

RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2002

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, our rural communities are at the very heart of our Nation and are an essential aspect of our economy. It is our small towns that define the values and identity of America. We, however, are at risk of losing our small towns. A struggling economy has caused many of our youth to flee from our rural communities. After all, one must go where the jobs are. We must reach out to rural communities to help once again stimulate the economy and ensure that our rural towns have first class schools and access to quality medical care. It is in this spirit that I have introduced the Rural Development Act of 2002. This legislation offers help to rural America and ensures that our Nation's heartland continues to experience vitality and growth.

The Rural Development Act has three key components. First, this legislation offers tax incentives to businesses who move into rural areas in an effort to stimulate the economy and provide much needed jobs. Second, the bill focuses on improving the education of students in rural America by directing funds to schools to upgrade technology and provide students with the tools they need to succeed in the 21st century. Finally, we work to improve rural healthcare by offering education incentives to doctors and nurses who agree to serve in those areas.

Our businesses and industries carry huge tax burdens and are bogged down by endless bureaucratic red tape, all of which stifles job growth. This bill works to offer some relief to companies by offering a tax credit of 50 percent, over a ten year period, to companies who move into rural areas and either occupy an existing facility or construct a new facility. This incentive will again draw businesses into rural America and bring much needed jobs along with them. This not only benefits business by giving them a tax break, but also will provide them with a more cost efficient area in which to expand and grow.

My legislation also recognizes the need for a well-trained and well-educated workforce. To this end the bill authorizes funds to provide rural schools with the tools necessary to ensure that all of our students receive a high quality education. My legislation calls on the Department of Education to offer grants to rural schools to enhance technology and teacher preparation programs as well as creating innovative enrichment programs for children at risk of failure with a particular emphasis on math, science, history and English. Rural schools face many unique challenges and often are forced to forgo federal funds because they do not have the financial resources or poverty data needed to qualify. This legislation recognizes those challenges and sets funds aside specifically for rural areas and help them continue to offer quality education to our Nation's youth.

Finally, my bill focuses on enhancing rural healthcare. Rural residents have been especially hard hit by the nursing shortage that is plaguing America. Nearly one quarter of our nation's population lives in rural areas, yet almost all of the hospitals and healthcare facilities located in these communities are, to no

fault of their own, chronically understaffed. To help combat this problem my bill offers education incentives to nurses and doctors to serve in rural areas. The legislation directs the Secretary of Education to create a scholarship program to pay 50 percent of the tuition of students who agree to serve in rural areas for a period of no less than four years. This is a win-win initiative for both students interested in the medical field and rural communities. It allows students who could not otherwise afford the tuition to attend nursing or medical schools and provides much needed doctors and nurses to rural America! Since these students will not be burdened with huge student loans at graduation they will not be forced to leave for better paying urban hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, our rural communities define who we are. They are our Nation's heartland and throughout most of history these communities have been blessed with vitality and growth. In recent years, however, these communities have seen the flight of many of their youth due to a lack of jobs. If this flight continues, Mr. Speaker, we run the risk of finding our small towns vacant. My legislation works to change this trend.

Good paying jobs are the cornerstone of any economy and by providing rural America with these jobs we will help ensure that our rural economies continue to thrive. With jobs, however, comes the need for a well-trained and well-educated workforce. My legislation answers this challenge by giving rural schools the funds they need to provide all of our students with the tools needed to succeed. Completing the circle, this legislation ensures that citizens of rural communities have access to first rate medical care they deserve as they move into their golden years. With good jobs, an education system that is second to none and access to high quality health care we can ensure our rural communities continue to flourish for years to come.

AVIATION FUEL TAX RELIEF ACT

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Aviation Fuel Tax Relief Act.

As we know, the airline industry is struggling to make ends meet. As industry representatives have indicated in recent testimony before Congress, the challenges of the current economy in addition to significant increases in security-related expenditures are having a tremendous impact on the viability of the airline industry.

The dramatic increases in security requirements have been implemented to provide a necessary level of security for the flying public. However, the precarious state of the airline industry has required them to absorb many of the new security-based costs, rather than pass them on through ticket sales. The true scope of those additional costs were not anticipated by Congress nor the airline industry and they are now having a tremendous economic impact. While Congress has previously taken action to provide assistance to the airlines, layoffs and reductions in service within the industry continue.

