

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on several key provisions contained in the House-passed energy bill.

LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE NORTHERN BORDER COORDINATOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation that would establish the position of Northern Border Coordinator in the Department of Homeland Security.

The northern border spans twelve states and over 3,000 miles. My congressional district, which includes Niagara Falls and Buffalo, serves as an annual gateway for 14.5 million individuals who enter the United States across the Niagara River bi-national bridges. The Peace Bridge, connecting Buffalo to Fort Erie, is the country's busiest border crossing, with over 1.3 million trucks and 20 billion dollars of commerce passing over it each year. More broadly, Canada is our nation's single largest trading partner, with total trade activity exceeding \$400 billion.

Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, there is a new awareness that the northern border can also serve as an opening for terrorists, weapons of mass destruction, and other hazardous materials. Even today, there are many areas along the northern border that lack sufficient personnel and resources to provide border security. Our nation must act to thwart terrorists who attempt to abuse the open relationship between our two countries. It is important that enhanced border security along the U.S.-Canadian border be overseen in a coordinated manner among federal, state and local law enforcement and first responders.

For this reason, I have introduced legislation that would establish the position of Northern Border Coordinator at the Department of Homeland Security. The Northern Border Coordinator would be responsible for increasing the security of the border between the U.S. and Canada; improving the coordination among the agencies responsible for homeland security; serving as the primary liaison with the state and local governments and law enforcement agencies in matters regarding border security; and serving as a liaison with the Canadian government.

It is critical that we devote the personnel and technology necessary to ensure our security while maintaining strong channels for trade. A position within the Department of Homeland Security dedicated towards these goals is a step in the right direction.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BUDDY ALBRO, NORMA KRUEGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Buddy

Albro, Norma Krueger Elementary School Primary Campus Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Albro decided to enter the profession of teaching relatively late in life. Previously, he had been a successful worker in the oil and gas industry. He decided that he wanted to make a difference in the lives of children, and went back to school at Southwest Texas State University, where he graduated with honors.

He has now been a teacher with the Marion Independent School District for eight years, seven of which were spent teaching the third and fourth grades. Currently, he is the elementary physical education teacher for grades K-5.

Mr. Albro believes that every child has the potential to do great things, and he works hard to make learning fun for his students. He believes that the most important component of an elementary education is becoming a good reader; this skill, he feels, sets the stage for a lifetime of success.

Mr. Buddy Albro is an outstanding educator, dedicated to the welfare and happiness of the children of Marion. His dedication is a tremendous example for other educators, and I am happy to have the opportunity to honor him here today.

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY ON THE OCCASION OF MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to the American Cancer Society for its outstanding efforts to combat breast cancer.

On May 1, the American Cancer Society will host its annual event, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. This year, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer will invite local residents to participate in a non-competitive walk along Milwaukee's lakefront to raise money to fight breast cancer and to educate our citizens about prevention, detection and treatment.

I am particularly thankful for their work because I know the devastating effects of breast cancer on individuals and families in my district. Those who lack awareness of the disease are less likely to follow basic prevention and detection protocols. Too many women die of this disease when early detection and treatment might have saved their lives.

Throughout the year the American Cancer Society works hard to make a difference in the lives of Wisconsin residents, promoting cancer awareness and prevention. It is a pleasure to take this opportunity to recognize their contributions to the communities in the Fourth Congressional District, and to say thank you. I wish them good weather for a successful event and another year of commendable work.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC) as it celebrates its 20th Anniversary. Since its founding in 1985, the Council has been successfully committed to its mission to foster and inspire young people to achieve their full leadership potential.

CYLC has directly impacted over 200,000 young men and women representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the American territories, and over 100 countries around the world since its founding. From the State of Illinois alone, more than 3,000 students have participated in at least one of the Council's dynamic programs. These scholars are well-rounded in their academic achievements and demonstrated leadership abilities.

The educational programs offered by the council create opportunities for leaders of all ages to have a unique experience with each program. Beginning with the Junior National Young Leaders Conference (JrNYLC) and the National Young Leaders State Conference (NYLSC), students are challenged to understand their own leadership skills through the context of American history and self-evaluation. The National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC) and the Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC), provide outstanding young leaders of tomorrow the opportunity to meet the national and global leaders of today. During that time they explore, question, and discuss critical issues facing all of us.

