

Second, the bill closes a legal loophole by banning the importation of any product containing phased-out HCFCs, beginning January 1, 2010. The importation of bulk HCFCs for use in new products is already banned on that date.

Third, the bill establishes a mechanism for destroying ozone depleting substances such as those that currently exist in refrigerators and air conditioners before they are released into the atmosphere. The legislation takes a bifurcated approach to ensure the destruction of these chemicals. Beginning January 1, 2010, any person seeking to produce or import an amount of a phased-out ozone depleting substance, considered to be a class I substance under the Clean Air Act, must offset this production or importation by destroying or securing the destruction of three times this amount of ozone depleting substances based on an ozone-depletion potential equivalent basis.

The bill takes a more graduated approach with regard to substances deemed to be class II substances under the Clean Air Act, or HCFCs. Beginning January 1, 2012, any person seeking to produce or import an amount of a class II substance must offset this production or importation by destroying or securing the destruction of 1.2 times this amount of ozone depleting substances based on an ozone-depletion potential equivalent basis. The offset ratio for class II substances is increased to a two-to-one ratio in 2015.

Another mechanism for addressing banks of ozone depleting substances is the creation of the Refrigeration Environmental Management Council. This nonprofit organization will have a board of directors composed of industry representatives, government officials, and public citizens. It will collect an assessment of 30 cents per pound on new refrigerants in order to provide a \$1 per pound incentive for destroying, recycling, or reusing existing ozone depleting substances.

Finally, the bill requires the EPA Administrator to promulgate regulations extending existing recycling requirements governing CFCs and HCFCs to substitutes for these chemicals. The effect of this provision will be to require EPA to finalize the June 11, 1998, proposed rule on this subject.

Collectively, these provisions will have a tremendous impact. The bill addresses ozone depleting substances that have yet to be produced as well as existing banks of substances that may yet be emitted into the atmosphere. The bill addresses older CFCs as well as newer HCFCs. And the bill addresses international negotiations as well as domestic initiatives.

According to the Alliance for Responsible Atmospheric Policy, an industry coalition made up of some 50 companies and trade associations, the proposed refrigerant management program is projected to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 81 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. It will also annually reduce approximately 6,000 tons of ozone depletion potential. By 2015, it is projected to generate approximately \$1 billion to fund incentives for recovery, reclamation and destruction of refrigerant compounds. In its entirety, the legislation should deliver greenhouse gas emissions reductions greater than the global reductions required by the Kyoto Protocol.

The Alliance for Responsible Atmospheric Policy has been extremely cooperative and

creative in this process, and I am grateful for their support. This industry has been an important player in the global ozone protection effort for more than two decades. The members of the Alliance have played a critical role in making the Montreal Protocol and implementation of Title VI of the Clean Air Act the successes that we are celebrating this year. The Alliance's support for efforts like the Refrigerant Environmental Management Council indicates a willingness to help achieve important environmental goals in economically sensible ways.

I'd also like to commend the Natural Resources Defense Council. As a premier environmental group with expertise in both the Montreal Protocol and climate change issues, their expertise was invaluable in developing this legislative proposal.

The dramatic benefits from this consensus, balanced bill are the result of a process that started with state-of-the-art science and then explored common-sense, cost-effective measures.

There are a few matters that came up during our discussions that are worth noting for the record. First, as is clear under section 601 of the Clean Air Act, the definition of "produce," does not include substances that are entirely consumed in the manufacture of other chemicals. This definition is important in understanding which chemicals will require destruction offsets under Section 5 of the legislation.

Second, the recycling requirements under Section 6 are not intended to apply to foam, which is evident from the plain language of the legislation.

Finally, the fire suppression provision in Section 4 is intended to address a specific problem that applies to one chemical that is used for fire suppression. It is the stakeholders' understanding that a fire suppression chemical which is currently used in aviation applications is scheduled to be phased out in 2015. Unfortunately, the alternatives to this chemical are currently much worse from a climate change perspective. Since this application represents only 22 ozone depletion potential tons from 2015 to 2030, the legislation would grant the Administrator the authority to permit its continued use as long as no better alternatives are available.

