

environmental well-being of their land. We must give them the tools to do so.

Therefore, I welcome my colleagues and the affected parties to the clean water debate to comment on this legislation because only with substantive and constructive deliberation will the right balance between the economy and the environment be reached.

LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING SALE OF ALASKA POWER ADMINISTRATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to sell the Alaska Power Administration's two hydroelectric projects.

This legislation will authorize the sale of the Alaska Power Administration. The Alaska Power Administration is different from the other Federal Power Marketing Agencies of the Department of Energy. Its two hydroelectric projects, Eklutna and Snettisham, were never intended by Congress to remain indefinitely under Federal control. The Eklutna Project Act, for example, states that "Upon completion of amortization of the capital investment allocated to power, the Secretary is authorized and directed to report to the Congress upon the feasibility and desirability of transferring the Eklutna project to public ownership and control in Alaska." Moreover, these two projects were created specifically to promote economic and industrial development in Alaska, and they are not the product of a water resource management plan.

I am a strong advocate of insuring that Alaskans control their own destiny, which is what this bill is all about. It will put the management of these two hydroelectric projects into the hands of those who best know Alaska. One project will be sold to the State of Alaska, and the other will be sold to a group of three Alaskan public electric utilities.

Equally as important, this legislation will relieve the Federal Government of the expense of operating and maintaining these two projects. It also provides for the termination of the Alaska Power Administration once the sale is complete, further saving money for taxpayers.

It is important to note that this legislation provides necessary safeguards for the environment. It requires the State of Alaska and the Eklutna purchasers to abide by the memorandum of agreement they entered into regarding the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife. The legislation makes this legally enforceable.

Last year a similar provision was included in the H.R. 300, the Re-inventing Government package and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported S. 2383, the Alaska Power Administration Sale Authorization Act. The administration testified in strong support of this legislation. Unfortunately, there was little time to consider them late in the session. With early introduction this Congress, I am hopeful that we will see this legislation enacted into law.

There is one provision which needs to be included in the Alaska Power Administration legislation before it is sent to the President for

signature, but I have not included it because it addresses the Internal Revenue Code. I hope to have that issue addressed in other legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITIZENS OF MARFA, TX

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I stand before my colleagues today to pay a tribute to the citizens of Marfa, TX for their courage and commitment in the face of adversity. Recently, the community suffered a tremendous loss when an important, historical building on Marfa's main street was devastated by fire.

For more than half a century, the old building was part of Marfa's landscape. At the time of the fire, the city hall, the police department and emergency medical services were located in the building. It also housed most of Marfa's important records. Not only did the fire ruin these important offices and documents, but it also destroyed a piece of the town's history.

Although most of you have never been to Marfa, you might recall the town as the setting of the famous silver-screen classic, "Giant." One of the landmarks from the movie, the Palace Theater, also suffered extensive smoke and water damage. However, the destruction this fire caused hasn't slowed the town down one bit.

The fire occurred even as Marfa was preparing for a big spring festival celebrating "Giant." Yet, instead of letting the fire ruin their celebration, the citizens of Marfa have pulled together to repair and restore the Palace Theater in time for the May event.

Since the fire, the town has pretty much returned to business as usual, although that business is being taken care of in temporary offices. This would not have been possible without the outpouring of help and generosity from so many Marfa citizens. Special thanks goes to Marfa Mayor Fritz Kahl, whose leadership and determination helped the folks of Marfa pull together to get through this sad situation. In addition, such people as County Judge Jake Brisbin Jr., Glenn Garcia, Abe Gonzalez, David and Ellen Kimble, Judy Ledbetter, Charles Mertz, Teryn Muench, Floyd Neal, Carolyn and Bill Renfro, Blaine Shuffield, Rusty Taylor and many others have made this situation a lot more bearable for the town. The services offered by the Big Bend Regional Medical Center and the Marfa Border Patrol Sector were also very helpful.

And the generosity didn't stop at the Marfa City limits. Folks from other west Texas towns came to lend a helping hand and bring extra emergency equipment. Firefighters from Alpine, Fort Stockton, and Fort Davis valiantly fought the blaze right alongside the Marfa Volunteer Fire Department. The spirit of comradery in west Texas is unmatched.

I salute the citizens of Marfa for preserving their history and protecting their future. Although a fire destroyed documents and a historical building, it could never shatter the spirit of pride and optimism which runs deep in the hearts of Texans.

THE DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION AND PRESERVATION ACT

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring my colleagues' attention to a growing threat to our national security—our increased reliance on foreign oil. Last year, for the first time in the history of our Nation, we imported over half the oil that we consumed. By the year 2010, the Department of Energy [DOE] estimates that imports could make up as much as 60 percent of our Nation's petroleum needs.

