

The newly created Pagedale Community Association (PCA) has made many fruitful, laudable efforts over a small period of time. The PCA has assisted Beyond Housing in providing some 100+ homes for the residents of the 1st Congressional district of Missouri in Pagedale. Along with providing homes, the PCA has established a community center with multiple functions that each assist in community growth.

I am thrilled with the progress that has been made in Pagedale and excited for the years and further progression to come. The initiative taken by the residents of Pagedale is admirable and the economic development, incredible. Along with commending Beyond Housing and the PCA, I would like to thank St. Louis County for their financial interest in the projects in Pagedale. I am happy to see Missouri residents coming together to help one another.

I truly extend my gratitude and support to the Pagedale Community Association and Beyond Housing in St. Louis, Missouri. It is my pleasure to commend them on their excellent work in my district and beyond. I hope their progress continues.

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF  
GREAT MUSIC STAX RECORDS  
COSPONSOR H. RES. 154

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Stax Records for its contributions to American culture as one of the oldest recording labels. For 50 years, Stax Records has been providing great music and recordings of blues, soul, and R&B.

Originally created as Satellite Records in 1957 in Memphis, Tennessee and changing its name in 1967, Stax Records has released albums from artists like Otis Redding, Richard Pryor, Isaac Hayes, and Angie Stone. Founded by Jim Stewart and Estelle Axton, the label had undergone a series of stages. It was sold to a Gulf and Western firm, but was forced to declared bankruptcy. It was later purchased by Concord Records, which was sold to Fantasy Records in 2004.

Revered as producing the 1st multiracial bands, the record label continues to make its presence known for over half century. Stax Records released its new album on March 27, 2007, titled *Interpretations: Celebrating The Music of Earth Wind and Fire*.

I urge my colleagues to please join me in cosponsoring H. Res. 154, and praising Stax Records for the courage that it has displayed and for 50 years of great music.

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IN RECOGNITION OF TRANSITIONAL HOUSING INCORPORATED

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Transitional Housing Incorporated for more than 20 years of dedicated

service to the homeless women in the Cleveland area.

Transitional Housing Incorporated was formed in 1986 by three nuns who had been working in Cleveland's homeless shelters. Today, it provides a variety of programs based on personal development plans reflecting each individual's need and unique potential for a better life.

The committed employees of Transitional House Incorporated have reached out to more than 1,400 women in Cleveland, providing them with a safe environment and services such as education and training, in order to help them gain self-sufficiency and independence.

Transitional Housing is a shining example of what a community can accomplish when we all offer a hand to help our fellow citizens in need. Their care and dedication is a testament to the ethic of solidarity that holds our community together.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Transitional Housing Incorporated for their outstanding efforts to end the cycle of homelessness for many women in the Cleveland area, and for giving hope to those in need.

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CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL  
OF THE YMCA OF THE ROCKIES

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the YMCA of the Rockies Association. The YMCA of the Rockies, a non-profit organization, began in Colorado in 1907. It was organized as a national training center for the Young Men's Christian Association. Since its foundation, the YMCA of the Rockies has grown into the largest two YMCA conference and family centers in the world—at the Estes Park Center adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park, and at Snow Mountain Ranch between Winter Park and Granby, Colorado. It also runs a traditional summer residential youth camp at Camp Chief Ouray, located at Snow Mountain Ranch.

YMCA of the Rockies serves conferences, family reunions, retreats, recreational and educational groups, families, individuals, and youth by providing lodging, meeting space, dining, programming and recreation.

Estes Park Center has 860 acres and can accommodate 3,500 people in its 7 lodges and 206 family cabins. Snow Mountain Ranch has over 5,000 acres with a Nordic Center and can accommodate 2,500 people in its 4 lodges and 60 family cabins. Over 900 full-time and seasonal staff members work each year at both centers. They include senior retirees, college students and international students participating in a hospitalities services certification program.