Global warming is an enormous challenge. To fight global warming, we will need to examine every sector of our society. We'll need to increase energy efficiency. We'll have to reduce emissions from transportation and electricity generation. We'll need to move away from the dirty technologies of the past and embrace new, clean technologies.

I hope my colleagues will support the Global Climate and Ozone Layer Protection Act of 2007 so that we can begin to take those steps.

LEGISLATION ENCOURAGING
TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation encouraging teacher development in the schools the most in need of quality instruction.

Five years ago, we passed the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) with the goals of closing the achievement gap and improving academic performance overall. Schools have found some success during those five years, but I believe we need to make a number of changes to NCLB to make it more supportive for educators. We need to invest in our teachers.

Madam Speaker, our teachers are the most important element in our educational system. It is our teachers who connect with our children and inspire them to achieve.

I am introducing the Support Our Schools With Quality Teaching Act of 2007 to provide professional development opportunities for our teachers in struggling or at-risk schools.

Specifically, this legislation authorizes federal grant funding for schools to invite the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) to implement its Targeted High Need Initiative (THNI) in schools in need. The NBPTS trains teachers to become professionally certified.

Under the THNI program, teachers at struggling schools undergo a portion of the rigorous curriculum to become a professionally certified teacher. The training comes from certified teachers who provide mentoring and training.

Once the program is over, teachers at the school site have the option of going on to complete professional certification without cost to them when they agree to remain at the high-need school.

The Support Our Schools With Quality Teaching Act targets funding to the schools the most in need of quality teaching, such as those falling into Program Improvement under No Child Left Behind or those with high student populations from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support professional teacher development in the schools that could benefit from the best possible instruction.

HELSINKI HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today marks the 32nd anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, which ushered in civil and political liberties for millions of oppressed Europeans. Most importantly, the Helsinki Final Act created a strong international framework that continues to promote liberty and peace in a region that extends beyond the traditional boundaries of Europe. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the U.S. Helsinki Commission, which I am privileged to chair, serve as invaluable institutions which ensure that countries honor their Helsinki Final Act commitments. The U.S. Helsinki Commission is proud of our role as the conduit between both Houses of the U.S. Congress, the Executive Branch, foreign governments and civil society.

As President Gerald Ford said during the Helsinki Accords, "History will judge this conference not by what we say here today, but by what we do tomorrow, not by the promises we make, but by the promises we keep." We continue to respect this profound statement and

we anticipate the spirit of President Ford's sentiments will continue to endure long after the death of the late former President.

Fortunately, the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act remains strong. Overarching concerns for European security and liberty during the Cold War have evolved into regional energy security dilemmas, kleptocracy, and continued human rights violations. Moreover, Europe once again faces serious security concerns as Russia has suspended its obligations under the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty.

Madam Speaker, we must never forget how valuable the process of engagement has served the interests of Europe and the United States in the past. Working together in an integrated framework of cooperation and security is our best hope for peace and justice. While the world has been changing at an ever-increasing pace since 1975, our ideals and values remain entrenched in the commitments made under the Helsinki Final Act.

Today we recognize the significant impact the Helsinki Final Act made in fostering a world with increased peace and justice. Today, Helsinki Human Rights Day, we honor our commitments and pledge vigilance in the quest for human rights, governmental accountability and cooperation for security throughout Europe, North America, Central Asia, and elsewhere in the world.

REGARDING H.R. 3327

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I have co-sponsored H.R. 3327 to amend the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit dog fighting ventures because of the terrible problem of dog fighting. The author of the bill has assured me that in the committee process the penalties imposed on spectators will be modified.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2272,
AMERICA COMPETES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2272, the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education and Science (COMPETES) Act. We have recently learned that in the coming years, children in India and China may be better prepared for the jobs of the future than our own children here in the United States: Further, the 2005 National Academies report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm", emphasized the United States could lose its competitive edge without immediate action being taken. In response to these alarming reports, Congress has shifted focus to strengthening our science technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Today, H.R. 2272, legislation to ensure that the students, teachers, and workers will not be left behind as the world moves forward in new

technology development and innovation, is being considered. The bill authorizes funding for programs to create more qualified teachers in science and math fields and to support scientific research and innovation through the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

I believe our teachers are the cornerstone to leading future generations in STEM fields and I believe we must give them the proper resources to meet this goal. This legislation stands to create and equip thousands of new teachers and give current teachers the content and instructional skills they need in order to teach science and mathematics.