The comprehensive curriculum focuses on learning through experience—simulations, role playing, debate and, most importantly, personal interaction among students and today's leaders that fosters open dialog, new perspectives, and cultural exchanges. All of these elements combine to create an atmosphere of inspiration that energizes young men and women to return to their homes, communities, and schools with the tools and drive to be effective leaders both today and for many years to come. Please join me in congratulating the Congressional Youth Leadership Council on 20 years of positively impacting the lives of this nation's and the world's future leaders.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION ACT

**HON. MAC THORNBERRY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I agree with those who say that the Global War on Terrorism is actually a Global War of Ideas and that terrorism is one of the tactics used in that War. Military power, alone, will not win this War nor can it ensure our safety against those willing to destroy themselves as they murder as many Americans as possible.

The Global War of Ideas must be waged on many fronts—military, diplomatic, economic. It must include intelligence activities abroad and homeland security efforts here at home. It

must involve our allies and friends around the world.

One critical aspect of this War involves what I believe can best be labeled as "Strategic Communication." Strategic Communication is not marketing; it is not simplistic slogans; it is not simply looking for better ways to tell the world how good we are. Strategic Communication is deeper and more sophisticated than that. It is how we communicate with—and thus relate to—the rest of the world.

It includes public diplomacy (how we communicate with people outside of the United States), public affairs (how we communicate with Americans and the media), international broadcasting, and various governmental information operations programs. It must, of course, utilize and take into account ever-evolving technologies.

Any communication begins with listening and understanding, which is certainly where Strategic Communication must begin. We cannot conduct a poll or two and assume we know what the people think. We have to understand history, culture, traditions, values, and anxieties. Without that understanding, any attempt at communicating, much less influencing, will be futile. Our understanding must extend to networks of influence within societies and to the factors which influence human behavior.

In addition to understanding attitudes and cultures, Strategic Communication involves engaging in a dialogue of ideas, advising policy makers of the implications of various decision choices, and developing and implementing communication strategies that can help shape attitudes and behaviors. It involves the work not only of the Department of State, but also the Department of Defense, the Intelligence Community, and others.

Needless to say, Strategic Communication is a massive job that directly affects the national security of the United States for generations to come.

A number of studies since the 9/11 attacks—and some even prior—have emphasized the importance of Strategic Communications and have also found that the United States efforts have been quite deficient. One recent report, which I found particularly helpful, was issued by the Defense Science Board Task Force on Strategic Communication, chaired by Mr. Vincent Vitto.

The Defense Science Board report provides a context for the importance of Strategic Communications, and it offers a number of recommendations require action by the Executive Branch, but some require Congressional action as well. The report's bottom line is that the U.S. needs a "dramatically more disciplined, methodical, and strategic approach to global communications."

In considering the many aspects of Strategic Communications, there are some things only government can do. But, government does not have all of the answers or all of the expertise needed to successfully wage this War. Those outside government have much to contribute. To be truly successful, there must be a cooperative partnership between government and the private sector.

The bill I am introducing today, H.R. 1869, the "Strategic Communication Act of 2005," will help provide a framework for that partnership. Implementing one of the recommendations of the Defense Science Board study, the

bill creates a nonpartisan, non-profit Center for Strategic Communication to be at the intersection of government and private sector efforts in Strategic Communication. As a nongovernmental entity, the Center can take advantage of the experience and expertise of those outside of government who may be unwilling or unable to work within government but would like the opportunity to contribute. It would also allow greater flexibility than government regulations sometimes permit.

While no one wants to duplicate essential governmental functions, the Defense Science Board's report suggests that a non-profit Center would have three primary purposes:

1. To provide information and analysis to civilian and military decision-makers;

2. to develop plans and programs to create and implement U.S. communication strategies; and

3. to support government strategic communications. Among the areas in which the Center can contribute are: polling and analysis, cultural influence analysis, media influences analysis, fostering cross cultural exchanges, sub-contracting to the commercial and academic sectors for a range of products and programs, mobilizing non-government initiatives, such as temporary communication teams, and continually monitoring and evaluating effectiveness.

