

As is clear from the current debate in response to the release of the IPCC report, we have yet to agree on how much more information, if any, is needed before we take actions to slow the effects of human activities on global change. These are tough policy questions that we will continue to wrestle with. This bill does not offer specific policy direction, but it does affirm the need for the continued strong federal support for global change research, and it does map out a new emphasis on the production of information needed to inform these important policy debates. As the world's leader in science and technology, it is incumbent on us to develop solutions that will protect our planet's resources and permit continued economic and social progress for our Nation and for the world.

UNITED STATES CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP—ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF IMPORTANCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to acknowledge the importance of the economic relationship between the United States and the Caribbean and to enter into the RECORD an article from the *Carib News* by Tony Best entitled "A Picture of U.S.-Barbados Trade."

For many years, the United States has cultivated a trade relationship with the Caribbean that goes far beyond rum. As a result, both the U.S. and the Caribbean have benefited. In recent years, trade in the areas of natural gas, garments, seafood, sodium hydroxide, peroxide, and textiles are noteworthy.

A focus on Trinidad and Tobago is particularly important because Trinidad and Tobago is an abundant energy producing nation with 60 percent of the oil reserves in the Caribbean. The U.S. receives the majority of its natural gas imports from this resource rich nation and imported over \$1.7 billion of various energy commodities in 2005. That is remarkable.

In turn, the U.S. has exported approximately \$491 million in industrial commodities such as computers, cell phone transmission equipment, and lab furnaces, just to name a few, to Trinidad and Tobago.

Another key trade area is with textiles. The nation of Haiti exported \$169 million in garments, while the U.S. reciprocated with imports of \$124 million.

The Caribbean U.S. trade relationship continues to grow and provide mutually beneficial benefits for both the U.S. and the Caribbean nations.

A PICTURE OF U.S.-BARBADOS TRADE
(By Tony Best)

How solid is your knowledge of U.S.-Caribbean trade? To find out take the trade test.

First question: Name the Caricom state which has a whopping \$6 billion trade surplus with the U.S.?

Second query: Identify the country which exports tens of millions of dollars in live crustaceans—mostly aquatic species with a hard shell and many legs, such as lobsters, crabs and shrimp—every year but ends up with a \$1 billion deficit with the U.S.

How about the nation whose beer exports went through the roof but its garment ex-

ports have fallen sharply in recent years. At the same time, this country bought large amounts of sodium hydroxide and peroxide from the U.S.

Then there is the coastal state, which often sells more sweaters, pullovers, vests and other garments to the U.S. than it buys American made T-shirts and tank tops?

Finally, list the island whose Cricket World Cup construction could boost its trade with the U.S.

If you identified Trinidad and Tobago as the Caribbean nation, one of the 16 Western Hemisphere nations with a healthy trade balance with the economic giant next door, you would be right on the money. But if your answer about the exporter of \$45 million in lobsters and crabs to Florida and other parts of the U.S. as the Dominican Republic you would be away off base. Actually, the country was the Bahamas.

On the other hand Jamaica's textile industry was not a strong exporter in 2005, the latest year for which there was trade data. Exports of Jamaica-made garments plunged to \$55.5 million down from \$82 million the year before. However, it did export \$23.5 million in beer, up by 82 percent over 2004 but bought \$113 million in sodium hydroxide and peroxide, a 119 percent jump. It exported 60 percent more aluminum ores and concentrate to the U.S. in 2005 than it did in 2004. Those exports amounted to almost \$69 million.

Like Jamaica, Haiti exports large amounts of textiles but unlike its Caricom partner, the French-speaking republic exported almost \$100 million more in garments to the U.S. than it bought, \$169 million in exports as compared with \$124 million in imports of T-shirts, tank tops and knit or crocheted items. But the U.S. turned around and sold an extra \$52.4 million in miscellaneous knitted or crocheted fabrics to Haiti.

Barbados, which will play host to the Cricket World Cup final in April, is experiencing a construction boom and analysts believe the major sporting event could trigger more trade with the U.S.

The picture of Caribbean-U.S. trade was sketched from U.S. Census Bureau data and published in a guide on U.S. trade in the Western Hemisphere distributed by World City, a journal that emphasizes global trade.

What the figures and analyses show, according to trade specialists, is that as Caribbean nations continue their efforts to diversify their economies, export trade with the U.S. hasn't come close to reducing the dominant role played by the U.S.