The bill I introduce today is one step that Congress can take to reduce the government-

imposed costs on an industry that is facing serious challenges. Currently airlines pay 4.3 cents on every gallon of jet fuel purchased. The Aviation Fuel Tax Relief Act will repeal that tax and provide needed relief for an industry that is vital to our national economy.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH BRACEY

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Joseph Bracey will retire from the United States Probation System in November after 25 years of distinguished service. The ideals and values his role model father, a North Carolina State Trooper, instilled, led Joe to choose a career in law enforcement.

After graduating from UNCC in Charlotte, Joe began his career as a North Carolina Probation/Parole Officer and then became a Special Agent for the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation.

In 1977, Joe was appointed as a United States Probation Officer in the Western District of North Carolina. Joe has held positions of Drug Specialist, Supervising United States Probation and Deputy Chief United States Probation Officer.

As one of the first Firearms Instructors in the Federal Probation System, Joe has dedicated his career to officer safety programs and is widely known for his expertise in this area.

Joe's career has been highlighted by his genuine love of his country and his profession. He has served both exceptionally and is to be commended for his dedicated service. I wish him well in his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
INFORMATION SECURITY ACT**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today a bill that will promote the secure sharing of information and communications within the proposed Department of Homeland Security—the Information Security Act. This Act authorizes funding to implement and maintain the enhanced security infrastructure necessary for sensitive information to be securely stored, transmitted, and disseminated within a new Department of Homeland Security.

Although we have had a lot of debate about policies, procedures and the organization of a Department of Homeland Security, I believe we have not given enough attention to the need to put into place information technology systems that will allow different parts of the U.S. government to communicate and collaborate securely with each other. We will not win the war on terror if we simply put various federal agencies under the umbrella of a Department of Homeland Security without the secure infrastructure to make it into a cohesive organization.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to ignore the threats posed by cyber attacks and the urgent

need to invest in secure information systems. The Information Security Act is a small, but important step toward meeting our security needs and I urge my colleagues to support this very important bill.

TRIBUTE TO HAL BERNSON

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, We rise today to pay tribute to Hal Bernson, for his leadership and efforts to improve the quality of life in our community. Hal is a determined hard working individual who has dedicated 25 years of invaluable service to our city as a Los Angeles City Councilman and as an Honorary Chairman of the Annual North Valley Family YMCA Booster Club Dinner.

Hal Bernson, a native of the San Fernando Valley since 1957, has devoted much time and energy to improving his community. He has been a driving force in cultivating relations between the private businesses in Los Angeles and the public sector. Throughout his public career, beginning in 1979 as a newly elected official, he has focused on improving the quality of life in Southern California by spearheading ordinances to preserve Southland parks and residential areas.

Beginning in 1990 Hal formed the 12th Council District TMA, the first city-side Transportation Management Association. He has served as the City of Los Angeles Earthquake Preparedness Coordinator, and as a member of the State of California Seismic Commission. Along with overseeing such committees, he has also worked to improve the state's earthquake preparedness, funding to retrofit substandard buildings as well as the implementations of state and local educational programs. His efforts have been instrumental in establishing a policy that considers jobs, housing and transportation, to create an environment which has strengthened the local economy.

Under the direction of Hal, the Annual YMCA Booster Club Dinner has managed to raise the highest amount in its history. His commitment to the YMCA was tremendous, and as a result, the YMCA contributed \$1 million in essential funds for the local chapter to meet the health and social service needs of the community.

City Councilman Hal Bernson has received a number of awards recognizing his efforts as an outstanding community leader, including the Governor's award for Earthquake Preparedness; the News maker of the Year Valley Press Club Award; the North Valley YMCA Benefactor of Youth "Golden Helmet" Award; the Founders Awards from the 12th Council District Transportation Management Association; the Alfred E. Alquist Award for achievement in Earthquake Safety. Lastly, he was named Man of the Year in 1995 by the Association for Commuter Transit.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing City Councilman Hal Bernson. A man of strong integrity. A leader with vision willing to

cross partisan lines to work with all people and all constituents for the betterment and common good of our great state of California.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN THE RECENT VIOLENT BOMBINGS IN INDONESIA AND URGING RENEWED EFFORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WAR ON TERRORISM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution condemning the recent terrorist bombing in Bali, Indonesia. Further, I wish to express my strong and utter disgust with the actions of those who bombed the nightclub in Bali, last weekend.

