barton.

Ladies and gentlemen, Joe Barton.

[Portrait unveiled.]

Mr. TAUZIN. That is well done.

And, ladies and gentlemen, we are going to get a benediction as we close out the program, but we are going to hear from Joe first. And Joe is going to literally give us a chance to find out what he thinks about this beautiful portrait.

Joe Barton.

ADDRESS OF HON. JOE BARTON

Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce

Mr. BARTON. Well, I think everybody knows that Ralph Hall was supposed to be the master of ceremonies, but something came up that was unavoidable. So I called Billy to ask if he would substitute, and he was gracious to say so. Then I had to tell Chairman Dingell. The reason Chairman Dingell was a little bit late, he was having the Oversight staff prepare subpoenas for Mr. Tauzin. We have been trying to reach him for a month, and he couldn't track him down. He is here.

I am so appreciative of everybody that is here this evening. There are a few people that were not introduced that I want to before I give my very brief remarks. I have my mother-in-law and father-in-law, Steve and Betty Hodges from Lockhart, Texas. The guy that looks like the Texan, that is the Texan. And I don't know where Betty is.

We have several Members of Congress that are here. We have Cliff Stearns, who is a good friend from Florida. We have Mac Thornberry, a good Member from Texas. We did have Henry Waxman. I am not sure if Henry is still here or not. We have got Henry. We have got former Congressman Greg Laughlin and former chairman of the Telecommunications Subcommittee Jack Fields is here. So we are appreciative of you.

I want to thank the chaplain for his gracious invocation. I hope he doesn't have to go to confession for saying those nice things about me. I really do appreciate that.

And I also want to introduce this young man here, Tommy Driskell. The reason Tommy is here is he is the guy who got me into politics. He was mayor of Crockett, Texas, when I was living in Crockett, and he decided to run for State representative in the Democratic primary. Now, you may think, well, that is a rational decision. The problem was, he was running against an incumbent and against a young man named James Turner, who later became Congressman Turner.

So Tommy Driskell got into a three-way primary for State rep against an incumbent and somebody who had been groomed his entire life to be Governor of Texas, and he asked me to be his campaign manager. Now, you talk about mistakes. I knew nothing about campaigns. Here is how smart he was, and I am going to not tell the whole truth here

because I don't know if these are still indictable offenses or not. But we had one group that wanted to give us a lot of cash money, a lot of cash money when we had no money. And being the campaign manager, Tommy asked me to talk to this group, and I told him no. Now, what campaign manager in their right mind would turn down cash money? But I did.

And so then it came to getting time for the election, and Tommy had just worked his tail off going around the district. And he showed up; if there were two people talking politics, Tommy would show up. And so it came like the week before the election, and I had a precinct chairman call from a specific city that we really needed to carry. And, again, Tommy had him call me. And he said, are you the campaign manager? And I said, sure. He said, well, I need some walking around money. And I said, what is walking around money? I didn't know what the term meant. And he told me. And I said, no, we don't do that. We don't do walking around money.

And so I told Tommy that somebody had called for walking around money in this precinct, and Tommy seemed a little bit upset. I said, Tommy, you will do fine, you will do fine. You have been over there; you have been to the suppers and the Chamber of Commerce. You will do fine. He got four votes in that precinct.

So anyway, this is Tommy Driskell and his wife Jeanie. And they were on a trip in South America and found about this and came all the way back from South America to come to this.

Mr. DRISKELL. Joe, I am not sure that I would have come if I knew you were going to tell that story. Thank you.

Mr. BARTON. Anyway, it is a real privilege to be elected to the House of Representatives. It is the only Federal office that you can't get appointed to. You have to be elected. So that right there makes it special.

In the entire history of Congress, there have been about 20,000, give or take a few, that have been elected to the House. And if you are really lucky, you are a member of the majority party, and if you are really, really lucky, eventually you get to be a chairman.

I am the 50th chairman, as far as I can tell, of this committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, which was established in December of 1795 as the Committee on Commerce and Manufacturers. It has been in continuous existence since 1795. It was the first standing committee, and it has historically had the longest and broadest jurisdiction of any of the authorizing committees. And I know that there are other committees that have proud histories, the Appropriations Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, the Armed Services Committee; but if you look back at the history of Congress, the committee that has passed almost all the major domestic laws, it is this committee. The original Navigation Acts in the early 1800s came out of this committee, the Railroad Act, the Telegraph Act. In the early 20th century, the

Pure Food and Drug Safety Act, all of the major legislation in the New Deal when Sam Rayburn was the chairman, the Communications Act came out of this committee; and then if you move forward into the 1950s and the 1960s and the 1970s, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978. Under Chairman Bliley's jurisdiction, the Communications Act. You know, you can go on and on and on.