Energy-rich Trinidad and Tobago is by far the most successful Caribbean exporter and that's attributed to the fact that the twin-island nation is the largest natural gas supplier to the U.S., which bought \$3.3 billion in liquefied natural gas from the ethnically diverse country. Trinidad controls 60 percent of Caribbean's oil reserves. In 2005, for instance, it sold \$3.3 billion in petroleum gases to the U.S.; \$1.2 billion in ammonia; \$1.2 billion in crude oil; \$972 million in non-crude oil; \$714 million in acyclic alcohols; and \$101 million in nitrogenous fertilizers.

On the other side of the trade ledger, the U.S. exported almost \$250 million in machinery to Trinidad, over \$46 million in electrical equipment for line telephony; \$36 million in computers; and \$29 million in "transmission apparatus for cellular phones. Add another \$28 million in industrial or lab furnaces and ovens; \$84 million in low value shipments; and \$18 million in iron or steel tubes and pipefittings and it would become clear that Trinidad and Tobago's industrial base is expanding.

In much the same way that Jamaica's oil imports from the U.S. skyrocketed to unbelievable levels in 2005, Barbados saw its refined oil imports rise by 127 percent, going to almost \$18 million.

In the end, Barbados sold a mere \$32 million in goods to the U.S. while it imported close to \$400 million. Its deficit with the economic colossus in the north was \$360 million. Between them their trade rose by 10 percent, reaching \$424.7 million.

Guyana was another Caribbean state whose trade with the U.S. rose in 2005. Exports went up marginally, by less than two percent but the amount of U.S.-made goods jumped by 26 percent, reaching \$175 million, less than half of what Barbados bought and close to 10 percent of Jamaica's imports of American commodities, which were valued at \$1.6 billion.

Guyana's key exports were aluminum ores and concentrate valued at just under \$50 million; \$32 million in live crustaceans; and \$11 million in diamonds. Interestingly, the top U.S. commodity exported to Guyana was listed as "charitable items," with a value of about \$42 million.

As for Guyana's neighbors, the Census Bureau's data stated that in 2005:

St. Lucia-U.S. trade rose by almost 40 percent in 2005, reaching \$167 million. The U.S. had a surplus of \$107 million.

U.S. trade with Antigua jumped by almost 50 percent, reaching \$149 million. U.S. export went up by 51 percent and Antigua's by less than two percent.

St. Kitts-Nevis exported \$49 million to the U.S.

That was more than the combined totals of Dominica \$3.3 million, Grenada \$5.8 million; St. Antigua's \$4.4 million and Vincent's \$15.6 million.

It exported more than Barbados did to the U.S. Electrical supplies, transformers and other power supplies, electric motors, generators and sets accounted for more than \$36 million of the total.

The Bahamas, whose negative trade picture of \$1 billion made it Caricom's largest, was third on the list of Western Hemisphere countries with large trade deficits.

Barbados was fourth on the trade deficit ridden partners of the U.S. followed by Haiti, Antigua, Belize, St. Lucia, Suriname, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts-Nevis, and St. Vincent.

RECOGNIZING WILL GORMAN FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Will Gorman, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Will has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Will has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Will Gorman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, our Nation must remain vigilant against all threats to the homeland, including acts of terrorism and natural disasters. Department of Homeland Security employees stand willing, ready, and able to respond should catastrophe strike. They work long hours to deter, detect, and prevent acts of terrorism against the homeland.

As protectors of our Nation's borders, airports, seaports, rail lines, and other transit systems, they are always on call. Together with other agencies and departments of the Federal Government, they work with State, local, and tribal partners to enhance preparedness at all levels of Government.

On January 24th, the Department of Homeland Security marked its fourth anniversary. The Department, which has more than 208,000 employees, plays a vital role in ensuring the Nation's security and preparing the American people for future catastrophes.

In light of this anniversary, it is fitting and appropriate for the House of Representatives to take a moment to honor the employees of the Department for their contributions in protecting the homeland and the sacrifices they make to protect the American people.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MRS. PLACIDA
PEÑA BARRERA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Placida Peña Barrera on her reaching the milestone of her 80th birthday. She is one of the most inspiring members of the community in the City of Laredo and in the State of Texas.

Mrs. Placida Peña Barrera was born on July 13, 1926, in the City of Guerra in the great State of Texas. She moved to Roma, Texas, and commuted to Rio Grande City to attend high school, where she graduated in 1945. Five years later, she met Raymundo Barrera and together they raised six children. She was committed to being the best mother for her children.

