

County Administrator. During his career, Mike has led Deschutes County through a period of unprecedented growth which has transformed a small rural community into a thriving region that attracts visitors and new residents from throughout the country.

Mike was born and raised in Santa Barbara, California. Upon entering adulthood, he proudly served his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps, holding the position of Group Communication Center Supervisor. Following his discharge, he attended, California State University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public and Business Administration in 1974. He then proceeded to obtain a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California in 1976.

After completing his education, Mike moved to Oregon and became an Administrator in the Oregon Circuit and District Court system. However, Mike's interest in government continued to grow, and by 1979, he chose to pursue a career in the broader field of public administration. He assumed his current position as Deschutes County Administrator in May 1979 and has been a highly respected and valued contributor to both the community and local government ever since.

During Mike's tenure, Deschutes County has consistently ranked as one of the fastest growing regions in the United States. The rapid increase in population, from approximately 62,000 in 1979 to nearly 145,000 in 2005, has presented a wealth of challenges and opportunities. Mike skillfully guided the County through this transition, managing organizational growth from 250 employees to well over 800 and an annual budget of just over \$16 million in 1979 to almost \$228 million today.

Among Mike's many accomplishments as a Public Administrator, he is justifiably proudest of those that brought fiscal strength and stability to Deschutes County. His creativity and innovation are the source of a system in which existing property and partnerships are leveraged to construct new County facilities without additional cost to the taxpayer. He also initiated a self-insurance program that has saved millions of taxpayer dollars while creating an environment of trust and cooperation between County management, employees, and labor organizations and serving as a model for other communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Oregon's finest public servants, Mike Maier. On behalf of the citizens of the Second District of Oregon, I am proud to recognize Mike's numerous achievements and to wish him the best as he enters a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING ARMANDO DE JESUS DOMINGUEZ

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Armando de Jesus Dominguez of Saga Bay for his remarkable work as an artist.

Most recently, Mr. Dominguez has been selected out of 4,000 entries as one of ten artists

featured by the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. Mr. Dominguez's works and journals are published on the gallery's "Portrait of an Artist" web site. His competition entry Mr. Williams is a riveting portrayal of a Palmetto Senior High School teacher, an expression of the artist's patience and skill.

Mr. Dominguez was born in Havana, Cuba, and came to Miami with his family at the age of 12. A self-taught painter, he works as a graphic designer for the Spanish-language network Univision. In his artistic work, he focuses on landscape painting and now has a three-year backlog of commissioned work. Dedicated to his community, he also visits local schools and gives presentations to expose children to the arts.

Mr. Dominguez, thank you for your continued commitment to the promotion of the arts. Your unwavering pursuit of your vision through painting has been an inspiration to others. It is this passion, incredible talent, and service to the community of Saga Bay that makes our lives richer and Florida stronger. I congratulate Mr. Armando DeJesus Dominguez on his achievement and service to the community.

AMENDING TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Congressman LATOURETTE's bill, H.R. 5449. I am pleased my fellow Ohioan has brought this important issue to the floor of the House.

The contract negotiations between air traffic controllers and the FAA that began in July of 2005 have been an arduous process for both sides. But the resolution of the negotiation stalemate should not be an imposition of the FAA's most recent contract offer on the union. Rather, both parties should return to the bargaining table, or make use of another collaborative process, such as the Federal Service Impasse Panel, to reach a resolution.

News reports in recent weeks have highlighted the upcoming summer travel season and the expected record numbers of air passengers. With more travelers in the air and likely delays associated with the severe weather of summer, the important role of air traffic controllers is even more vital. We need experienced controllers to ensure safe flights and timely arrivals. We need controllers who are able to focus on their jobs and not distracted by contract negotiations.

The result of this extensive negotiation should not be the unilateral imposition of the FAA's will. The negotiated contract should be a result of a collaborative process, as Congressman LATOURETTE's bill would ensure. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5449.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to extend the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Joining with me in this effort are Representatives NICK RAHALL, WAYNE T. GILCHREST, THELMA DRAKE, MARK KENNEDY, JOHN D. DINGELL and CURT WELDON.

