

able to participate in our elections. Enacting the VOTER Act of 2005 will help ensure that we restore trust in our election system.

The following is a section-by-section of the VOTER Act:

Section 1—Short Title and Table of Contents

Section 2—Findings and Purposes

Details a number of concerns regarding fairness of federal elections that justify a federal legislative response.

Section 3—Enhanced Protections Against Voter Intimidation, Threats, Coercion, and Deception

Creates new requirement that unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting voting in Federal elections are prohibited and the Attorney General is empowered and directed to prevent persons, partnerships, or corporations from using unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting Federal elections via civil or criminal remedy.

Creates a corollary private right of action. Amends 42 USC 1971 and 18 USC 245 to specify that deceptive and coercive voter intimidation is unlawful.

Provides for an enhanced system for DOJ to track, document, and monitor election irregularities.

Section 4—National Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot

Requires the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to prescribe a national Federal write-in absentee ballot and that any person qualified to vote in a Federal election be permitted to cast a vote using that ballot.

Provides that a federal write-in absentee ballot will be counted so long as the ballot is postmarked or signed before the close of the polls on election day and received by the appropriate State or election official on or before the date which is 10 days after the date of the election.

Section 5—Verified Ballots

Provides that voting systems shall have an independent means of voter verification which requires each voter to verify the ballot before it is cast and counted with a paper, audio, pictorial, or electronic record and that uniform and nondiscriminatory standards for such verified ballots be established by the EAC.

Requires that any means of verification shall be preserved and made available for use in any audit.

Requires that the EAC standards provide for partial audits of voting machines to ensure that the voting machines are properly functioning and accurate and in the event that voting machines are not properly functioning and accurate, the record of the verified ballot will be used for the official vote count.

Requires that the EAC and the states will produce reports on the implementation of the verified ballot.

Section 6—Requirements for Counting Provisional Ballots

Requires that each state shall count any provisional ballot which is cast at a polling place within the state if the individual who cast such a ballot is otherwise eligible under state law to vote.

Section 7—Minimum Required Voting Systems and Poll Workers in Precincts

Requires that each state shall provide for the minimum required number of functioning and accurate voting machines and poll workers for each precinct on the day of any Federal election or during early voting for any Federal election.

Requires the EAC to issue standards regarding the minimum number of voting machines and poll workers.

Section 8—Election Day Registration

Permits any individual on the day of a Federal election to register to vote and to cast a vote in such election.

Requires the EAC to develop an election day registration form for elections for Federal office.

Section 9—Integrity of Voter Registration List

Requires that not later than 45 days before any Federal election, each state shall provide public notice of all names that have been removed from the state voter registration list and that prior to the removal from such a list, a voter must receive proper notice that will be prescribed by the EAC.

Section 10—Early Voting

Requires that each state shall allow individuals to vote in an election for Federal office not less than 15 days prior to the day scheduled for such election in the same manner as voting is allowed on election day.

Requires the EAC to issue standards for the administration of early voting.

Provides that same day voter registration will occur during early voting.

Section 11—Acceleration of Study on Election Day as Public Holiday

Requires the completion of a study on Election Day as a public holiday by the EAC no later than 6 months after the enactment of this bill.

Section 12—Improvements to Voting Systems

Requires punch card systems to provide a means of verification and audit ability.

Section 13—Voter Registration

Requires voter registration forms to include an affidavit to be signed by the registrant attesting to both citizenship and age rather than having the registrant check boxes on the voter registration form attesting to both citizenship and age.

Requires that any form developed or used by a State for voter registration in Federal elections must include an affidavit attesting citizenship and age instead of the questions and statements under HAVA sec. 303b4(A).

Requires states to establish voter registration through the Internet with the standard established by the EAC.

Section 14—Establishing Voter Identification

Permits voter identification to be established through a written affidavit when a voter is voting in person or through the mail and eliminates the need for any other form of identification, which has the effect of overruling the HAVA requirement that first time voters who register by mail must provide a photo ID when voting.

Requires the EAC to establish the standards for establishing voter identification.

Section 15—Impartial Administration of Elections

Requires that states issue a public notice concerning any changes to the administration of an election since the most recent prior election.

Requires that states must provide access to any polling place to voting and civil rights groups, and nonpartisan domestic and international observers and that such access may be denied only through a public notice that will be issued not later than 24 hours after such denial.