As noted on their website, the Mission of the YMCA of the Rockies,

“[P]uts Christian Principles into Practice through programs, staff and facilities in an environment that builds healthy spirit, mind and body for all. We will accomplish this by serving conferences of a religious, educational, or recreational nature; providing

unifying experiences for families; offering traditional summer camping experiences for boys and girls; and serving our staff with leadership opportunities and productive work experiences. Our core values are: Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Faith.”

As a result of putting the values expressed in this mission statement into practice, the YMCA of the Rockies annually brings more than 250,000 visitors to its two centers, serves more than 800 family reunions, educates more than 19,000 students in outdoor education programs, and continues to be major employer in Grand and Larimer counties of Colorado. The YMCA of the Rockies hires seasonal staff from more than 20 countries to help expose their guests to many cultures, has a membership base of 3,500, raises more than \$350,000 in annual campaigns, and have over 100 staff members who donate money to the YMCA Staff For Kids program.

The YMCA of the Rockies does an outstanding job of exposing kids and adults to the splendor of nature and the values that come from collective outdoor experiences. But it is not just about learning and growing both intellectually and spiritually. It is also about fun. The YMCA of the Rockies' camps provide nearly every outdoor recreational opportunity that Colorado has to offer from skiing, camping, horseback riding, hiking, fishing, swimming, rock climbing, rafting, canoeing, archery, golf, ice skating, snowshoeing, sledding, and arts and crafts. It's an opportunity for kids, families and adults to experience these activities in a safe and nurturing environment.

In addition, the YMCA of the Rockies has been an important facility for the surrounding communities and others who share their Mission. Officials at the YMCA of the Rockies have opened up their facilities for use by other organizations such as Rocky Mountain National Park, the Colorado Mountain Club, the National Wildlife Association and the Sierra Club. At Snow Mountain Ranch, officials are pursuing the protection of many acres through conservation easements, ensuring that the outdoor splendor can be enjoyed by future generations. They have also worked to reduce the threat of wildfire and bark beetles by thinning dense stands of trees on their property, thus providing an example to their neighbors on creating defensible space and helping to reduce fire risks to surrounding communities and properties.

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter declared July 19, 2007 as the official recognition of the YMCA of the Rockies Centennial. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this centennial and all of the great things that the YMCA of the Rockies does to enhance the quality of life for all Americans and visitors from throughout the world.

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PRaising AMBASSADOR MICHAEL KING'S COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise His Excellency Michael I. King, Ambassador of Barbados to the United States, for

his commitment to protect the environment in the Caribbean. His remarks at the opening ceremony of the Third Conference on the Environment indicated his support for environmental sustainability and compliance with the international environment agenda in order to foster partnerships for preservation in the region.

During his speech, Ambassador King encouraged students and professionals to transition to sustainable business and support non-governmental organizations that make such business a priority. He also challenged his audience to utilize the expertise of Caribbeans abroad that have experienced success in environmental sustainability.

Ambassador King insisted on strengthening stewardship, advocacy, public education, and innovation in the absence of great financial resources in order to improve the environment. While he marked the progress made by Caribbean nations in terms of securing trained and knowledgeable staff on environment and development issues, he acknowledged the narrow scope of much of the expertise due to limited resources forcing specialization.

Ambassador King gave the example of The University of the West Indies (UWI) as a Caribbean institution of higher learning that should adopt sustainable energy and recycling programs to better the environment of the Caribbean. With a focus on such programs, graduates of UWI, and other Caribbean universities, would be more dedicated to achieving sustainability in the environment as well as building upon existing exercises aimed at biological diversity.

Article 58 of the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which established the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), details the framework wherein member nations are to operate in order to protect and manage their biological and natural resources. Ambassador King encouraged CARICOM members to develop a vision for environmental sustainability, with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States setting the precedence.

#### THE TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 29th, 2007, the United States and the Republic of Panama signed the Trade Promotion Agreement, which is the result of the tireless negotiations between both the United States and Panama. After the agreement is signed, Congress will have an opportunity to comprehensively review it, an opportunity that I wholeheartedly welcome.