With her husband's retirement, she decided to work as a clerk for the Laredo Independent School District, while also taking classes at Texas A&M International University. Placida graduated from Texas A&M International University in 1978, at the age of 52 with a degree in teaching.

Mrs. Barrera has worked consistently to uplift the lives of children in Laredo, Texas, through her 22 years of teaching at United Independent School District. While there, she established the Laredo chapter of the NASA's Young Astronauts program. For her work, she was awarded certificates of appreciation. She and her husband were also recognized by the Department of Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin for their publication of "U.S.

Latinos and Latinas and World War Two Oral History."

After serving her community as an educator for nearly two decades, Mrs. Barrera retired in 2000, and is enjoying her time with her husband and their grandchildren. It is because of her work that the youth in the community were able to realize their potential to create a new and better future for themselves.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the dedication of Mrs. Placida Peña Barrera to her community, and ask you to join me in honoring her on her birthday. I thank you for your time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Mrs. BONO. Madam Speaker, yesterday, February 6, 2007, I was unable to attend suspension votes due to personal illness.

Were I present for the rollcall votes, I would have voted in the following manner for the following votes:

1. Rollcall Vote No. 76, H.R. 161, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Monument Act of 2007—Vote: "Yea."

2. Rollcall Vote No. 77, H.R. 386, the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District Conveyance Act of 2007—Vote: "Yea."

HONORING BEST BUDDIES

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to call your attention to Best buddies, an organization founded the same year I was first elected to Congress, in 1989. If Best Buddies has one message, it can be articulated by its founder, Anthony K. Shriver, who lives in Miami and has stated "that every person has a gift. And that every person can contribute." This message is emblematic of what makes America successful and, in turn, has made Best Buddies a thriving international organization serving thousands of deserving individuals every year.

The main concept behind this organization is simple, yet profoundly effective. Best Buddies establishes one-on-one friendships between people with and without intellectual disabilities. This simple concept allows those who are often excluded because of their differences, the opportunity to engage socially and become integrated into society. Best Buddies' efforts in our communities are commendable and I encourage all Americans to embrace this organization, its ideals and initiatives.

Best Buddies also opens doors and provides opportunities for people with disabilities. Through the support of this organization, many are able to attain jobs allowing them to earn an income, pay taxes and work alongside others in our workforce. For students, Best Buddies' initiatives at schools and colleges are helping the intellectually disabled integrate socially with their peers. In the past, many were

often separated into special education classes making their social life somewhat isolated. To address this issue, Best Buddies has established several programs at different levels, from Best Buddies Middle Schools and a Peer Buddy system in High Schools, to Best Buddies Colleges. All three programs use the founding principles of this organization, allowing students with and without intellectual disabilities to create friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

The success of Best Buddies can be attributed to the indelible experiences, not only for those with intellectual disabilities, but for the many volunteers and buddies involved with this tremendous program. I am proud that the main headquarters is located in South Florida, in my Congressional district, and I look forward to supporting Best Buddies as it continues to grow and positively affect so many lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF GILBERT RIVERA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the life and contributions of a tremendous community advocate, businessman, and cherished friend, Gilbert Rivera.

In 1957, Gilbert Rivera migrated from Puerto Rico with his mother, father and twelve brothers and sisters to Bedford Stuyvesant with little money, and a dream to one day own his own business.

After graduating from Automotive High School and serving in the U.S. army, Gil started a small construction firm. But with his drive and determination, the company did not stay small for long and overtime grew to become one of the largest Hispanic owned contracting and building supply businesses in New York City. AM&G's diverse portfolio of projects includes landmarks admired by preservationists, such as Carnegie Hall, Erasmus Hall HS, and Columbia University as well as residential buildings on Fifth Avenue.

But despite his good fortune, Gil never forgot his roots. He stayed in Brooklyn, placing a premium on working to better neighborhoods and communities, and continuing to create jobs for young people.

One of the many things that made Gilbert Rivera unique was that he used his success to improve the lives of everyone he touched. He was a socially conscious, philanthropic man who was a loyal and generous supporter of the causes he believed in. He founded the Hispanic Business Group to advocate for greater business opportunities for Hispanic owned businesses with corporate America and was actively involved with numerous community organizations, including the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Brooklyn Bridge Park, and the scholarship fund for young Latinos.

During his time with us, he walked upon this earth and used the power of his beliefs and determination to instill hope and inspiration, not only to his family but in all who knew him. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to