This resolution is offered to condemn the violent bombing of last weekend and urged that we continue our efforts in the war against terrorism that we began a year ago.

This resolution offers support to the government of Indonesia in its efforts to find and bring to justice those the perpetrators, organizers, and sponsors of the attack.

I rise to pay tribute to the many lives lost in the recent incident of October 12, 2002 in Bali. The unspeakable level of terror heaped upon the Americans and vacationers of other countries, some of whom are among our closest allies, must be dealt with.

For the last year, the United States has been engaged in an International War on Terrorism, and we have received broad support from countries across the globe. This act reminds us that we must keep our eye on the ball and continue to engage those who would deliver terror upon our cities and citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the Resolution I am introducing today expresses the condolences of this body to all those who lost loved ones and family members in the heinous act and we should not ever forget them.

Saturday's bombing is a reminder that the war on terrorism truly is a global war. It reminds us that terror has no face, nor no borders.

The House of Representatives must stand behind the people of Indonesia during this trying time as they fight their own war on terrorism.

I urge my colleagues to support my resolution and call on the leadership to act swiftly in bringing this to the floor for consideration.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALBERT C. YATES

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to express gratitude and congratulations to one of Colorado's most outstanding citizens, Dr. Albert C. Yates of Fort Collins, Colorado. Dr. Yates is retiring after 12 years as President of Colorado State University.

One of seven children, Dr. Yates rose from a Memphis, Tennessee, ghetto to make a name for himself. He attributes his success to a mother whose sole purpose was giving her children a better life than she had. The young Albert Yates never realized he was poor as a child, but knew there were people who cared for him deeply. Dr. Yates now proclaims that his mother and others instituted a sense of what's important in this world, and that's what has helped him achieve his current status.

Dr. Yates began his college career at Memphis State University, graduating magna cum laude in chemistry and mathematics in 1965. After earning a doctorate in theoretical chemical physics from Indiana University at Bloomington in 1968, he served as a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Southern California before returning to join the faculty at Indiana. He achieved the rank of associate professor before departing Indiana in 1974 to become associate dean for graduate education and research at the University of Cincinnati. In 1976, Dr. Yates completed the Institute for Educational Management at the Harvard School of Business, and the following year was named vice president and university dean for graduate studies and research at the University of Cincinnati. Prior to his Colorado State appointment, Dr. Yates served for nine years as executive vice president and provost at Washington State University in Pullman.

Under Dr. Yates' tenure, Colorado State University has become one of the nation's most influential research universities. Among Colorado State's documented achievements are breakthroughs in hurricane forecasting, a new tuberculosis vaccine, developing canola engine oil and improved laser technology. The university's veterinary medicine and atmospheric sciences programs are without question world-renowned. Under Dr. Yates' leadership, Colorado State University has attracted the state's fastest-growing resident enrollment. Private funding has quadrupled. External research funding has increased over 80 percent, and the endowment has gone from \$42 million to \$126.8 million, a 300 percent increase. Furthermore, it is not just Coloradans who recognize his accomplishments. U.S. News and World Report recently ranked Colorado State University among the top 100 universities in the nation and Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine named it among the top 50 for value in higher education.

Dr. Yates is clearly the most accomplished of Colorado State University presidents. Many in Colorado have likened him to Charles A. Lory and William B. Morgan, the two most highly respected presidents of this fine institution.

Dr. Yates' philosophy has been simple yet profound. In a letter to those interested in the university, the lessons learned from his early childhood were clearly still intact. Dr. Yates stated, "Our goal is not simply to teach students how to make a living—but to live a life." Always striving for perfection and overcoming challenges, Dr. Yates consistently took responsibility for all aspects of the university, no matter how big or small.

As Americans, we admire those individuals who are extremely accomplished in their field. Albert Yates went well beyond this standard. In addition to the 39 honors and awards he has received over the years and 23 community service committees he has served on, Dr. Yates has been a leader in business and the