

to, the people, republican government is threatened. Article IV, section 4 of the United States Constitution guarantees each state a republican form of government. Thus, Congress must act when the executive or judicial branch threatens the republican governments of the individual states. Therefore, Congress has a responsibility to stop Federal judges from running roughshod over state and local laws. The Founders would certainly have supported congressional action to reign in Federal judges who tell citizens where they can and can't place manger scenes at Christmas.

Madam Speaker, even some supporters of liberalized abortion laws have admitted that the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, which overturned the abortion laws of all fifty states, is flawed. The Supreme Court's Establishment Clause jurisdiction has also drawn criticism from across the political spectrum. Perhaps more importantly, attempts to resolve, by judicial fiat, important issues like abortion and the expression of religious belief in the public square increase social strife and conflict. The only way to resolve controversial social issues like abortion and school prayer is to restore respect for the right of state and local governments to adopt policies that reflect the beliefs of the citizens of those jurisdictions. I would remind my colleagues and the federal judiciary that, under our Constitutional system, there is no reason why the people of New York and the people of Texas should have the same policies regarding issues such as marriage and school prayer.

Unless Congress acts, a state's authority to define and regulate marriage may be the next victim of activist judges. After all, such a decision would simply take the Supreme Court's decision in the *Lawrence* case, which overturned all state sodomy laws, to its logical conclusion. Congress must launch a preemptive strike against any further federal usurpation of the states' authority to regulate marriage by removing issues concerning the definition of marriage from the jurisdiction of federal courts.

Although marriage is licensed and otherwise regulated by the states, government did not create the institution of marriage. Government regulation of marriage is based on state recognition of the practices and customs formulated by private individuals interacting in civil institutions, such as churches and synagogues. Having federal officials, whether judges, bureaucrats, or congressmen, impose a new definition of marriage on the people is an act of social engineering profoundly hostile to liberty.

It is long past time that Congress exercises its authority to protect the republican government of the states from out-of-control federal judges. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor the We the People Act.

#### MATH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION LEGISLATION

#### HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a package of four bills aimed at improving our nation's math and science education at the pre-school through university levels.

Too often, our young students lack the academic background necessary to learn math and science skills in elementary school. The Math and Science School Readiness Act (H.R. ) promotes pre-mathematics and pre-science school readiness in preschool-aged children enrolled in the federal Head Start program. The bill updates the current law provision that requires that Head Start programs develop preschoolers' "numeracy skills" by requiring that such programs instead ensure that children develop and demonstrate basic pre-math and pre-science skills, such as counting, grouping similar objects together, and deciphering whether items have been added or subtracted. I included a similar provision in the major Head Start reauthorization bills that passed the House in 2003 and 2005, but unfortunately these bills did not become law.

Now more than ever, our nation's future economic competitiveness and national security will depend upon a workforce equipped with necessary math and science skills. Our students lag behind their international peers on several key indicators, and our states and schools are not held accountable for K-12 science education. The Science Accountability Act (H.R. ) holds states and schools accountable for ensuring that our K-12 students are learning science. It amends the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to require that the science assessments, which begin in the 2007-2008 school year, be included in the state's accountability system beginning in the 2008-2009 school year. It also gradually phases in annual assessments in science in grades 3-8, matching the existing requirements for reading and math assessments.

This package of math and science bills also provides resources for improving math and science education. A tandem of bills provides incentives for teachers and businesses to enhance math and science education.

A key component of high-quality math and science education is a qualified teaching workforce. The National Science Education Tax Incentive for Teachers Act (H.R. ) helps bring qualified math and science teachers to our K-12 schools and helps retain them. Eligible teachers may receive a tax credit of up to \$1,500 per year.

A former science educator, I understand that students should learn math and science primarily by doing math and science. Schools lack the necessary equipment and some teachers lack training in how to use the equipment. The National Science Education Tax Incentive for Businesses Act (H.R. ) encourages businesses to donate new and needed math and science-related equipment to schools or donate teacher training services. Businesses may receive a tax credit equal to 100 percent of the value of their donations.

I am hopeful that the House and Senate can quickly act on this legislative package and that President Bush will sign the bills so that our nation's math and science education may be improved on all levels.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. ANTHONY L'ESPERANCE

#### HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Anthony L'Esperance, a fellow Southern Californian.

Mr. L'Esperance has lived a long and distinguished life. During World War II, he honorably served as a Lieutenant Commander in the Merchant Marines. His duty and commitment to this great nation have helped build the pillars of hope, peace and freedom that so many in the world still look up to.

