

better not only individual lives, but our community as a whole. Mr. Speaker, I ask this 107th Congress to join me in offering our praise and accolades to the Make-Up Designory and its founders.

INTRODUCTION OF "HEATHER FRENCH HENRY HOMELESS VETERANS ASSISTANCE ACT", H.R. 936

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act. This important legislation establishes a national goal of ending homelessness among our nation's veterans within a decade. Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe if 40 years ago we as a nation had the resolve and resources to send men to the moon and return them safely to Earth within a decade, today our great nation can end homelessness among veterans with adequate resolve and resources within ten years.

The measure I introduced today for myself, and almost 100 of my colleagues, is named to recognize and honor Heather French Henry, Miss America 2000. During her year of service to America, Heather French Henry committed the full measure of her time, talents and energy to addressing the needs of homeless veterans. She was our national conscience, calling on us to do more, to do enough to help veterans escape the prison of homelessness. She encouraged homeless veterans to break free from their chains of homelessness. She seems to be everywhere at once advocating for our homeless veterans. Homeless veterans have no better friend and voice.

If we consider how much one young woman accomplished during her year of service as Miss America on behalf of our nation's homeless veterans, there can be no doubt this nation can end homelessness among veterans within a decade. If our nation demonstrates the care, compassion, and fidelity to ending homelessness among veterans as Heather French Henry did during her year of service as Miss America, a decade from now there will be no homelessness among veterans.

The end of veteran homelessness and prompt action on the Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act are a high priority for many. These goals are strongly supported, for example, by the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans and its hundreds of member organizations throughout the nation who daily provide essential services to homeless veterans. I am also pleased the Veterans Organizations Homeless Council which represents many major military and veterans service organizations strongly supports the legislation I am introducing today.

Homelessness is a complex problem for which there is no "quick fix." Homeless veterans are likely to face more than one serious challenge. They are more likely to have seri-

ous chronic mental illness, substance use disorders, significant chronic illnesses or disease, to lack the social networks that help most of us through our difficulties and to lack job and even basic living skills. The programs provided by the Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act addresses these problems with comprehensive solutions.

Programs that have demonstrated effectiveness in assisting homeless veterans should be expanded. Better coordination among the services offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and those offered by other federal, state and local agencies is also needed. Support for private-sector programs serving homeless veterans must be affirmed. We must also make full use of leading experts to enrich current services to homeless veterans and assess program effectiveness and develop needed innovations. A new VA Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans and an effective federal interagency taskforce on homeless are important parts of the solution.

Many programs provided or funded by VA have demonstrated their effectiveness. Mental health professionals agree, for example, that placement in the community can work, but only with careful monitoring and support of vulnerable populations. This legislation creates incentives for VA to make these services—called Mental Health Intensive Community Management programs—more widely available to veterans with serious mental illness.

Supportive, therapeutic housing is necessary for a veteran's recovery from substance abuse. These "safe havens" must be provided and available to help a veteran in transition from homelessness to a more rewarding life. Community-based providers and more VA domiciliaries are needed to help meet the needs for transitional housing. Comprehensive services for homeless veterans must be more available in our major metropolitan areas to assure that veterans receive services in addition to full information about resources available to them. In our nation's Capital veterans have neither a VA domiciliary nor a comprehensive homeless veterans service program. Both are clearly needed now.

Community-based organizations must receive more assistance to achieve the goal of ending homelessness among veterans. VA's Homeless Grant and Per Diem Providers are a critical source of support to the mission of caring for our nation's homeless veterans. Community-based providers use a collaborative approach to funding and caring for homeless veterans—many of the programs draw from a complex array of funding streams. The cost of caring for veterans is often subsidized by the other funding sources from local, state, and private entities these

VA can and must do more to establish formal agreements with other agencies in and outside of the government in order to ensure that various agencies carefully coordinate services to ensure that veterans at risk of homelessness do not become homeless. The Departments of Defense, Labor and VA cooperatively provide a Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) for servicemembers who are about to be discharged from the military. This cooperative program could be a model for vet-

erans who are leaving penal institutions or hospital settings. VA should work with a variety of community and other government programs to ensure a safety net is in place.