Requires that the EAC conduct a study on the administration of Federal elections in states by nonpartisan election boards, rather than Secretaries of State.

Section 16—Strengthening the Election Assistance Commission

Requires the EAC to submit any budget requests to the Congress and all relevant House and Senate Committees, in addition to the President or the Office of Budget and Management.

Requires that the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology provide the EAC with the assistance needed to perform the duties required of it under this Act if such assistance is requested.

Provides for the necessary appropriations to the EAC to perform its duties under this Act.

Section 17—Additional Protections to Ensure Fair Administration of Federal Elections

Provides that no individual may serve as an election official at any polling place used for Federal office unless the individual has been certified through the poll worker certification program established by the EAC.

Requires that each state shall ensure that all voting machines used by the state for elections for federal office use open source software which may be accessible for inspection by the public and that the standard for public viewing of the open source code be established by the EAC.

Requires that the EAC will establish a national standard for the conducting of a recount of the results of any election for Federal office.

Prohibits states from entering into any agreement with an entity regarding the manufacture, distribution, installation, servicing, or other activity with respect to a voting machine if that entity contributes to a campaign for public office and standards on such conflicts of interest will be established by the EAC.

Section 18—Authorization of Appropriations

Provides for the necessary appropriations to the states to perform their duties under this Act, \$2 billion in 2006 and thereafter, such sums as may be necessary.

Section 19—Effective Date

Requires operative provisions to take effect on January 1, 2007.

COMMENDING COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR MARKING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a tragic anniversary, one which we can never afford to forget. Last week, my colleagues and I voted unanimously in support of a resolution commending countries and organizations for marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and urging a strengthening of the fight against racism, intolerance, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination, and anti-Semitism.

January 27, 2005—marked the day 60 years ago that Soviet troops opened the gates of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland and liberated the Jewish prisoners who had managed to survive the atrocities committed within those walls.

I join with many others in remembering those who perished, in honoring their memory, and in promising survivors: "never again."

Countries around the world will commemorate this event as a reminder to us all of what can befall humanity when we turn away from injustice and fail to speak out when those in power single out innocents for persecution.

Together, we have made progress in battling anti-Semitism around the world. As part

of its effort to say “never again”, the United Nations General Assembly last week, commemorated the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust, a signal that the UN will assert leadership in the ongoing struggle against anti-Semitism.

This year’s memorial ceremonies are particularly important because concentration camp survivors are aging at a rapid rate and may not be able to participate in such future events.

Despite ongoing efforts, Jews throughout the world continue to suffer vandalism, verbal assaults, and even physical attacks. On this day of commemoration, we should all resolve to work towards a world where the Holocaust can never happen again.

TO RENAME THE POST OFFICE IN
BARRIO LOGAN, CA

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man who stood up for justice and fair treatment for all Americans.

During his life, Cesar E. Chavez was committed to providing fair wages, better working conditions, decent housing, and quality education for all. He organized in Southern California and accomplished a great deal to improve the living and working conditions for the people of San Diego.

Mr. Chavez also made tremendous sacrifices for all Americans, serving the United States proudly in the Navy during World War II.

His spirit and his vision are still alive today and I am determined to celebrate what he stood for and his great accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation to rename the post office located at 2777 Logan Avenue in the Barrio Logan section of San Diego as the “Cesar E. Chavez Post Office.”

This is the least we can do to honor such a great but humble man dedicated to justice. Please join me in giving Mr. Chavez his rightful place in American history.

TRIBUTE TO FEDRICK INGRAM,
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Fedrick Ingram of Carol City High School, who was honored this past Tuesday as Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Ingram, known for his discipline and drive, has pushed his students to excel in music and academic studies. For the first time in 10 years, Miami Carol City’s Band received straight superiors in this year’s District Band Competition, and was even invited to perform during the Sugar Bowl last month.

While many schools are placing less importance on fine arts, Mr. Ingram has shown what value an amazing fine arts program can have. As Band Director and Fine Arts Department

Chairperson, he has motivated his students both in the classroom and the band room—and his results have been amazing. Last year, more than two-dozen of his students amassed \$300,000 in college scholarships. Under his leadership, his students have increased their self-esteem and have improved their grades, test scores and graduation rates.

Ingram founded the Miami All-Stars Band Camp in 2002, giving many low-income families the opportunity to send their children. His last camp included nearly 300 students all of which were given the opportunity to work with college band directors and local musicians for an intensive one-week collegiate training course.

