

Congratulations to Honda and its associates for their many achievements, and thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's attention today on this important matter.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS IMPORT TERMINAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2004

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, to counter the negative effects of soaring natural gas prices on the economy and consumers, Representative GENE GREEN (D-Houston) and Representative LEE TERRY (R-NE) introduced legislation to simplify the siting of onshore Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals.

"In June 2003, Alan Greenspan testified before the Committee that LNG was critical for the future stability of our economy. It would be a great help to provide LNG with the same regulatory certainty we provide natural gas pipelines."

According to the National Petroleum Council, the United States is on course to pay an additional \$1 trillion in natural gas costs over the next 20 years due to shortages. Along with increased domestic production and an Alaskan natural gas pipeline, LNG projects promise to help stabilize prices, but the permitting process for LNG facilities is uncertain and disputed, without clear lines between State and Federal authority.

"We need LNG, and we must make LNG terminals safe and secure. Current safety and security procedures and other proposals will be fully considered during this debate."

"Unless we get LNG right, our Nation's \$454 billion chemical industry and 1 million jobs could go the way of the steel industry. Electric power and heating bills are also crunching consumers. The Nation needs to address LNG in a meaningful way, and this legislation moves us on the right track."

A summary of The Liquefied Natural Gas Import Terminal Development Act of 2004 is attached.

## TALKING POINTS

Q: Why give FERC all the authority?

A: Like natural gas pipelines, LNG sites are national significant energy projects involving international and interstate commerce. FERC has stringent siting restrictions in place for LNG currently.

FERC believes they have this authority, but because interest in LNG projects have exploded, it may be necessary to spell FERC's authority out.

Q: What about state agencies that want to stop them?

A: We think they are making political plays. There are little if any air emissions or water discharges. The facilities have tough safety standards under FERC and tough security standards under the Coast Guard (Maritime Transportation Security Act).

We are saying that the states cannot question a "public interest" determination by FERC, because that is an interstate commerce determination.

Q: What about local zoning regulations?

A: FERC has tough siting standards that almost certainly preclude a site violating zoning standards. (There must be a buffer zone that is great enough so that flammable

vapors will not reach beyond facility property lines. FERC also enforces DOT and National Fire Administration regulations that limit siting to appropriate areas.)

If we need language to reassure on local zoning, we are open to that. We are not trying to change LNG siting standards—we just stop states from arbitrarily blocking projects.

Q: What about security?

A: All facilities will be covered by the Maritime Transportation Security Act. In addition, there are extraordinary procedures beyond that law for security, including ship inspections, escorts and site security coordination with local law enforcement.

One proposal is using American crews on LNG tankers. We are open to adding security measures to the bill if the debate we have indicates more measures are needed.

## SUMMARY OF THE TERRY-GREEN LNG LEGISLATION

### WHY WE NEED TO EXPAND LNG CAPACITY

Because of its efficiency and environmental benefits, natural gas use has increased dramatically over recent years. Demand has caught up with supply, and natural gas prices are up more than 80 percent over the past four years. At the same time, U.S. natural gas production is falling at about two percent a year.

Over the next two decades, U.S. natural gas consumption is expected to rise 40 percent (and 70 percent throughout North America). It is expected that U.S. production will meet only 75 percent of the nation's demand by 2025. This is especially sobering considering that the United States consumes about 25 percent of the world's natural gas production—but holds only three percent of the world's natural gas reserves.

We must look for new options now, if we are to avoid the adverse economic implications. (According to the National Petroleum Council, the United States is on course to pay an additional \$1 trillion in natural gas costs over the next 20 years due to shortages.) The Rocky Mountains, the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska will continue to be a vital part of our supply. However, expanding our liquefied natural gas (LNG) capacity is also critical, so we may bring natural gas from more ample supplies from around the world—creating a "safety value" to provide some leverage in determining natural gas availability and prices.

LNG—natural gas chilled to -260 degrees Fahrenheit—allows the safe transportation of gas from large-producing fields in places such as western Africa, the Caribbean, Malaysia, Australia, Qatar, South America, Russia, and Eastern Europe. LNG has been safely transported by ship for nearly half a century, with countries such as Japan receiving LNG shipments every 20 hours.

Currently, around 30 LNG terminals are in various stages of planning in the United States. With natural gas prices up from \$1.50/ thousand cubic feet pre-1995 to more than \$6 today, boosting LNG's role in our energy portfolio is a sensible step.

### WHAT THE TERRY-GREEN LNG LEGISLATION WOULD DO

This legislation would compliment the pending energy bill (H.R. 6) by working to add LNG to our energy portfolio. It would also provide parity between the application/review process for on-shore and offshore terminals. Specifically, this bill would:

Eliminate jurisdictional conflicts and legal ambiguities on siting and construction of LNG terminals. Jurisdictional conflicts between federal and state agencies threaten to delay or kill new LNG projects. Since the importation of LNG is a matter of foreign commerce, the Terry-Green bill would clar-

ify that approval and siting authority for LNG facilities is most appropriately determined at the federal level, as established under the Natural Gas Act. It also clarifies that a public interest finding by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding the siting, construction, expansion and operation of LNG terminals under the Natural Gas Act is pre-emptive, and is not subject to second-guessing under state or local law.