Finally, my bill advocates a small demonstration program to offer transitional assistance to veterans making the very difficult transition from institutionalization to independent living. These veterans must be provided every chance possible to make it on their own. A one-time, limited grant will provide our veterans a better opportunity to obtain work and housing and avoid becoming homeless and living on the nation's streets.

Mr. Speaker, a member of my staff recently visited a program in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she was told that VA staff can "usually" find a bed for a dying homeless veteran within his or her last week of life. As a nation, we should be outraged and shamed by this treatment of men and women who have served our nation in uniform. Surely we owe our veterans more. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting homeless veterans on their path to recovery and their full integration into mainstream society to the extent possible. Join me by supporting the Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act.

TAX CREDIT FOR WIND ENERGY PRODUCTION

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring to the attention of the House a measure that has been introduced to extend the current, and very important, tax credit for wind energy production (the PTC) until the year 2007.

I introduced this legislation with my Ways and Means colleagues JERRY WELLER, BOB MATSUI and KAREN THURMAN—as well as JIM MCCRERY, ROB PORTMAN, WES WATKINS, and JIM RAMSTAD—because of the pressing need to get this issue addressed. If we do not extend the credit, the current PTC will expire at the end of the year—a situation that would deliver a stunning setback to a form of alternative energy development that is needed more now than ever, given our growing energy difficulties.

Mr. Speaker, wind energy production credit was originally enacted under the bipartisan Energy Policy Act of 1992 and has enjoyed strong, bipartisan support every since. In fact, during the 106th Congress, 197 House members cosponsored H.R. 750 to extend the credit.

What the credit itself does is to provide an inflation-adjusted 1.5 cents per kilowatt-hour credit for electricity produced with wind power equipment. The credit is only available if the wind energy equipment is located in the United States and electricity is generated and sold by a U.S. taxpayer.

There should be no question, given the current domestic energy crisis, that the need for

fostering alternative energy sources in the United States is critical—and wind energy has phenomenal potential. As of now, the majority of domestic wind development has been located in California, but there are numerous other states that have great natural potential, including North Dakota, Texas, Kansas, South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Iowa and

Wind energy projects also offer a boon to farmers, particularly those in the Farm Belt—one of the most promising areas for the development of domestic wind resources. Wind power projects and ranching and farming are fully compatible; wind plants can be located and operated with little or no displacement or interference with crops or livestock. And for farmers and ranchers, the lease payments paid to them by wind operators serve as a stable source of extra income.

Wind projects also create important new economic opportunities in the communities in which they are located. New wind facilities lead to increased local tax bases, new manufacturing opportunities, rental income for farmers and ranchers and new construction, and ongoing operational and maintenance jobs. This leads to more jobs and other economic opportunities in rural areas where those things can be scarce.

Equally important, wind energy is an environmentally friendly form of energy that produces no air or groundwater pollution.

Unfortunately, none of these benefits are possible without the production tax credit.

Wind energy is viable and working, but without the credit, development would be hindered dramatically. As we know all too well, energy prices are in a terrible state of flux now. This sort of fluctuation makes the financing and development of wind projects terrifically difficult. Put simply, the production tax credit abrogates this problem by leveling the costs of production through a guaranteed revenue stream. In the end, such a guarantee—which must be at least five years to ensure viability—will foster a cost-effective and environmentally sensitive energy sector. And that is exactly what we need.

For all these reasons, we owe it to ourselves to pass a five-year extension of the wind energy production tax credit. And I urge my colleagues in both the House and Senate to continue to support this important fledgling industry.

HONORING ROHM AND HAAS
TEXAS, INCORPORATED

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rohm and Haas Texas, Incorporated for its participation in the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) Star Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). Rohm and Haas employees and management should be commended for maintaining excellent safety and health programs in their workplace that is recognized by OSHA as a model for the industry. The fact that Rohm and Haas has achieved Star Program status demonstrates that the company is capable and willing to meet all VPP requirements of excellence in safety.

