

Bristol-Myers Squibb and Lance Armstrong, six-time Tour de France winner and cancer survivor, who credits his survival to the many people before him who participated in the clinical trials that ultimately led to the development of the treatment that saved his life.

As Robert begins the Tour of Hope on October 1 in Los Angeles, he will be one of 20 cyclists chosen from nearly 1,200 riders who were eager to dedicate themselves to being a part of the effort to cure cancer. The Tour of Hope Team members are cancer survivors, caregivers, physicians, nurses, and researchers. Each of them has a very personal experience with cancer that makes their efforts all the more poignant. Supporting and awaiting Robert and the rest of the riders at stops across America's great landscape will be cancer survivors, family members, friends, medical practitioners, researchers, and government officials, all of whom share the riders' passion and commitment to finding a cure for cancer.

To achieve his goal of riding across America Robert will have to undertake a rigorous training schedule, battle inclement weather, and endure physical and mental fatigue, so that the tour's message—the need to support cancer research—can be delivered to communities across our great country.

A selfless act, such as this, truly deserves to be publicly acknowledged, and I look forward to tracking Robert's progress. It is my hope that in these fiscally challenging times my colleagues and I will continue to make funding for cancer research a priority for the nation.

I offer my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Robert for his generosity of spirit, time, and fortitude. It is precisely this type of commitment that will allow us to conquer cancer once and for all.

NORMAN Y. MINETA RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following two letters for the RECORD.

The Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: I am writing with regard to H.R. 5163, the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Reorganization Act, which was ordered reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on September 29, 2004. As you know, the Energy and Commerce Committee received a named additional referral upon introduction.

I understand that you will include an amendment when the bill goes to the floor. The intent of new section 4(b) is to clarify that nothing in H.R. 5163 alters the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce over the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Specifically, section (b)(1) and (2) states that nothing in this Act shall grant any authority to the Research and Innovative Technology Administration over research and other pro-

grams, activities, standards, or regulations administered by the Secretary through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, but does not include those provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Accordingly I will waive the Committee's consideration of this legislation. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, however, the Energy and Commerce Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 5163. In addition, the Energy and Commerce Committee reserves its right to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Energy and Commerce Committee for conferees on H.R. 5163 or similar legislation.

I request that you include this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JOE BARTON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2004.

Hon. JOE BARTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter of October 6, 2004 regarding H.R. 5163, the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Reorganization Act, and for your willingness to waive consideration of provisions in the bill that fall within your Committee's jurisdiction under House Rules.

I agree that your waiving consideration of these provisions of H.R. 5163 does not waive your Committee's jurisdiction over the bill. I also acknowledge your right to seek conferees on any provisions that are under your Committee's jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference on H.R. 5163 or similar legislation, and will support your request for conferees on such provisions.

As you request, your letter and this response will be included in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your cooperation in moving this legislation to the House floor.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

RECOGNIZING MARCO ANTONIO FIREBAUGH

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on December 6, 2004, Marco Antonio Firebaugh, the Assembly Majority Floor Leader for the State of California, will term-out of the Assembly after six distinguished years of public service.

Assembly Member Firebaugh was born on October 13, 1966, in Baja California, Mexico. He made California his permanent residence in 1970.

In 1990, Assembly Member Firebaugh earned his Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. He subsequently earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law in 1997.

Assembly Member Firebaugh was first elected to the California State Assembly to represent the 50th Assembly District in November 1998. He easily won re-election and was sworn into office on December 2, 2002, to serve his third term.

As Assembly Majority Floor Leader, Firebaugh has been responsible for all matters that are relevant to the order of business on the Assembly floor. Furthermore, he has served as one of the chief negotiators for Assembly Democrats.

In 2002, Assembly Member Firebaugh was elected Chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus and thus was responsible for developing the annual Caucus' Agenda for California's Working Families. He has focused on providing resources to schools, increasing access to health care and affordable housing, and championing immigrant rights.