Create a lead agency for LNG project review and permitting. Currently, several federal departments, and some state agencies, have a role in the approval process for construction or expansion of an onshore LNG terminal. This bill clarifies that the FERC is the lead agency, to streamline environmental review and permitting. Other federal agencies—and state agencies with authority delegated by federal law—keep their independent regulatory responsibilities. However, such agencies must act in a manner consistent with the public interest determination made by the FERC under the Natural Gas Act.

Set a deadline for FERC review of LNG terminal applications. Currently, there is no time requirement for FERC review of a LNG terminal application. To ensure a prompt evaluation, this bill requires the FERC to issue its decision one year after the application has been completed. The bill also gives the FERC authority to establish deadlines for other agencies making permitting decisions, taking into account timelines established by other Federal statutes.

Remove regulatory uncertainties for those building/expanding onshore LNG terminals. This bill codifies the FERC's important "Hackberry" decision on open access requirements, giving developers the certainty they need regarding economic regulation. This policy is necessary to encourage the development of new LNG capacity, especially considering a typical onshore LNG project can cost more than \$500 million.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during the recorded votes on Rollcall Vote No. 196, the Goode Amendment, and Rollcall Vote No. 197, the Davis (CA) Amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the Goode Amendment and "no" on the Davis Amendment.

## TO CONGRATULATE MEMBERS OF THE WESTPORT VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (WVEMS) FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Westport Volunteer Emergency Medical Service (WVEMS) on their Quarter Century Anniversary for their outstanding work.

The men and women who dedicate their time and energy to the WVEMS are shining

examples of civic duty. As volunteers, they are vital to the Westport community.

The WVEMS volunteers come from all walks of life. Some of them run their own businesses, some are students. They have busy lives, yet they make time because they feel the need to give something back. Some are seniors who worked hard all their life and deserve to sit back and simply relax, yet they go out and volunteer their time and energy for a greater cause.

Over the years, the many awards and distinctions from local, State and national organizations—the Veterans of Foreign Wars, designation as a Connecticut Treasure and National Gold Award for Volunteer Corps from EMS Publications just to name a few—illustrate the selfless dedication with which they help countless individuals in need.

For two and a half decades WVEMS has gone above and beyond the call of duty to provide exceptional service, providing over half a million volunteer hours to date. Their efforts have formed a truly remarkable tradition. Fifteen of the founding members of the WVEMS are still with the Service, regularly putting in time to help others. Each one of them has been designated an American Red Cross Unsung Hero. Today, I want to sing their praise: Edward and Elizabeth Audley; Patricia Audley; Sharon Barnett; Russel M. Blair; Susan DeWitt; Michael Feigin; Richard Frazier; Neil Harding; Thomas M. Keenan; Kathleen Todd; Alan Yoder; Isabel Blair; Alan Stolz; Nettie Skinner; and Pasquale Salvo—you are heroes!

Two other members have been with the WVEMS for a quarter century, and I would like to commend them for their dedication over the years: Jay Paretzky and April Anne Yoder.

I would also like to include all the other active members of the WVEMS: William Puterbaugh; Norman Coltin; Sandra McPherson; Jeffrey T. Lea; Andrew Diniz; Loretta S. Harsche; Marge Costa; Christine A. Evans; Todd M. Smith; Mark A. Blake; Anthony F. Santo; Donald E. Smith III; Thomas F. Burrows; Martha M. McGorry; Elizabeth Slattery; Chris VanDeusen; Diane Salvo; Benjamin Frimmer; Barbara F. Wood; Barbara Babash; Arlene M. Healy; Amy Smith; Linda Canterbury; Albert Bassett; Mary Jane Cross; KC Duffy; Linda Green; Carole Grob; Dorothy Harris; Gordon Joseloff; Chris Sanders; Whitney Cusa; James Flint; Nicole Donovan; Toni Cribari; Mary Minard; Terrence Blake; Michele Brewster; Michael Falbo; Cheryl Jones; Michael Quan; Rico Tiberio; Sylvia Lempit; Susannah Kehl; AnnaLiisa Joseloff; James Hinckley; Nanci Jenkins; David Heinmiller; Rainy Broomfield; Ronald Carkner; Donna Patchen; Robert Redman; Olivia Weeks; Courtenay Quinn; Joseph Devermann; Linda Gale; Jean Marie Wiesen; Nancy Strong; Gregory Coghlan; Paul Resnick; Barbra Utting; Adam Sappern; Nancy Fusaro; Wendy Hill; Megan Watson; Kristin Ancona; Kathryn Min; William Min; Susan Parks; Jamie Talbot; Michael Rickard; Marc Hartog; Michael Engelskirger; Craig Kupson; Elizabeth Jennings; Glenn Eisen; Angela Chichila; Anna Dowdle; Ashley Hawley; Andrea Hoboken; Dustin Schur; Jackie Stenson; Carol Boas; Yannick Passemart; Kerry Volmar; Michael Wilmot; Danielle Faul; David Bodach; Christin Giordano; Zack Klomberg; Jordan Kunkes; Alma Loya; Whitney Riggio; Kimber Roberts; Alicia Wong; Karen Bizzak; Margaret Russell;