First enacted in 1989, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act or NAWCA has become one of the most popular and effective conservation programs in the history of this Nation. Since the first Wetland Grant was a warded 15 years ago, more than 1,500 conservation projects have been funded involving more than 3,200 partners. As a result, more than 23 million acres of wetlands and associated habitat has been protected, restored or enhanced in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Wetlands are among the world's most productive environments. They are critical to the survival of not only thousands of species of marine fish and invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds and wildlife populations but also to the people who live along our coasts. In essence, they are horizontal levees. Without these wetlands and coastal barriers, the impact of last year's huge hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico would have been far worse in terms of loss of human life and wildlife habitat and the destruction of private property. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, for every 2.7 miles a hurricane travels across marshes and wetlands the storm surge is reduced by one foot.

Wetlands protect ground and surface water, purify water by removing sediments and nutrients, reduce the severity of flooding, prevent erosion and provide habitat for a diverse community of plants, animals, fish and birds. In particular, millions of migratory birds depend on wetlands throughout their life cycles as breeding, staging and resting grounds. Sadly, more than half of our Nation's original colonial wetlands have been lost. The fundamental goal of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act is to conserve remaining wetland habitat. It is a program that is working and it is a sound investment of U.S. taxpayer funds.

In my own Congressional District in California, there have been a number of approved NAWCA projects. A recent example is the \$1 million grant issued to the North San Joaquin Valley Wetland Habitat Project to protect, restore and enhance over 36,000 acres of wetlands, riparian and upland habitats. The prime sponsor of this project is the California Waterfowl Association. This organization is working, with local landowners to ensure that critical habitat can provide maximum benefits to migratory birds and a host of other wildlife species. Under their leadership, the California Waterfowl Association and its non-governmental partners will contribute \$2.3 million towards the success of this grant.

Since the inception of this program, the amount of private non-governmental matching money has been remarkable. In fact, it now

stands in excess of \$2.1 billion. This unique public-private wetland conservation partnership effort is a classic case of how government should work and because of these proactive conservation grants dozens of species are witnessing a renaissance in the growth in their population numbers.

It is, therefore, not surprising that this program has been enthusiastically supported by nearly every conservation organization in America including Ducks Unlimited, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, California Waterfowl Association, National Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, the National Rifle Association, Pheasants Forever and the Wildlife Management Institute.

For the past 5 years, Congress has appropriated about \$40 million each year for the North American Wetlands Conservation Program. In its budget submission, the Bush administration recommend an allocation of \$41.6 million and under current law the maximum amount that can be appropriated in FY'07 is \$75 million. Under the terms of this legislation, the North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2006, existing funding levels would be extended for an additional 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act has been remarkably effective and successful in conserving wetlands. This program has earned an extension and I compliment my colleagues for joining with me in this effort.

I am confident that this important legislation will be warmly embraced by the Administration and President Bush who has stated that "The North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act shows our concern for the environment and our respect for future generations of Americans". I look forward to giving the President the opportunity to sign this important conservation measure into law this year.

VERMONT'S OUTSTANDING
BUSINESS IS EMPLOYEE-OWNED

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the Nation's attention, and to celebrate, the winner of this year's Deane C. Davis Outstanding Vermont Business Award, King Arthur, Flour of Norwich, Vermont.

Founded in 1790, back when the Nation's President was George Washington, King Arthur is the oldest flour company in America. It is also one of the most progressive. It had three owners 215 years ago; today, it has 200. For those who work at King Arthur Flour are not just employees: They own the company. In 1996 its management began an Employee Stock Ownership Plan [ESOP]. Today, King Arthur Flour is a 100 percent employee-owned company.

And King Arthur's president and CEO, Steven Voigt, is helping businesses all across the Nation follow the company's example, for Steve Voigt is chair of the ESOP Association. The ESOP Association, founded in 1978, is a national non-profit membership organization, with 18 local chapters, serving approximately 2,400 ESOPs.