Mr. Ingram shares his life’s passion daily. Mr. Speaker, I recognize him for his accomplishments and commend him for his hard work and innovation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UDALL-EI-
SENHOWER ARCTIC WILDERNESS
ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, with Representative NANCY JOHNSON and over 100 of my colleagues, legislation that would permanently protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from development by granting it full wilderness status, consistent with the rest of the Refuge. The Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act of 2005 honors two great visionaries by protecting, in their name, this extraordinary piece of America’s wilderness. Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower began the bipartisan legacy to protect this majestic land when he set aside the core of the Refuge in 1960. Twenty years later, in 1980, Democratic Representative Morris Udall succeeded in doubling the size of the Refuge, thereby protecting even more of this pristine wilderness from oil drilling. As Mo Udall said at the time, “In our lifetime, we have few opportunities to shape the very Earth on which our descendants will live their lives. In each generation, we have carved up more and more of our once-great natural heritage. There ought to be a few places left in the world the way the Almighty made them.”

President Eisenhower and Mo Udall had the vision to protect a remote but very special piece of wilderness for America’s future generations. It is now our responsibility to stop those who would tear down this legacy. This legislation would, at long last, complete the job they began.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a national treasure. It is a Federal land given legal protection so that the pressures of development today do not over-run the need to preserve for tomorrow a unique place for the undisturbed enjoyment of future generations. The Arctic Refuge does not belong to the oil companies; it does not belong to one party; it does not belong to one State. It is a public wilderness trust, and we are the trustees.

The coastal plain of the Refuge is the biological heart of the ecosystem and is critical to the survival of caribou, polar bears, and over 160 species of birds. A Department of the In-

terior study suggests that oil development would contribute to a 20–40 percent decline in the Refuge’s caribou population, and similar declines in wolverine and musk oxen populations. When you drill in the heart, every other part of the biological system suffers.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service calls the coastal plain the “center for wildlife activity” in the Refuge. If the drillers get their way, a refuge for wildlife will become something else—a place for caribou, grizzlies, polar bears and wolves to practice their social skills with oil riggers, pipelines, roads, pumping stations, bulldozers, helicopters, airstrips, and everything else necessary for a state-of-the-art “environmentally-conscious” oil field. Like their counterparts in the zoo, the wildlife will be required to adapt to living in an oil field, and they will be “wildlife” no more. A place that has been “forever wild” will be gone—gone forever—never to be retrieved.

If Congress authorizes drilling in the Refuge, it will scar an untouched landscape, evict wildlife from its traditional habitats, turn tundra potholes for ducks into catch basins for drilling wastes, and provide a precedent to invade every other wildlife refuge in the United States of America.

Let’s be clear—if we want to be able to protect the wildlife refuge system later, we must protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge now.

You have surely heard the argument that we have no choice, that we have soldiers in the oil fields of the Middle East that need to come home, that we must reduce our dependence on oil from unstable foreign suppliers.

Let’s be clear again—we have a choice, a better choice, and the sooner we steer the debate away from drilling for 6 months’ worth of oil in the Arctic Refuge, the sooner we can actually do something real about oil imports.

The United States consumes 25 percent of the world’s oil but controls only 3 percent of the world’s reserves. 76 percent of those reserves are controlled by the OPEC cartel; that is our weakness. Our strength lies not in sacrificing our wildlands; our strength lies in harnessing our technological genius. We are a technological superpower. It is time to start acting like one.

From an energy standpoint, drilling in the wildlife refuge is completely unnecessary. Transportation—cars, SUVs, and trucks—account for approximately three-quarters of all U.S. oil consumption. If we improve the average fuel economy of cars, mini-vans, and SUVs by just 3 miles per gallon, we save more oil within ten years than would ever be produced from drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Technology already exists that will allow us to dramatically increase fuel economy, not just by 3 mpg, but by 15 mpg or more—five times the amount the industry could possibly drill out of the Refuge.

The debate over drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is surreal when you consider that the country which is sending our young men and women abroad to shed their blood in the Middle East oilfields is the same country which subsidizes the consumption of oil at home as if it were an infinite resource.

Let me cite just one obscene example. The Administration’s current energy policy provides \$35,000 in tax deductions for the purchase of a Hummer, but a mere \$2,000 for the purchase of a hybrid vehicle. A hybrid gets 50 miles per gallon, a Hummer gets 10 miles per