

## THE EXPORT ENHANCEMENT ACT

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 7, 1999*

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to introduce on May 27th, along with Representatives BOB MENENDEZ, BEN GILMAN, SAM GEJDENSON, and 44 other Republican and Democrat Members of Congress the Export Enhancement Act of 1999.

We are all concerned about the recent anemic export performance of the United States and the ballooning U.S. trade deficit. While this legislation is not a cure-all for this problem, it provides one tool in the effort to promote U.S. exports abroad.

This legislation would reauthorize most commercial export promotion programs of the U.S. government, including the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the Trade and Development Agency (TDA), and the export promotion functions of the International Trade Administration (ITA) at the Department of Commerce.

First, the legislation re-authorizes OPIC for four years and does not raise OPIC's liability ceiling. For 27 years, OPIC has been the U.S. government agency providing political risk insurance and financing for projects that help America compete abroad and promote stability and development in strategic countries and economies around the world.

OPIC's political risk insurance covers three main areas where the government has a proper role to influence—expropriation (loss of an investment due to nationalization or confiscation by a foreign government), currency convertibility (inability to remit profits from local currency to U.S. dollars); and political violence (loss of assets or income due to war, revolution or politically-motivated civil strife, terrorism or sabotage).

Since 1971, OPIC supported projects have generated \$58 billion in U.S. exports and created more than 237,000 American jobs. Over the last five years, OPIC supported projects will buy about \$1 billion worth of goods and services from Illinois suppliers, half of which are small firms, which will create over 3,100 jobs. Companies in the 16th District of Illinois like Coilcraft Inc. of Cary; Oak Industries of Crystal Lake; ESI Limited, the Nylint Corporation, the Barber-Coleman Company, and the Clinton Electronics Corporation of Rockford have all used and benefited from OPIC services in the past. And, unlike most government programs, OPIC operates totally on a user-fee self-sustaining basis at no cost to the taxpayer. OPIC is estimated to bring in \$204 million in revenue to the U.S. Treasury next year.

In response to Congressional input, OPIC has undertaken a series of initiatives since its last reauthorization. These include new initiatives in Africa, Central America, the Caribbean, and the Caspian Basin. In addition, OPIC has stepped up efforts to help more small businesses enter the global economy.

As Chairman of the Small Business Exports Subcommittee, I held a hearing last month examining the new small business outreach efforts by OPIC. OPIC is particularly important for small business exporters because unlike large companies, small business exporters cannot pack up their bags and relocate operations overseas to take advantage of foreign

equivalents to OPIC. There are 36 nations that have export credit insurance programs like OPIC. Just like OPIC, most of these nations have local content requirements. If forced to, larger U.S. multinational corporations can pick and choose from one of these other foreign export credit insurance programs. But the work and the jobs, then, are transferred overseas. Small business exporters do not have this luxury. OPIC is needed to maintain the competitive edge of these small business exporters in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, let me give you one concrete example from the hearing last month. Jane Dauffenbach, President of Aquarius Systems, located in North Prairie, Wisconsin, testified how foreign governments constantly try to undermine her small company's export prospects, even to the point of competing against free donations of similar equipment. Aquarius Systems manufactures aquatic weed harvesters. In Asia, Aquarius Systems lost a large equipment sale when the Canadian government gave a "free" aquatic weed harvester to the monarch of the country. In Kenya, Ms. Dauffenbach also testified about how the Japanese and the Israeli governments almost snatched another huge export sale from her company to clear water hyacinths clogging Lake Victoria. It was only because she had a World Bank contract, backed by OPIC political risk insurance, that she was able to win and complete the sale. She said, "(s)imply put, Aquarius Systems is not competing with foreign companies. We are competing with foreign governments . . . It is imperative that the financing and insurance programs from OPIC exist so that we have the necessary tools available to accomplish our goals."

Second, the legislation reaffirms the importance of Trade Development Agency (TDA). This small 43 person agency, which develops feasibility studies designing in American specifications so that U.S. exporters can win major infrastructure projects in developing countries and emerging economies later down the road, has generated \$12.3 billion in exports since its inception in 1981. Every \$1 in spending for TDA projects has led to the export of \$32 in U.S. goods and services overseas. The Export Enhancement Act requires, to the maximum extent possible, the imposition of "success fees" on companies who win export deals thanks to the groundwork laid by a feasibility study conducted by the TDA.