Rohm and Haas Texas Incorporated has been a responsible member of the Deer Park community for 50 years, safely manufacturing chemicals for use in the disposable diaper, automobile, paint, coatings and communication industries. Construction on the Deer Park Plant began in 1947 and in July of the following year, the first shipment of acetone cyanohydrin was made to another Rohm and Haas plant in Pennsylvania to produce acrylic sheet.

The Deer Park Plant would become the company's largest and most productive with five major expansions in the fifties, followed by four in the sixties, two in the seventies, two in the eighties and six in the nineties. Employment has climbed from 132 in 1948 to more than 850 today, making the plant one of the largest industrial employers in the area. When wages, purchases and taxes are considered, the plant and employees are responsible for adding more than \$85 million each year to the local economy which, in turn, creates an estimated 4,500 jobs for others in the community.

Rohm and Haas' Deer Park plant has demonstrated a proven commitment to improving worker safety and health. By joining the VPP Association, Rohm and Haas' Deer Park plant has taken a leadership role in achieving safety, health, and environmental excellence through cooperation among communities, workers, industries, and governments in the United States.

Employees at Rohm and Haas are enjoying the benefits of a safer worksite through VPP. Since the VPP's inception in 1983, participation in the program has grown from three to more than 500 sites. By participating in this program, Rohm and Haas has chosen to improve safety at its worksite and to reduce injury and illness rates. Rohm and Haas employees are true partners in these improvement efforts and take on critical roles in helping their workplaces to achieve safety excellence. The total workforce of Rohm and Haas should be proud of the recognition by the industry and community that comes with being an OSHA Star worksite.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Rohm and Haas Texas, Incorporated for recognizing that compliance enforcement alone can never fully achieve the objectives of OSHA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from the House floor during last night's vote on S.J. Res. 6 (rollcall vote No. 33). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye," as I did on the rule earlier in the day.

OSHA's burdensome and excessively costly ergonomics regulations were not based on sound science, and were not subjected to the requisite legislative consideration. The estimated cost of compliance for their 600-page plan to regulate every nook and cranny of American workplaces ranged into the hundreds of billions of dollars. No one could even guarantee that OSHA's proposal would protect workers from injury—but we do know that businesses would have to terminate employ-

ees just to be able to afford to implement the plan.

Mr. Speaker, owners of small and large businesses through the Fourth Ohio District know the vital importance of maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for their employees. Without exception, all of them have voluntarily taken steps to protect their workers—without the heavy hand of government forcing them to do so. Employers know that their productivity will suffer otherwise, as will their workers' paychecks.

I am gratified that our first use of the Congressional Review Act will stop these new rules from going into effect, and look forward to President Bush's signature on this joint resolution of disapproval.

OTPOR

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago I had the opportunity to meet five representatives from the independent, non-governmental organization Otpor. "Otpor," in Serbian, means "resistance," and the organization was founded in the mid-1990s by students from Belgrade University and elsewhere in Serbia, who had enough of Slobodan Milosevic's choke-hold on the neck of Serbian society.

Their efforts have forged a strong bond between idealism and realism. Otpor members engaged in passive resistance, never advocating violence nor returning the blows they received from the police and other thugs under Milosevic's control. Instead, they had a stronger weapon—determination and persistence. Fear would not keep them from putting up their posters, from wearing their black-and-white emblem of a clenched fist. Moreover, they kept their eye on the goal of a democratic and tolerant Serbia at peace with its neighbors and with itself. The organization appointed no specific leader, in a strategy to thwart any attempt to compromise the individual—they had learned the lesson from observing the many opposition politicians in Serbia who had been compromised.

During the past two years, more than 1,500 Otpor activists, of about 50,000 based in over 10 Serbian cities, were arrested and interrogated by security forces under Milosevic's control. One of the five who visited my office had himself been arrested on 17 occasions. Prior to the September 2000 elections, Otpor worked closely with the democratic political opposition, independent trade unions, NGOs and other youth groups to mobilize voters. Otpor's activists played a crucial role in the street demonstrations that began immediately following the elections and led to Milosevic's downfall.

The impressive delegation of five Otpor activists visiting Washington included Slobodan Homen, Nenad Konstantinovic, Jovan Ratkovic, Jelena Urosevic and Robertino Knjur, all in their mid- to late-20s and very