His legislative tenure has been highlighted with far-reaching accomplishments in numerous policy areas. Assembly Member Firebaugh's effort to ensure that California high school students have the opportunity to pursue a college education, regardless of their immigration status, illustrates his strong commitment to the people he represents.

As Chairman of the Select Committee on California-Mexico Affairs, Assembly Member Firebaugh has done extensive work in establishing a strong working relationship between California and Mexico. Through his committee work, he has launched creative initiatives to establish a Sister-State partnership with Jalisco, a key state in Mexico. He has also led efforts to reform money transmission services and disclosures to protect consumers in California.

Throughout his career, Assembly Member Firebaugh has continuously demonstrated his dedication to his profession, community and family. An avid art enthusiast, Assembly Member Firebaugh continues to seek out resources and facilities to further enable the creativity of the community to flourish. As a family man, he enjoys spending quality time with his son Nicolas and attending his daughter Ariana's soccer games.

From one public servant to another, I praise Assembly Member Marco Antonio Firebaugh for his service and dedication to the community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 306, of which I am a cosponsor, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on October 5, 2004. This important legislation honors the service of Native American Indians in the U.S. Armed Forces.

I have the privilege of representing the largest tribe of Native Americans east of the Mississippi River—the Lumbee Tribe. Approximately 52,000 strong, about 40,000 members of this tribe live in my home county—Robeson County, North Carolina.

Many Lumbee Indians have served our Nation with distinction, such as Rear Admiral Michael Holmes, who hails from my hometown of Lumberton and who is the first Native American to become an admiral in the U.S. Navy. I visited with Admiral Holmes in Europe last year, as I did with Army Specialist Jonathan Brooks of Pembroke, who also is from Robeson County. These gentlemen are just two of the many Lumbees serving our country. Lumbee veterans also serve on my Seventh Congressional District Advisory Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

In addition to the Lumbee Tribe, I also represent two other tribes—the Coharie Tribe, which has a tribal membership of more than 2,400, and the Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe, which consists of a membership of approximately 2,000. Members of each of these tribes have served honorably in the military. For example, the Coharie Tribal Chief, Mr. Gene Faircloth, is a Vietnam combat veteran and served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 6 years. And, approximately 100 members of the Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe have served honorably in conflicts since World War II. Unfortunately, on October 2, 2004, the Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe lost one of its esteemed members, Mr. Ernest Sylvester "E.S." Jacobs, who valiantly served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II.

I am proud of the contributions that all Native Americans, including those that make up the Lumbee, Coharie and Waccamaw-Siouan Tribes, have made to our great country, and I applaud them for their rich tradition of strength, wisdom, commitment and service. I commend them and all those in uniform who have volunteered to defend the rights and freedoms that we all hold dear. May God bless each of them and their families as they continue to serve valiantly our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RICHARD GROSSMAN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Richard Grossman for his devoted efforts to improving the lives of burn victims in the San Fernando Valley and the Nation.

Dr. Grossman is an ally to firefighters, children, and those who have sustained burn injuries. He brings hope, comfort, and life into situations where they might otherwise seem nonexistent.

Dr. Grossman is board certified in both general surgery and plastic surgery. He holds membership in numerous societies, including the American Burn Association, the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the California Medical Association, the San Fernando Valley Surgical Society, and the International Society for Burn Victims. He has been president of the Los Angeles Society of Plastic Surgeons. He has been also associated with a number of other organizations including the Foundation for Burn Research, the Los Angeles Society of Plastic Surgeons, the National Coalition of Burn Center Hospitals, the American College of

Hyperbaric Medicine, and the Alisa Ann Ruch Foundation. In addition, he serves as Director of the Grossman Burn Center, Director of the Grossman Burn Unit, and Director of Research-Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy.