Third, the bill examines the three export promotion arms of International Trade Administration (ITA) at the Commerce Department—the U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service, which as 100 U.S. export assistance centers located throughout the United States and 141 posts located in 76 countries around the world; Trade Development, which monitors trade developments in key industries and supports the United States Trade Representative in key industrial sector trade negotiations; and Market Access and Compliance, which ensures that U.S. companies obtain full market compliance with existing trade agreements with various countries of the world. The Export Enhancement Act makes a few changes to these programs to make sure that the ITA keeps its focus on helping more small businesses export, particularly to underrepresented regions of the world, like Africa, in the most efficient way possible.

Finally, the Export Enhancement Act proposes to make a few changes to the Trade

Promotion Coordinating Committee (TPCC) to insure that the 19 federal agencies that are involved in trade promotion operate more in tandem together.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the Export Enhancement Act of 1999.

## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

**HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 7, 1999*

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor the work of the National Weather Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The National Weather Service is essential to the safety of the American people by providing weather, water and climate forecasts and warnings for protection of life and property. We saw that service first-hand in Oklahoma just a short two weeks ago.

Without the warnings by the National Weather Service, the number of personal injury and deaths would undoubtedly have been higher. Warnings by the National Weather Service prompted the closure of roads and highways that lead into the path of the slow-moving tornado, saving an untold number of lives. I have heard countless stories of people who, at the prompting of the National Weather Service warnings, took shelter in the center of their homes or fled their homes for the safety of a storm shelter and survived, while their homes were destroyed. I and numerous other Oklahomans are indebted to the service of the National Weather Service.

Yet the ability the Service demonstrated was not an accident; they have been preparing for times such as this for many years, through planning, training, and research and development. New technologies pioneered by NOAA research allowed warnings to be issued up to 30 minutes before the tornadoes struck in Oklahoma. Contrast this with the 6 minute average lead time before the technology was available. Partnerships forged between the National Weather Service, media, law enforcement officials, and emergency managers, and their seamless response to this disaster was critical to the successful warning process that saved countless lives in Oklahoma.

I applaud the work of the National Weather Service, Mr. Speaker, and support the continued generous funding of the Service through this appropriations process.

## A TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK CUBAN FOUNDATION

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 7, 1999*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to commend the Black Cuban Foundation for its decade of service to the Afro-Cuban community in exile. Over the past ten years, it has pursued a goal of improving relations between Afro-Cubans and our varied communities.

The Black Cuban Foundation was founded on July 30th, 1989 and promptly began to promote its important and unique role in Cuban

and American culture through educational workshops, cultural events, and works of charity. Their success has been recognized by various groups, including the United Negro College Fund, Florida Memorial College, the Cuban Municipalities in Exile, the Human Rights Commission, and the City of Miami.

Currently the Black Cuban Foundation is working harder than ever to highlight Afro-Cuban contributions within our community, including fostering a sense of belonging as new American citizens. This group has also allied itself with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations.

In recognition of its lofty goals, I would like to applaud the fervent work of Lucia Rojas, president; Oscar Martinez, vice president; and Laddies Moraleza, treasurer and secretary. The work of Felipe Gonzalez, Juan A. Woods, and Regla Fernandez should receive equal praise in the Black Cuban Foundation.

HONORING RETIRING FENTON  
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DR.  
KEN WENSEL

**HON. DEBBIE STABENOW**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 7, 1999*

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, this week Principal Ken Wensel will retire after a 30-year career at Fenton High School. During those years, Dr. Wensel touched the lives of countless young people—encouraging, advising, inspiring and serving as a role model.

I would like to thank Dr. Wensel personally for his commitment to young people and education. Today I join Fenton Area Public Schools in declaring June 12, 1999 Ken Wensel Day. In addition, I would like to read the following resolution into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on behalf of the Fenton Area Public Schools:

Whereas Dr. Wensel served the Fenton Area Public Schools with distinction and honor for 30 years and;

Whereas Ken Wensel has served in the positions of community education director, athletic director, assistant principal and, for 12 years as principal of Fenton High School and;

Whereas Ken Wensel has been an unwavering advocate for young men and women throughout this tenure as an administrator and;

Whereas Ken Wensel has taken Fenton High School to great heights in academic and extra curricular achievement unparalleled in the Metro League and;

Whereas Ken Wensel has been a constant supporter of high school journalism and was named the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association Administrator of the Year for 1999 and;

Whereas Ken Wensel is recognized for his high level of commitment and drive to make Fenton High School the best it could be and;

Whereas Fenton High School's accomplishments are in large measure a result of Ken Wensel's talent and commitment and are a source of pride to the community of Fenton.

Therefore, the Congress of this United States of America declares June 12, 1999, as Dr. Kenneth Wensel Day in the community, state and nation.

