

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### REFINERY PERMIT PROCESS SCHEDULE ACT

#### SPEECH OF

#### **HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address H.R. 5254. While I join my colleagues in recognizing the need for resolving our Nation's problematic energy situation, I fear this bill may seek a solution by way of shortcuts that will only exacerbate the problem or develop new ones.

I believe most importantly that this bill problematically interferes with past base closure and realignment (BRAC) rounds. If nothing else, the bill will take away the legal right of communities to determine how local bases will be redeveloped. This is inconsistent with the principles this Congress has stood for when it comes to the base closure process and it is inconsistent with enabling local entities to seek what is best for their local communities instead of having those in Washington choose it for them.

Some communities face the possibility of having the power to determine how best to utilize lands on closed bases stripped away from them and given to the Secretary of Defense. This would jeopardize plans these communities have already developed, including projects for which they have already invested time and money. Expectations of entire local governments and public constituencies could be jeopardized. This is not good government.

The BRAC process has followed a simple and important principle associated with base closure: that the transformation of military installations to civilian use, once properly closed and environmentally cleaned up by the Federal Government, is best left in the hands of the community, not the Federal Government. H.R. 5254 would deprive some communities of this critical option and undercut this principle.

A closed military base on Guam has been converted into the Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport (GIAA). It is a crucial trade and transportation hub in the Western Pacific Region today. Interfering with the process that enables successes like the conversion to a commercial airport on Guam, a process that is often a difficult one for communities faced with job losses and lost economic expenditures from base personnel, is bad policy.

This bill nonetheless would give the Department of Defense the ability to flaunt BRAC law and the BRAC process by allowing the Secretary of Defense to designate three previously closed bases for the construction of oil refineries, themselves assets our Nation does need to grow, that could then be transferred to oil companies, potentially at no cost, irrespective of local redevelopment plans, irrespective of environmental cleanup needed at the base and irrespective of community desires and previous planning. I do not support the construction of refineries at the expense of local

communities. I am confident that current law sufficiently incentivizes refinery construction and that the oil industry, with record profits, can appropriately seek land and locations to construct these resources without having to rely upon land on closed military installations.

I might add that on Guam, H.R. 5254 is redundant. Shell Guam, with a large presence on Guam, has repeatedly offered the Department of Defense the ability to lease both significant storage facilities and refining capacity available on the island. The Department of Defense has never acted on this opportunity nor responded to the invitation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I note that there is currently nothing that prevents the building of refineries on closed bases if a community chooses to do so. It is my understanding some communities with a closed base may even desire to host a refinery. But it should be their choice, not the sole decision of the federal government imposed on the local community. Those American communities already stricken by the economic pains of base closure should not and cannot now find that their reliance on BRAC law that enables community choices on how to redevelop land on closed bases will have been faulty. I do not believe that our country's energy situation can be solved at the expense of these communities and therefore am deeply concerned about H.R. 5254.

I join my colleagues in their concern with our country's over-reliance on oil, about our lack of refining capacity and about the need to develop policy to overcome these challenges. Unfortunately, H.R. 5254 goes too far and in the wrong direction in an attempt to address these challenges.

**CONGRATULATING DR. PATRICIA  
DONOHUE FOR BEING NAMED  
RECIPIENT OF THE WILKES-  
BARRE CHAMBER OF BUSINESS  
AND INDUSTRY'S ATHENA  
AWARD**

#### **HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Dr. Patricia Donohue, president of the Luzerne County Community College, in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, who was a recipient of the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry's prestigious "Athena Award."

The Athena Award honors women who show excellence in business accomplishments, community service, personal achievements, and assisting the efforts of other women working toward their full leadership potential.

The concept started in 1980 when Martha Mayhood Mertz, then serving on the Board of Directors of the Lansing Michigan Regional

Chamber of Commerce, realized that only one woman was recognized for excellence in her Chamber in 75 years. Since its inception in Michigan, thousands of ATHENA Awards have been presented throughout North America, Eastern Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber has honored local women for their achievements since 1985. MotorWorld Automotive Group has remained a sponsor of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber's ATHENA Award during that tenure.

Dr. Donohue oversees a \$36 million budget and remains active in the community volunteering her time with several organizations. She has spent countless hours providing guidance and mentorship to female professionals and young women.

Dr. Donohue is a member of the board of directors of the Luzerne Foundation, Osterhout Free Library, F.M. Kirby Center and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber. She is a member of the Council of Presidents of Luzerne County and serves on the board and executive committee of the Joint Urban Studies Center.

Dr. Donohue has made a lifelong commitment to Girl Scouting and serves on the Executive Committee of the Girl Scouts of Penn's Woods Council. She served as the first chair of the NEPA Technology Institute and is a graduate of the Leadership Wilkes-Barre Executive Leadership program and the Lackawanna Leadership Executive Program.

She is a member of the National Institute for Leadership Development and has sponsored/mentored more than 50 women for leadership training. Dr. Donohue serves on the Board of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges and on the United Way Campaign Cabinet.

Among her many awards are the Outstanding Leadership Award from the American Association of University Women, Harrisburg and the Central Penn Technology Council's Outstanding Service Award. She has been recognized by Who's Who in America and the Outstanding Young Women of America and is the recipient of the Outstanding Service Award from the American Cancer Society, the Merit Recognition Award from Harrisburg Area Community College, and was named Community Woman of the Year by the American Business Women's Association.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Donohue on this important occasion. Dr. Donohue's commitment to the advancement of women and her devotion to community service have enhanced the quality of life greatly in the Wyoming Valley. It is fitting, indeed, that she be selected for this unique honor.

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