So to become the chairman of this committee, when Billy told me that he was stepping down, I might have a chance, I was just very—I won't say intimidated. That is not quite true. But I was very awed to have the chance. The chairmanship of this committee, as Tom Bliley and Billy Tauzin and John Dingell will tell you, is a public trust in the truest sense of the word.

If you get to be chairman—and you have heard the stories about how stubborn I am and how hard-headed, and they are all true, but when you get to be chairman, you check that at the door. And you have to work with the leadership. In this case, it was Speaker Hastert, Mr. Blunt, Mr. Armey, Mr. DeLay and Mr. Boehner. You have to work with the interest groups, and that is not an easy thing to do. It starts with the members of the committee, and currently there are 57; 31 Democrat and 26 Republican. And you have to be a psychologist because there are certain Members that have to be handled a little bit differently. You have to be a negotiator. You have to be a conciliator.

I can't tell you, to put together the votes—it is easier knowing that you have got the votes if it is a party-line vote, but even then, given the wiley nature of my ranking member, John Dingell, who never knew that he wasn't chairman even when he was ranking member, he just didn't have that attitude. He was just chairman, but he was five votes short. It is just kind of the way he operated.

And so you first have to decide what you want to do. You have to have a vision. And if you are going to have a vision, you have to have a philosophy. And, you know, I am a conservative, and I believe in markets, and I believe in personal freedom, and I believe in individual opportunity. And so that was my vision. And then you have to come up with a game plan based on the issues to try to put that into effect.

And I was only chairman for 3 years, as Chairman Tauzin was. Chairman Bliley was the chairman for 6 years. Chairman Dingell first time around was chairman for 14, and now he is in his second year of the chairmanship in this term.

But that was my vision. So the Energy Policy Act which I have alluded to, Tom Bliley started that, Billy Tauzin continued it, and then I was just the cleanup hitter.

We did mention the National Institutes of Health. I felt public health is one of the original charters of this committee. Some of the earliest petitions to the Committee on Commerce and Manufacturers

were for hospitals. Communities around America wanted hospitals. This was the committee that had that jurisdiction. So NIH was simply, let's bring the National Institutes of Health into the 21st century. So I tried to do that. The Ryan White AIDS Reauthorization Act, the autism bill, I could go on and on.

So I built from Mr. Bliley, and I built from Mr. Tauzin, and I built from John Dingell, because you talk about an asset, to have John Dingell in the room when you are putting a bill together, unless you go back to the 1870s, he drafted the bill or the amendments to the bill. And even when he is against you, he is a great institutional member, because understanding the trust of the committee, it makes him look bad if I screwed up on process and things like that. So even as he was arguing against me, he was telling me how to do it so I could win the argument at least with votes, which he considered a temporary setback. So in any event, I was honored to be the chairman and to have this trust.

And this committee I really think is the greatest committee. And, you know, as my wife Terri would tell you, it sometimes really, really frustrated her, as it should, how much I wanted the committee to succeed. Now, as the ranking member, I still want it to succeed, just not as much as when I was the chairman. It is a different mindset. This is what I admire so much about John Dingell is when he was chairman for 14 years, he was a can-do guy. And when he was ranking member for 12 years, he was a can-do guy. And now that he is chairman again, he is a can-do guy. And I was a can-do guy as a rank-and-file member of the minority, and obviously a can-do guy as a member of the majority, but now as the ranking member, I can't always be a can-do guy. My job is to make sure everything is properly vetted and that we do regular order, regular process. You know, so I am using all the tricks that he taught me.

But I can't think of a better man and a better Member of Congress to be involved with than Chairman Dingell. It is such a privilege to come into this committee. And I, again, Mr. Bliley and Mr. Tauzin and Mr. Dingell, would tell you, when you are debating in this committee, first you are debating a major issue, unless it is a hearing that Ed Markey is chairing on the Avatar. Notwithstanding that—and second, you have got the A-team on the field; whether it is Mr. Markey or Mr. Boucher, Mr. Waxman, Mr. Pallone, or Mr. Stearns, Mr. Shadegg, Mr. Blunt, Mr. Upton, Mr. Hall, you have got the A-team. Both parties put their more aggressive and intelligent Members on this committee. And it is just fun. It is just fun. Even when I know we are probably going to get beat, it is fun to come in and have the debate that we have in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

So I am very proud to have you all here. Again, special thanks to Bud Albright, my former chief of staff, who is now a muckety-muck at

the Energy Department. My current chief of staff David Cavicke is here. And you can't do it if you don't have good staff members, and I appreciate their leadership.