King Arthur Flour itself was founded in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1790 and moved its headquarters to Vermont in 1986. The company has grown since then from a regional staple to a brand known nationwide for its purity and consistent quality; from a small mail-order business with five employees in 1990 to the premier baker's resource in America with nearly 200 employees today; from a family-owned operation for five generations to a 100 percent employee-owned business. Its flour is sold in supermarkets in everyone of the Nation's 50 States.

While most of America's flour makers for the retail market have seen their sales decline, King Arthur has bucked the trend: Its sales have increased 15 percent over the past decade. This should be no surprise. Employee ownership is good for business.

Ten years ago, King Arthur made the move toward employee ownership. It holds quarterly owners' meetings, and its employees gather monthly in what they call "Town Meetings" to keep information flowing and to make sure decisions are participatory. The company's books are open.

An employee-owned company can have a larger and more progressive agenda than just its core business. King Arthur's employee-owners have established a program that allows them to volunteer up to 40 hours a year to a non-profit organization—and get paid by the company for that time. King Arthur knows that simply making and selling healthy, non-bleached and non-bromated flour is not enough: It has been offering free bread-making classes to 12,000 people a year in 40 American cities. And it has taught over 60,000 middle school students to bake bread—and taught them about giving and sharing, by providing the students ingredients so that they can bake bread for local foodbanks.

King Arthur Flour employees are worth recognizing because they show so plainly that CEOs who run companies from the top down, and who reward themselves with 431 times the amount that their average employees make, are not essential to running a corporation efficiently and well. ESOPs are soundly managed, good to work for, forward-looking, environmentally conscious. And they make a profit.

So there are many reasons why, in Vermont, one of our major ESOPs, King Arthur Flour, has just been recognized by the Chamber of Commerce and Vermont Business Magazine as the outstanding business in the entire state.

There is much to be learned from the model that the employees at King Arthur Flour have developed so successfully.

AMENDING TITLE 49, UNITED
STATES CODE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5449.

This bill, sponsored by Representative LATOURETTE, will restore fairness and accountability to the FAA's negotiating process.

It is time that Congress steps in to ensure that no serious damage is done to the integrity

and safety of our aviation system. We must support the men and women who help keep our airways safe and on time.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been trying to circumvent real negotiations and to unilaterally impose a contract on the air traffic controllers. Increasingly, they have refused to negotiate in good faith in an effort to create a false impasse.

Congress must act! Earlier this week, the FAA moved to start implementing its unilateral changes to the terms and conditions of employment for our nation's air traffic controllers.

The system is already facing a massive staffing crisis that could leave fewer and fewer qualified and trained controllers guiding record air traffic. More than 7,000 air traffic controllers are expected to retire over the next nine years. Air traffic controller staffing is critical. We will need 1,000 new air traffic controllers per year over the next five years to avert a staffing crisis. These conditions will lead to an erosion of talent at the agency because retirement-eligible controllers, the FAA's most experienced, would see the imposition as a reason to retire. This will in turn make recruiting replacement controllers of quality and excellence much more difficult. Possible delays due to staff shortages and inexperienced staff, as well as the closing of severely understaffed facilities could impose hundreds of millions of dollars in unnecessary costs for consumers and communities.

H.R. 5449 would encourage the FAA and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) in the contract negotiations to reach an agreement and turn toward other important matters, including the future growth and safety of the U.S. air traffic system.

This bill would allow for the existing sections of the law to be utilized to solve the contractual differences—the same way disputes are settled for other federal workers. It would allow for this and future disputes to be settled in a manner that ensures a fair hearing for both sides.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5449 and restore fairness to this negotiating process and keep America's airways flowing safely and professionally.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I was present and voting during the series of rollcall votes that included rollcall No. 226, final passage of the FY2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. While I believed that I had voted "yea" on the measure, apparently the electronic voting system did not register this vote. I would like to ensure that the record reflect that my vote, had it been recorded, would have been "yea" on rollcall No. 226.