His past involvement with the California Health Care Commission and a Judicial Nomination Evaluation Commission to the State Bar Association demonstrates Dr. Grossman's commitment to civic duty. In 1994, he was named Honorary Fire Chief for the City of Los Angeles, and was inducted into the California Department of Firefighters' Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Grossman is a compassionate and sympathetic man, which is evident through his work with San Fernando Valley firefighters. His expert care of burn-injured firefighters is indispensable. He is actively involved in developing training programs for the care of burn injuries. Please join me in recognizing Dr. Richard Grossman, a distinguished physician who has made it possible for many burn victims to triumph over their injuries. His dedication and expertise provide comfort and life to many.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FINANCING
INCENTIVE ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that will provide important incentives for farmers and landowners across the country to invest in the construction of renewable fuels facilities.

This bill, called the Renewable Energy Financing Incentive (REFI) Act is a carefully crafted piece of legislation that would give landowners in South Dakota and across the country additional tax planning tools when they chose to dispose of real property. At the same time, it would encourage investment in renewable fuel production facilities.

Throughout the United States, the ethanol industry is growing at an impressive rate. In fact, over the past several decades, it has been one of the most dramatic success stories in manufacturing in this country.

In 1980, there were only 175 million gallons of ethanol produced in the United States. In 2004, we will produce more than 3.1 billion gallons of ethanol in 74 different processing facilities. In addition, dozens of new plants are either under construction or in meaningful planning stages across the country. According to industry sources, 30 percent of all gasoline sold in the United States this year will be blended with ethanol. That is an impressive record of growth.

Even more significant, much of this growth is driven by the agricultural producers who actually grow the primary feedstock. In dozens of instances, corn farmers and other agricultural producers have banded together to form co-operatives and other ventures that produce ethanol. This has the double benefit of increasing the compensation they receive for the corn they grow and also providing them with income from the ethanol and the byproducts these facilities produce.

This cooperative formula is one of the few tools that have driven real economic development in rural counties throughout the heart-

land in recent years. This legislation would provide additional incentives and tools to further promote this development. It would allow owners of real property to avoid capital gains upon the sale of that property, provided they then invest those proceeds into a qualifying renewable fuels facility.

This bill will provide several benefits throughout rural America and across the country. It will help farmers and ranchers diversify their operations through investment in value-added agriculture. It will extend to all landowners an additional option when they seek to sell their real property. Often, in my part of the country, older individuals are forced to sell their property as they retire from farming and ranching. They then must invest their proceeds from this sale in order to provide themselves a retirement income. This bill will enable them to avoid capital gains taxes and provide them with an equity stake in a burgeoning industry.

It also will provide a new revenue stream for the ethanol and other renewable fuel facilities that are in discussion and development stages today. This will, in turn, reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil, promote increased use of clean-burning renewable energies, and provide new economic growth opportunities throughout rural America. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING ROBERT PARKER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the most prolific and respected wine writers in the history of our Nation, if not the entire world. It is only fitting that we recognize the distinguished career of Robert M. Parker, Jr. on this, the 25th anniversary of the first publication of his semi-annual journal, the *Wine Advocate*.

On October 22 and 23, 2004, the world-renowned Culinary Institute of America (C.I.A.) will host a gala weekend of events to honor the long career of Mr. Parker. I can think of no better place than the C.I.A. to have such an event, given all that Mr. Parker has done to further the enjoyment of fine wine and good food.

Robert Parker was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1947. The first 30 years of his life were filled with college, law school and a 10-year career in corporate America. In August of 1978, the *Wine Advocate* was born with less than 600 subscribers. Today, the *Wine Advocate* has over 40,000 subscribers in all 50 states and 37 countries around the world.

Mr. Speaker, over the course of 25 years of writing his newsletter, Mr. Parker has become known as one of the world's foremost experts on wine. Mr. Parker pioneered an innovative approach to wine criticism. Rather than limiting his ratings to a letter scale or a scale of 1–10, Mr. Parker rates wine on a scale of 50–100. This scale has become a widely accepted method of reviewing wines.

However, Mr. Parker's rating scale only accounts for a small portion of his wine reviews. Mr. Parker compiles extensive tasting notes highlighting each aspect of the wines he reviews. He is known for pinpointing the color,