I am going to end with this: I researched all the Members that have been chairmen of this committee, and there are 50 of them. I am the 50th. Thomas Newton was the longest-serving chairman. He served for 20 years, and he was from New York. There are several, and John Dingell is one of them, that served 14. Actually Chairman Dingell would now be the second-longest serving since he is in his 16th year. Sam Rayburn was chairman before he became Speaker. There was another Texan named John Reagan who served two times in the 1880s, and he later became a Senator from Texas. But my favorite, my favorite of all the chairmen, is Charles Wolverton from New Jersey. Now, you may say, who the heck is Charles Wolverton? Well, he was a Republican who was chairman for 2 years, 1947–48, and he got to be chairman again 4 years later.

Mr. TAUZIN. Let me thank you all for coming. I will thank all of them for you, Joe. Let me also, Joe, tell you a quick story.

I have a television show that I do watch. One of them was on the the other day was Joe Pantoliano, Joey Pants, who played as Ralphie on the Sopranos. You remember him? Joe suffers with a mental illness. And on the show he told me the reason he got into acting was because at least when he died, people will always know he existed. You know, he goes to the movies today, look at that guy, he is dead, he is dead, she is dead. Humphrey Bogart, he is gone. But the films remain, and the stories remain, and the memories remain.

Most people don't know what goes on inside this room in America. They have no idea what contributions this room has made to the history of our country. Joe has gone through and done some research on all the chairmen, all the people who have passed through it. Most people wouldn't do that. Most people have no idea about the enormous contributions that are made by people like Joe Barton. But today his picture goes up on the wall, and long after he is gone, kids who come and see this incredible place will say, that guy is dead, but I read about him. He served our country, and he served our country well, and he deserves to be remembered.

And that essentially is what a portrait does. A portrait is just our way here in this Capitol of remembering someone like Joey Pants, who just wanted someone to know that he was here, that he served, that he did his job for his country when he was called upon. And, Joe, we all thank you for what you have given this committee and this country. We know there are going to be great days ahead for you, a great deal more. And we wish you bon voyage as you continue your enormous career in Congress.

Joe asked me to thank the audience and Lauree Boeck, who did such a fabulous job—Joe, the picture is much, much lovelier than the program. It is really a great portrait. It is really well done; Ann Fader, who reports to consultants for managing the portrait and the framing process. I went through this. This is a long process; Ron Sarasin, president of the United States Capitol Historical Society. As you know, this is a gift for the country. Joe and the team and all of your work together to finance this effort has made this gift now to the United States Capitol Historical Society. And obviously Joe wanted me to thank all the sponsors who made contributions to the United States Capitol Historical Society for the Barton Portrait Fund, and to thank all of you collectively for making this day possible.

He asked me, obviously, to thank Fred and Roy and Chairman Dingell, and to thank Father Dan Coughlin for their contributions today, and to remember Ralph in our thoughts. He is a little sick today. He will be fine. We got word that he is on his way back to Washington pretty soon. He is having a bad time with the flu or something. We checked to make sure he is all right and will be coming back soon, but to thank Ralph for offering to emcee the program.

The photographer will be on hand to take candid and posed pictures, obviously.

Terri, we didn't get a chance to introduce you formally. Where are you? I just wanted to—Terri, thank you for all the work you do.

Now, on his way out of town, the Pope reminded us that this was a time of healing and reconciliation for his Church, the Catholic Church in America. And he called upon us to be forgiving and loving. And in that spirit, we bring back Father Dan Coughlin, who will ask for us all to forgive us for all our weaknesses and our faults, and to build the kind of unity and peace that the Pope brought to this wonderful country this week.

Father Coughlin.

BENEDICTION

Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin

Father COUGHLIN. Lord, bless the Honorable Joe Barton, his wife Terri and their family with long life, health and happiness. Answer all their prayers and fulfill their dreams for the future.

Lord, bless the continued work of the oldest legislative standing committee of the United States House of Representatives. May the Committee on Energy and Commerce, through its members and staff, assure the prosperity of the Nation by its broad-based responsibility of oversight and its critical protection of health, safety and welfare of the American people.

Lord, bless the 110th Congress of the United States of America. Bind us together in ever greater unity that we may be that symbol of hope

and freedom around the world. It is for this that we place all our trust in You now and forever. Amen.

Mr. TAUZIN. We are dismissed. Thank you.

[Whereupon at 6:48 p.m., the presentation was concluded.]

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