A TRIBUTE TO NORMAN H.  
LOUDENSLAGER

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 7, 1999*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Norman H. Loudenslager, who recently retired as Treasurer of the Democratic County Executive Committee of Philadelphia, a position in which he served for 14 years. Throughout his life, Norman has demonstrated a steadfast and resolute commitment to working people through his leadership in organized labor and the Democratic Party. He has been an active member of the Democratic Party for over 40 years, serving as Committeeman in Philadelphia's 25th Ward and for ten years as Leader of the 25th Ward.

Norman's dedication to the needs of working men and women, however, has never been limited to his activities in the Democratic Party. For over 50 years, Norman has been an active member of the Philadelphia Chapter of the International Association of Machinist & Aerospace Workers, serving as President, Vice President, Secretary Treasurer, and the Directing Business Representative for the Philadelphia Area, Southern New Jersey and Delaware Machinist Lodges. He has also served as a Delegate to the Philadelphia AFL-CIO for more than 30 years, and as a Delegate to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. As we all know, the Democratic Party and organized labor have a special relationship in American politics—Norman is one of the persons responsible for that bond. As a union member myself, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to him for standing up for working people for all these years.

Perhaps most importantly, Norman's commitment to his community has always been hands-on. As with all great leaders, he has led by example, being recognized as the Police Athletic League's Man of the Year in 1980 and earning the City of Hope's Spirit of Life Award. His dedication to Philadelphia is grounded in the understanding that just one man can make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of persons like Norman Loudenslager that Americans have fair labor standards. It is because of persons like Norman Loudenslager that the Democratic Party remains committed to the working people of this country. It is because of persons like Norman Loudenslager that a new generation of Americans remains committed to their community.

Mr. Speaker, we need more people like Norman Loudenslager.

COMMEMORATION OF DR. HENDERSON D. MABE, IN ERWIN, NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 7, 1999*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the Congress to commemorate the excellent medical and educational, political and community service ren-

dered by the late Dr. Henderson D. Mabe of Erwin, North Carolina. I also commend the generosity and the personal integrity of Dr. Mabe who passed away in Erwin recently.

Dr. Mabe was born in Kinston, North Carolina. He received his graduate degree in medical sciences at Wake Forest College. At Watts Hospital in Durham, under the supervision of Dr. Ralph Fleming, he served his residency duty. Relocated to Erwin as a temporary substitute for a local doctor recovering from illness, Dr. Mabe became very much attached to the Erwin community. In fact, he spent his entire life at Erwin except when he served his country as a medical doctor in the United States Navy during the Korean Conflict. In addition to his valuable medical contribution, Dr. Mabe was an influential politician. Having demonstrated his leadership skills as president of the student body and president of his senior class, Dr. Mabe ran for the State Legislature where he served one term from 1963 to 1964 as one of the most respected officials.

Dr. Mabe was highly regarded as a distinguished doctor and scholar, politician and community member. He was loved and respected by the community not only because of his excellent medical service but also because of his personal integrity. As the former U.S. Senator Robert Morgan, a close friend of Dr. Mabe stated: "Long before Medicaid and Medicare programs were available for the aged and needy, Buster Mabe cared for them and never asked or expected pay. He never turned anyone away if he had to stay at the office until late in the evening, as he often did. We also pay tribute today to one of the most remarkable family doctors this country has ever seen. Dr. Mabe will be sorely missed, but his influence will be felt forever."

Dr. Mabe's thoughtful dedication and contribution to advance the progress and education in the medical field as well as to strengthen the Erwin community lives on. In his bequest, Dr. Mabe made a gift worth \$2 million to the North Carolina Community Foundation for the establishment of the Henderson D. Mabe Jr. Endowment Fund with a special emphasis on the Erwin community. The gift is the largest charitable donation in the history of Harnett County. In his spirit, this fund will be used to provide college scholarships for Harnett area high school seniors with preference to those living in or around Erwin who have planned to pursue a degree or certification in the medical field at a college, university, community or junior college, technical school, nursing school or other post secondary school training. The fund will also support graduates from Harnett County high schools especially from in or around Erwin who are full time students at Bowman Gray, the Medical School of University of North Carolina, East Carolina Medical School or Duke Medical School. In addition, Good Hope Hospital and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Erwin where Dr. Mabe has been an active member will benefit as well.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the high achievements and personal integrity of Dr. Henderson D. Mabe. Dr. Henderson D. Mabe lived a rich life as a remarkable and distinguished doctor and scholar, public servant and community member of Harnett County, North Carolina. Dr. Mabe will be sorely missed, but he has left a legacy that will live on for many years to come.