While imports are rising, U.S. oil production is on a drastic decline. Crude oil production in 1994 averaged 6.6 million barrels per day, in comparison to the 6.8 million barrels per day in 1993—this represents one of the lowest oil production levels in the history of our country. Oil prices continue to fluctuate and natural gas prices are on a steady decline.

The truth is, that it's just plain tough for domestic oil and gas producers to operate in today's market. The cost of operation, high taxes, and costly environmental regulations make it difficult to continue to drill for oil and gas. It's time for us to start paying attention and provide some relief and incentives for the American energy industry. Everyone talks a good game about "America first" * * * "buy American products" * * * "hire American labor" * * * and I agree. But, those same people don't seem to have a problem pouring foreign gasoline in our American cars.

Earlier today I, along with Representatives COBURN, BREWSTER, ISTOOK, LARGENT, and WATTS, introduced a plan that would help boost domestic production and lessen our reliance on foreign oil. The Domestic Oil and Gas Production and Preservation Act, would provide tax incentives for new and marginal well production; relief from burdensome Federal regulations; and would abolish existing bans on the export of U.S. crude oil. This bill will put people back to work, boost revenues, and help make the domestic oil and gas industry more competitive in world markets.

According to a recent investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Commerce, this bill is needed now more than ever. The Commerce investigation, conducted under the Trade Expansion Act, apparently determined that increased oil imports could impair the national security of the United States. The Trade Expansion Act requires the President to respond to the report within 90 days of the Commerce Department's findings. It is imperative that Congress and the President take action to alleviate this threat to our national security.

Many of my colleagues will turn a blind eye to this report. However, I believe it is a warning signal that we must not ignore. This is not just an oil State problem, the energy crisis is a national concern that everyone should be worried about.

U.S. marginal wells—or low-income wells—are particularly at risk. Most people don't understand that each time a marginal well is plugged, jobs are lost and we increase our reliance on foreign oil and run the risk of losing one of our Nation's natural resources forever. Plugging a well is like shutting down a small

business. When we plug marginal wells, we also lose jobs in our communities back home. Plugging a well is permanent. The only way to recover these resources is to drill a new well, which is extremely costly.

Nationally, we plug a marginal well every 30 minutes. In Oklahoma, we plug eight marginal wells per day. In 1993, the State of Oklahoma had over 70,000 marginal wells in operation. The same year, nearly 1,356 marginal wells were abandoned. As a result, my State of Oklahoma lost nearly \$20 million in gross revenues.

This bleak situation has forced businesses to close, imperiled thousands of jobs, and caused States to lose large amounts of production and income taxes. Over the last decade, this country has lost nearly 500,000 jobs as a result of low domestic oil and gas productivity.

It's time for the U.S. Government to open its eyes and support a plan to help restore our domestic industry. I believe that the bill we introduced today marks the first step in this plan. It will help stop the abandonment of wells, pump revenues back into State and Federal budgets, and preserve our Nation's natural resources.

It is in the best interest of our country to support this bill and protect our Nation's oil supplies. It would be one of our Nation's darkest days should we awaken to find ourselves with a depleted oil supply, leaving us totally at the mercy of the world's unstable oil producing nations. Our Nation's oil and gas supplies are a national treasure that must be preserved and maintained. I look forward to working with my colleagues and I urge them to support this critical legislation.

LONG ISLAND'S OWN EINSTEINS

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it is quite an honor for any Representative to have one finalist from the Westinghouse science competition from their district. I have the unique honor to represent two budding scientists recently named finalists for the Westinghouse science competition.

Neil Catillo Srivastava, 17, of Ward Melville High School in East Setauket researched nitric oxide and its effect on cell movement and wound healing.

Debleena Sengupta, 17, also of Ward Melville High School, completed a project in biochemistry that was designed to remove toxic metals, such as uranium, cost-efficiently from water.

Their outstanding results were made possible by the effort of local high schools to establish and maintain intensive research courses, staffed by experienced teachers. Since the 1980's the number of high schools on Long Island offering such research courses have more than tripled; now 40 of 114 public high school are in my eastern Long Island district.

High-technology medicine and environmental sciences are the wave of the future. On eastern Long Island, from Smithtown to Montauk and across the Nation, parents and teachers are working together to foster and

support student's natural interest in the sciences. It is this natural interest that we must cultivate for the future of this Nation. Budding young scientists, like Neal and Debleena, illustrate the possibilities for years to come.

Please, join me in recognizing the incredible success not only of Neil and Debleena, but also their teachers and all of eastern Long Island's quality schools. I submit for the RECORD an article in Newsday from January 25, 1995, that details their accomplishments.

[From Newsday, Jan. 25, 1995]

LONG ISLAND'S EINSTEINS

(By John Hildebrand)

Long Island led the nation yesterday in the number of students named finalists in the Westinghouse science competition, capturing nine slots out of 41, nearly double the number produced by traditional powerhouse New York City.