Mr. Speaker, let me make clear that I understand, as did the Defense Science Board, that the War of Ideas is about much more than communications strategies. It is also about policies and actions, some of which are not popular in various regions of the world. The Defense Science Board report noted that policies and strategic communications cannot be separated.

But effective communication is also an essential part of any effort to make the world a safer place. As the Defense Science Board noted, "Strategic Communication is a vital component of U.S. national security. It is in crisis and must be transformed with a strength of purpose that matches our commitment to diplomacy, defense, intelligence, law enforcement, and homeland security."

I believe that this proposal and the entire list of recommendations by the Defense Science Board can make a major contribution to this effort.

#### ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, the so-called Assault Weapons ban passed in 1994 has now been expired for seven months and our nation has yet to feel the ill effects proponents of the '94 legislation predicted. The following article by Deborah Sontag of the New York Times, provides a great description of how little has changed since the ban was lifted. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert this article into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Apr. 24, 2005]

MANY SAY END OF FIREARM BAN CHANGED  
LITTLE

(By Deborah Sontag)

Despite dire predictions that the streets would be awash in military-style guns, the

expiration of the decade-long assault weapons ban last September has not set off a sustained surge in the weapons' sales, gun makers and sellers say. It also has not caused any noticeable increase in gun crime in the past seven months, according to several metropolitan police departments.

The uneventful expiration of the assault weapons ban did not surprise gun owners, nor did it surprise some advocates of gun control. Rather, it underscored what many of them had said all along: that the ban was porous—so porous that assault weapons remained widely available throughout their prohibition.

"The whole time that the American public thought there was an assault weapons ban, there never really was one," said Kristen Rand, legislative director of the Violence Policy Center, a gun control group.

What's more, law enforcement officials say that military-style weapons, which were never used in many gun crimes but did enjoy some vogue in the years before the ban took effect, seem to have gone out of style in criminal circles.

"Back in the early 90's, criminals wanted those Rambo-type weapons they could brandish," said Jim Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police. "Today they are much happier with a 9-millimeter handgun they can stick in their belt."

When the ban took effect in 1994, it exempted more than 1.5 million assault weapons already in private hands. Over the next 10 years, at least 1.17 million more assault weapons were produced—legitimately—by manufacturers that availed themselves of loopholes in the law, according to an analysis of firearms production data by the Violence Policy Center.

Throughout the decade-long ban, for instance, the gun manufacturer DPMS/Panther Arms of Minnesota continued selling assault rifles to civilians by the tens of thousands. In compliance with the ban, the firearms manufacturer "sporterized" the military-style weapons, sawing off bayonet lugs, securing stocks so they were not collapsible and adding muzzle brakes. But the changes did not alter the guns' essence; they were still semiautomatic rifles with pistol grips.

After the ban expired in September, DPMS reintroduced its full-featured weapons to the civilian market and enjoyed a slight spike in sales. That increase was short-lived, however, and predictably so, said Randy E. Luth, the company's owner.

"I never thought the sunset of the ban would be that big a deal," Mr. Luth said.

No gun production data are yet available for the seven months since the ban expired. And some gun-control advocates say they don't trust the self-reporting of gun industry representatives, who may want to play down the volume of their sales to ward off a revival of the ban.

Indeed, a replica of the ban is again before the Senate.

"In my view, the assault weapons legislation was working," said Senator Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California, a chief sponsor of the new bill. "It was drying up supply and driving up prices. The number of those guns used in crimes dropped because they were less available." Assault weapons account for a small fraction of gun crimes: about 2 percent, according to most studies, and no more than 8 percent. But they have been used in many high-profile shooting sprees. The snipers in the 2002 Washington-area shootings, for instance, used semiautomatic assault rifles that were copycat versions of banned carbines.

Gun crime has plummeted since the early 1990's. But a study for the National Institute of Justice said that it could not "clearly credit the ban with any of the nation's recent drops in gun violence." Research for the