The legislation authorizes a total of \$22 billion over fiscal years 2008–2010 for research, education, and other programs at the National Science Foundation; \$2.65 billion for the research labs, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and other activities at the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST); and \$17 billion for programs at the Department of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, we must set policies that ensure the United States will remain competitive in the future. I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

THANKS TO MINNESOTA'S
MILITARY HEROES

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, the Minnesota Army and Air National Guard have welcomed home nearly 2,600 citizen soldiers who were called to active duty for the war in Iraq. Most of those Minnesotans, who are returning from Iraq, were deployed for 22 months and many spent 16 months in combat. The brave men and women of the Minnesota National Guard deserve our respect and our gratitude. The members of the Minnesota National Guard, their families, friends and employers have all endured a hardship during the past 22 months. The sacrifices they made, and the quiet dignity they displayed during that time, are not surprising to those who have had the honor of meeting them.

The State of Minnesota is very proud of the active duty, reserve and National Guard who enlisted from our State. The Minnesota State seal depicts an individual working hard on farmland. The seal is a perfect symbol of the strong work ethic displayed by the brave men and women from our State who serve in the military. Our State seal also includes the words "L'etoile du Nord" which translated from French means "Star of the North." The men and women from Minnesota served under various group names, such as Soldier, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, Red Bulls, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, Active Duty, Reservist, and many more. Regardless of their military affiliation, those who served have shown the world that Minnesotans are prepared for any challenge and able to perform any task and that they are truly bright stars of the north.

The Minnesota National Guard served the longest continuous deployment of any United States military unit during Operation Iraqi

Freedom. Members of the Minnesota National Guard completed 5,200 combat logistics patrols, secured 2.4 million convoy miles, discovered 462 improvised explosive devices prior to detonation, processed over 1.5 million vehicles and 400,000 Iraqis into entry control points without an insurgent penetration. The men and women of the Minnesota National Guard also completed 137 reconstruction projects in Iraq.

Veterans who fought in wars and were discharged many years ago have told me that they appreciate it when people thank them for their service. I do not want the men and women who return from Iraq, Afghanistan or other locations to wait years before hearing me thank them for their service. I offer a heartfelt, sincere thank you to all Minnesotans who served and are currently serving in the United States military. I welcome home all the brave individuals who have devoted their time and talents to defend our Nation and provide security in the world. Some Minnesotans deployed to combat areas and lost their lives. I hope all Americans remember these brave men and women and continue to support the families they left behind. I encourage all Americans to thank a veteran or member of our military for their service. I also encourage this Congress and all citizens to offer any assistance to our Nation's military personnel and their families as they transition back to the lives they led prior to their deployments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CALLING
CARD CONSUMER PROTECTION
ACT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues' strong support of a bill that I am introducing, which would protect calling card consumers from being scammed and stop prepaid calling card deception. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my friend and colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Congressman MIKE FERGUSON, who joins me as an original cosponsor of this bill.

As you may already be aware, calling cards allow one to purchase telephone talk time in advance and since the financial transaction occurs before card use, many companies have successfully hidden additional fees and terms that are then hard to appeal. Some consumers find that the calling card rates are higher than advertised or that they must pay surcharges or extra undisclosed taxes. In other cases, the calling card company automatically deducts minutes even if the consumer is unable to connect with the party they attempted to call. Even worse, many consumers find they are being scammed out of minutes and are being cut off in the middle of phone conversations.

To help combat some of the aforementioned issues that plague our constituents, Congressman FERGUSON and I will be introducing the "Calling Card Consumer Protection Act" which requires disclosures related to terms and conditions on all advertising, cards or packaging. It would also require that the calling card service providers disclose a detailed description of any additional fees and the company's name