Mr. L'Esperance was also featured in the pages of *Life* magazine for his work as a master magician and is credited for inventing a precise slide-calendar that incorporates the days lost due to the switch from Julian to Gregorian calendars.

But his greatest accomplishment and passion in life is his family. For more than 62 years, Mr. L'Esperance has been married to his wife Mary. They have been blessed with a son, Paul, a daughter-in-law, Jan, and granddaughter, Morgan.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that this 110th Congress join me in saluting Mr. L'Esperance for his service to our country and community.

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY COULD TRANSFORM HAITI

#### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the following op-ed that appeared last week in the *Orlando Sentinel*. This article discusses how a U.S.-backed biomass policy for Haiti could move our Caribbean neighbor away from the trajectory of state failure. As the article notes: "Support for bioenergy as part of the solution to Haiti's economic dilemma—unemployment and lack of energy—could advance the development of Haiti, and reinforce the governance and security reforms that Haitians so desperately deserve." I hope all of my colleagues keep this article in mind as we enter the 110th Congress.

[From the *Orlando Sentinel*, Dec. 26, 2006]

HOPE AFTER H.O.P.E. FOR HAITI?

(By Johanna Mendelson-Forman)

In its final hours, the 109th Congress gave new life to Haiti's manufacturing sector, passing a trade bill that included the H.O.P.E. legislation that would create up to 7,000 new jobs by allowing Haitian assembly plants to import, duty-free, textiles that would be made into clothing for the U.S. market. While not a long-term solution to Haiti's ills, the symbolism of this action went further to bolster the morale of the Haitian private sector than anything in recent years.

Haiti suffers from many problems, not the least of which is lack of jobs. Violence and kidnappings continue to undermine security in Port au Prince. Even with the presence of a robust U.N. Peace Mission, a country of 8

million people without jobs spells insecurity. The rigorous effort by the international community to reinvent the Haitian National Police is only part of the solution to a complex country where law enforcement is franchised to many different groups rather than controlled by the state. What vexes those who want Haiti to succeed is just how to create a viable and sustainable development program.

While H.O.P.E may represent a small victory, other positive signs may auger for a different approach. A donor's meeting at the end of November in Madrid yielded almost \$80 million to support good governance. And the World Bank decision to offer Haiti debt reduction also will help alleviate the drain on Haiti's limited revenue. Successful municipal elections held this month marked the first time since 1995 that Haitians democratically elected leaders of local government. And even a new effort to create a non-corrupt civil service is under way.

But the most promising signs that may make the difference in the coming years will be centered on a push to help Haiti become energy independent through the use of biomass energy.

Renewable energy could transform Haiti. A World Bank study reported that growing energy crops creates jobs in addition to fuel. In a country totally dependent on foreign oil for its energy needs, such independence could prove revolutionary.

This is not science fiction. Haiti is a perfect candidate for growing oil-seed crops. In rural areas, where 70 percent of the population remains engaged in subsistence agriculture, developing an indigenous biofuels market could transform the countryside and prevent the urban migration that continues to swell the slums of Port au Prince.

The environment could also be saved. And the proven anti-erosion qualities of seed crops like *Jatropha* and Castor bean could also revitalize the soil in a country that is 96 percent deforested and where every rainfall puts thousands of people at risk for natural disasters. And with crops such as *Jatropha*, the bush is a natural fence since its leaves are poisonous to animals.

Unfortunately, helping Haiti to become energy self-sufficient is not a priority for donors despite the potential it represents. It never came up at the Madrid meeting. And U.S. development assistance has yet to see this type of sustainable agriculture in Haiti as a means of long-term poverty alleviation.

If real hope is to be restored in Haiti, it must go beyond the trade incentives embodied in the H.O.P.E legislation. Urgent action is needed so that a U.S. biomass policy for the Caribbean addresses not only the regional dilemma of foreign oil dependency, but also moves Haiti away from the trajectory of state failure, a threat that U.S. policymakers consider a grave danger to U.S. interests.

With Brazil as the lead nation in the U.N. peace operation in Haiti, the technical means for bio-energy transformation could get underway within the next year. The combined power of U.S. economic support, coupled with Brazil's biomass expertise, could certainly be applied to a place such as Haiti. It could also demonstrate that ending addiction to fossil fuels, a goal President Bush endorses, can also be applied to one of the great development challenges in our hemisphere.