Honored for their research in fields ranging from genetics to treatment of municipal wastewater, the Long Island high-school seniors were hailed by teachers and principals as persistent, self-motivated students who had helped their schools "come of age." The nine finalist positions are the most ever won by students on the Island, and surpassed the city's total for the first time.

Three of the Island's schools produced two finalists each—the same number as New York City's legendary Bronx High School of Science. Island schools with twin finalists were Ward Melville High School in East Setauket, John F. Kennedy High School in Bellmore and Paul D. Schreiber High School in Port Washington.

Three other Island schools—Jericho, Long Beach and Lawrence High Schools—had one finalist each. Jericho's Soo Yeun Kim, who died in a car crash Nov. 28, was honored posthumously—the first such award in the competition's history.

Results were announced yesterday from the science competition's Washington, D.C., headquarters. All finalists will receive cash awards of at least \$1,000, and the top 10 will receive larger scholarships including a first prize of \$40,000.

As news of the latest honors swept through school hallways, results were attributed to efforts by local high schools to establish intensive research courses, staffed by teachers experienced in prepping students for competition. Since the 1980s, the number of high schools in the region offering such opportunities to students has more than tripled, to a total of about 40 of 114 public high schools on the Island.

"This says something about the caliber of Long Island schools—we've come of age here in terms of the programs we're offering," said Steven Kussin, principal of Lawrence High School. He formerly taught at Brooklyn's Midwood High School, another city school that traditionally excels in the Westinghouse contest.

Lawrence High School's winning student, Joel Wollman, 18, had submitted a project involving extensive psychological research.

Like many colleagues, Kussin views the focus on science research in his school as part of a broader movement that also involves encouraging larger number of students to take college-level Advanced Placement courses. "Standards are back, and the proof is in the pudding," the principal added.

Local educators say this year's Westinghouse results are all the more remarkable since the national contest has grown increasingly competitive. Since 1985, the number of science projects submitted by high-school seniors nationwide has jumped more than 60 percent, to 1,660 this year. Local teachers and principals generally voice satisfaction

over results, though some worry the competition and publicity surrounding it could put undue pressure on some students.

Finalists themselves accepted the backslaps of classmates and teachers yesterday, while also trying to focus their attention on midterm exams that are being administered this week across New York State. Many school authorities said official recognition would be extended to finalists as soon as normal classes resume.

"I was just totally shocked," said one winner, Supinda Bunyanich, 17, of Port Washington, who received the news by phone on Monday afternoon. "I was having a snack and watching TV, and then I was nearly screaming."

Another finalist, Daniel Sims, 17, of Bellmore said that school officials "went nuts" when he called them with the news after being notified himself by contest officials.

For Lawrence's Joel Wollman, finalist status brought special satisfaction. The teenager long had endured good-natured ribbing from classmates over his psychological research, which involved efforts to discover why one person's yawning prompts the same behavior in others. "Once I entered the finals, all that stopped," the teenager said.

Finalists were drawn from 300 national semifinalists, including 41 on the Island. They will be flown to Washington in March to compete before panels of eminent researchers for \$205,000 in scholarships. The competition, known as Science Talent Search, draws funding from a foundation established by Westinghouse Electric Corp.

New York City, as usual, produced far more semifinalists than the Island this year, with 84. But the advantage shifted with the announcement of finalists—New York had five—an irony not lost on educators who have seen Long Island schools draw upon the experience of city high schools.

"What suburban schools are beginning to understand is that if you want to win, you have to give teachers enough time to work with students on their projects," said Stan Teitel, coordinator for student research at Manhattan's Stuyvesant High School. Stuyvesant produced 29 semifinalists, the highest number for any school. It had two finalists.

Directors of school research programs on the Island acknowledge their debt to the city's schools, while adding that their recent success is due to other factors as well. Among these are the support of parents with enough money to send their teenagers to summer research institutes on college campuses, and the presence of local research centers, such as the State University at Stony Brook, which supplement the training provided by high schools. A majority of the Long Island finalists attended such summer programs.

"It's Long Island coming into its own," said Melanie Krieger, research coordinator at Ward Melville High School, which produced 12 semifinalists this year. The schools' finalists are Debleena Sengupta, 17, whose project dealt with removal of metal contaminants from wastewater, and Neil Castillo Srivastava, 17, who examined the use of nitric oxide in healing wounds.

Some of this year's local finalists drew on personal experience for their projects. Reed Levine, 17, of Bellmore, did an extensive study of ski accidents in an attempt to improve safety, after a neighbor died in an accident. Tracy Phillips, 17, of Long Beach, developed an electronic sensor to help the sight-impaired count currency, in memory of a brother who was blind and died young.

But there was no award more poignant than that given posthumously to Jericho's