Richard Arriaga; Carol Dixon; Gabrielle O'Halloran; Daniel Rappaport; Dora Sweet; Lois Benfield; Adele Donohue; Susan Shewchuk; Nancy Toll; Pamela Nenham; Matthew Rees; Richard Celotto; John Sommers; Caroline Andrew; James Gray; Stephanie Howson; Rebecca Kamins; Kaitlyn Mello; Elizabeth Parks; Christian Renne; Rob Stewart; Emma Trucks; Christina Voonasis; Maryanne Boyle; Robert Dowling; Yashasvi Jhangiani; Maribeth Nixon; and Steve Brothers.

Your service is outstanding!

#### HONORING THE 2004 PROVIDENCIA AWARD RECIPIENT, MR. PATRICK ROONEY, SR.

#### HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House the achievements of Patrick Rooney, Sr., a constituent of mine from Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, in receiving the prestigious 2004 Providencia Award from the Palm Beach County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

May 2004, being National Tourism Month, is the perfect time to honor Pat, who owns and operates the Palm Beach Kennel Club in West Palm Beach and three Irish restaurants called "Rooney's Public House" located at the Palm Beach International Airport, West Palm Beach and Jupiter's Abacoa. I am a patron of those restaurants and can testify to the quality of food and service and to the vibrancy they bring to the surrounding communities.

The Providencia Award was named after the coconut-laden Spanish ship that sank off the shore of Palm Beach in 1878, washing ashore its cargo bringing Coconut Palms to the island and inspiring the name "Palm Beach." Each year, it is awarded to an individual or entity that has made an exceptional contribution to the County's \$2 billion tourism industry. Past recipients include Burt Reynolds, Chris Evert, Jack Nicklaus, Alex Dreyfoos, The Breakers, The Boca Raton Resort and others. This year it belongs to Pat Rooney, who is being honored for his contributions.

Mr. Speaker, in my South Florida Congressional District, home of fervent Miami Dolphin fans, we forgive and overlook Pat's strong allegiance to the Pittsburgh Steelers, which his family owns. We focus rather on the tremendous impact Pat has on our community. Pat serves on the Economic Council, and the Palm Beach County Attractions Association. The Hanley Hazelden Foundation, Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach, Greyhound Adoption League, Lynn University, and the American Red Cross have also benefitted from his generous philanthropy.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Mac McLaughlin and his team for selecting another great honoree this year. To Pat Rooney, congratulations on this important recognition and I wish you good health and continued success, except when it comes to the AFC Conference Championship.

H. CON. RES. 352

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 352 and to recognize the great contributions of people of Indian origin to the United States and to strengthen our bilateral relationship with the people of India.

For decades, people of Indian origin have immigrated to the United States. They have made extraordinary contributions to our Nation, from advancements in science and technology to business development, philanthropy, literature and the arts. Their contributions have helped make the United States a more diverse and prosperous country.

In Minnesota, people of Indian origin have made their presence felt throughout our communities and neighborhoods. Small and large Indian businesses have flourished in Minnesota. Groups like the India Association of Minnesota, the Asian Pacific Policy Roundtable and CAIR Minnesota have worked very hard to promote a strong, bilateral relationship between India and the United States, raising greater awareness toward human rights and regional reform. Other organizations, like the Indo-American Association of Minnesota, have taken the lead in promoting arts, cultural, spiritual and classical music as well as entertainment. Our colleges and universities have also expanded educational exchanges and opportunities between Minnesota and India, fostering new relationships and promoting greater cooperation between our two countries.

Minnesota has also seen a rise in new and exciting Indian-American leaders, including State Senator Satveer Chaudhry, elected in 2000 and representing Senate District 50 in my Congressional District. Senator Chaudhry is the highest-ranking Indian-American elected official in the country. As a friend and a former colleague, Senator Chaudhry's leadership has ensured that Indian-American families in Minnesota, as well as all the families in his district, are well represented.

Again, I support H. Con. Res. 352 and I urge passage of this important legislation. Minnesota has benefited greatly from its Indian-American community and I look forward to strengthening our relationship with our Indian friends and neighbors in the future.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. CON. RES. 95, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

SPEECH OF

#### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the budget resolution lays out the framework for next year's Federal Government revenues, spending and borrowing. It is clearly a roadmap for continuing fiscal mismanagement and misplaced priorities.

The budget allows for further tax cuts, which primarily benefit those least in need, while increasing the nation's debt limit to over \$8 trillion. The projected \$367 billion deficit for 2005