In a country just a two-hour flight from the U.S. mainland, the risk of state failure looms large. Support for bioenergy as part of the solution to Haiti's economic dilemma—unemployment and lack of energy—could advance the development of Haiti, and reinforce the governance and security reforms that Haitians so desperately deserve.

## TRIBUTE TO MAYOR HARRY KESSLER

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, late in the night of January 2, 2007, our community lost a giant. Our beloved "once and ways" Mayor Harry Kessler, who symbolized honest and dedicated leadership in the public realm, has passed from this life.

He set a community standard that endures. His tenure as Mayor from 1971 through 1977 brought growth and vitality to a struggling city, and his imprimatur is everywhere. He followed his Mayoral leadership by holding other elected offices for two decades after he decided to retire as Mayor. Few have defined the Mayor of Toledo as did Mayor Harry Kessler. A beloved father for our City, he lived and breathed his life to better our city and region. His kind and gentlemanly manner, his eternal smile, and his deep commitment to integrity, learning and libraries, community service, and athletics have left permanent legacies to future generations.

Mayor Kessler was a builder, a healer, a leader who knew how to bring our community together not just for today but for tomorrow. We can each learn much from him as we emulate his life of service to us, in the private sector, in public office, and so many other community ventures. His deep love for our City that he always called home inspired us all. He did all he could to make our place on earth a finer and more humane place in which to live.

We extend deepest sympathy and gratitude to his soulmate and partner for over half a century, Mary Lou, his children and extended family. We wish them strength and peace as, together, we adjust to his passing from life with us. May God rest his soul and place him in a leading role in the City beyond stars to watch over our earthly pursuits.

## IT'S TIME TO STOP THE SLAUGHTER OF A LIVING SYMBOL OF THE AMERICAN WEST

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation that I first authored in the 109th Congress to restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros. I am again joined in this effort by my good friend and colleague from Kentucky, Ed WHITFIELD.

In both 2005 and 2006 the House adopted amendments I offered to the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the sale or slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros. While we were successful in the House, neither amendment made it into law. In any event, these amendments would have only been a temporary one-year fix. What is needed is a permanent solution to this problem. That is why I am offering my legislation today.

It was just a little over two years ago that 36 lines were hidden away in a 1,641 page ap-

propriations bill that overturned more than 30 years of national policy on the protection and management of wild free-roaming horses and burros, allowing these "living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West" to literally be slaughtered through the use of a backdoor legislative maneuver enacted without public notice or input.

The public reaction to this change in law was swift and deafening. There was a good reason why it had been illegal for more than 30 years to sell or transfer wild free-roaming wild horses and burros for processing into commercial products. Americans were aghast to learn that these animals could be slaughtered for their meat to be served on dinner tables in such foreign countries as France, Belgium, and Japan.

Horses are an integral part of the tapestry of this country—a symbol, a promise of possibility, a companion, and a treasured childhood memory. Americans have always championed their survival, and expect that that these creatures will be protected. To allow them to be sacrificed and slaughtered represents great disrespect to the will of the American people and is an affront to our nation's history.

Instead of addressing long-term and widespread management problems the Bureau of Land Management, which administers the wild horse and burro program, has been forced to scurry to try to stop wild horses and burros from being sent to slaughter. Unfortunately for several dozen of these animals their attempts came too late and slaughter occurred.

Slaughter is all the more senseless since humane alternatives exist and federal agencies have the authority to carry out such humane measures as adoption, sterilization, relocation, and placement with qualified individuals and organizations.

The time has long since passed to restore the prohibition on the sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros. I urge my colleague to heed the will of the American public and respond to common decency by supporting my legislation. We owe no less to these living symbols of the American West.

## A TRIBUTE TO MR. LARRY N. DANTZLER

### HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the exceptional service of Mr. Larry N. Dantzler on behalf of Bay County military installations.

Mr. Dantzler is stepping down as the president of the Bay Defense Alliance, which is a group of volunteers committed to enhancing and preserving the missions of Tyndall Air Force Base and the Naval Support Activity Panama City.

Larry has served as its leader since the groups formation in 1993, and has spent countless hours in his role to defend these installations as Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) loomed. Under his leadership, the Bay Defense Alliance helped defend our installations in Bay County against two rounds of BRAC. Members of the Bay Defense Alliance have logged more than 15,000 volunteer hours in their efforts supporting the bases.