This agreement will increase much needed access to medicines for developing countries, strengthen provisions in labor, environment and national security. This agreement also sees to it that significant cuts are made to trade barrier tariffs. Additionally, this bill seeks to improve on the growing commercial relationship between both countries on the growing Panamanian market which has a strong affinity for American goods, demonstrated by the 67 percent trade deficit Panama currently holds with the U.S.

Small businesses stand to benefit from this agreement as well. The elimination of Panamanian tariffs on our goods will lower the transaction costs. This would create a mutually beneficial relationship between small business sellers in the United States and buyers in Panama.

This agreement is about more than the commercial exchange of goods and services. I would like to note that our relationship with Panama is a long standing one since its independence from Colombia in 1903. We have an uncompromising commitment to providing opportunities for the people of Panama to work towards a better future while providing American businesses the opportunity to expand their market access in another country.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the \$5.25 billion expansion of the Panama Canal which will create additional unique opportunities. Three of the four contracts for this project have already been awarded to U.S. businesses.

Madam Speaker, I submit for your further consideration the text of the proposed U.S. Panama Trade Promotion Agreement. I look forward to a productive and informative discussion about it in the weeks and months to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was required to be back in my home district to assist my mother, who recently had surgery. For this reason, I was unable to attend recorded votes for yesterday, Wednesday, July 11, 2007.

#### COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 11, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, which will cut excess subsidies paid by the federal government to lenders in the student loan industry and reinvest those funds to allow for the single largest investment in higher education since the GI bill, at no new cost to taxpayers.

Over the last few decades, the cost of a postsecondary education in our country has more than doubled for graduates with student loans, from \$9,250 to \$19,200—a 108 percent increase (58 percent after accounting for inflation). As the richest nation in the world, we have a moral obligation to eliminate the barriers this de facto economic segregation erects. No child should be forced to forgo the dream of a college education due to fear of debt, and no child should have that potential debt dictate their future career choice.

The College Cost Reduction Act will provide us with a real chance, a \$15.1 billion chance, to roll back the spiraling cost of higher education in this country. By cutting interest rates

in half on subsidized student loans and increasing the maximum Pell Grant scholarship, this act makes College more affordable and moves more Americans into the middle class.

Passing H.R. 2669 will also provide upfront tuition assistance to students committed to teaching at public schools in high-poverty communities or high-need subject areas. Furthermore, this legislation provides loan forgiveness to encourage students who choose to pursue careers as public servants. By enacting these provisions, we will be allowing students to become a nurse, public defender, prosecutor or firefighter free from the restraints of debt.

Finally, the College Cost Reduction Act Congress will be making a landmark, \$500 million investment in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribally-Controlled, Native or Predominately Black Institutions, ensuring that students can not only enter college, but count on continued support through graduation.

In the first 50 legislative hours of the 110th Congress, the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives took up and passed H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act, which cut the interest rates in half on certain subsidized student loans over the next five years. In passing that legislation, we kept our promise of making college more affordable and accessible. Today, with H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act, we build on this effort and once again prove that the 110th Congress is on the job and fighting for a better America.

#### PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

#### HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2007*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing bipartisan legislation, the Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2007, along with my friend and colleague from California.

This legislation would prevent the federal government or any authority of the federal government from using economic development as a justification for exercising its power of eminent domain.

The protection of private property rights lies at the foundation of American government. As James Madison wrote in the *Federalist Papers*, "[G]overnment is instituted no less for the protection of property than of the persons of individuals."

Two years ago, the Supreme Court held in *Kelo v. City of New London* that "economic development" can be a "public use" under the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause. The 5-4 decision has substantially weakened the rights of private property owners by handing the government a raw taking power with negligible accountability to the "public use" requirement in the Fifth Amendment's Taking Clause.

The "public use" requirement imposed an important limitation on eminent domain power to ensure the government may not force individuals to forfeit their property for the benefit of another private party.

However, *Kelo* transformed established constitutional principles when it permitted the government to seize the private property of one