

INTRODUCTION OF THE DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND VOTER INTIMIDATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join with Representative RAHM EMANUEL in jointly introducing the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act. America's election system is broken and it is up to this Congress to fix it. Consecutive elections have shown us that eligible voters are denied their right to cast a ballot. Disturbingly, misinformation campaigns are often responsible for keeping these voters away from the polls.

I believe this legislation is a step towards ending deceptive practices and bringing integrity back to our elections. It is a direct response to the fraudulent tactics used to undermine our elections. This bill explicitly prohibits deceptive practices and provides voters with greater federal protections.

Numerous accounts indicate deceptive practices were employed throughout the country in our last midterm and presidential elections. Voters were told to vote on the wrong day. They were told they could not vote with outstanding parking tickets. Ultimately, they were misled, deceived, and disenfranchised. This must stop.

In 2006, our most vulnerable voters—legal immigrants and minorities—were prevented from voting. Latino voters in Orange County, California were threatened with incarceration if they voted. African American voters in Prince Georges County, Maryland were given fliers with false endorsements. These tactics are despicable and those responsible for them must be held accountable.

Under our legislation, those that engage in deceptive practices will be held accountable. Additionally, the federal government will be held responsible for protecting and advancing the right to vote.

Deceptive electioneering practices are clearly defined and prohibited under this bill. The Attorney General and the Department of Justice are required to combat and counteract deceptive practices. These measures will ensure that voters can cast a ballot free from intimidation, harassment, and deceit.

Deceptive practices do more than impede the right to vote. They threaten to erode the very core of our democracy. By eliminating barriers to the polls, we can help to restore what has been missing from our elections—fairness, honesty, and integrity.

CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEWISVILLE MASONIC LODGE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Lewisville Masonic Lodge's 150th Anniversary, which will be on March 10, 2007. It is with great pleasure that

I am able to join the Lewisville community in recognizing this milestone.

On January 23, 1857, the first Masonic lodge was chartered in Denton County under the name Denton Lodge Number 201, in honor of John Denton, a Free Mason. After purchasing and clearing land, the Freemasons used logs and their own labor to erect the first lodge. By the early 1870s, the area became quickly populated due to the railroad access, and the Lodge was moved closer to Lewisville, and the name was changed to Lewisville Lodge #201 in 1890.

Over the years, the Lodge was stationed in a few different locations and went through many renovations and changes. The Lodge went through good times as well as tough times; however, the members' strength and devotion to the brotherhood and the community kept the Masonry alive. The current Masonic Lodge, completed in 1981, is the product of the compassion and dedication in which the Free Masons provide not only to their fellow Brethren, but also to the Lewisville community.

The 150th Anniversary celebration will involve the entire Lewisville community. The Event will be held at the Celebration Grand Ballroom in the heart of Lewisville and will include numerous activities that will largely benefit the Lewisville Independent School District with scholarship possibilities for students. There will also be a presentation of financial support from the proceeds of the 2006 "Race for the Children," a local fun-run to raise money for contribution to the Lewisville School District. In addition to the activities, local civic and political leaders, as well as Donny Broughton, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, will be attending the anniversary celebration.

It is with great pride that I stand here today and honor the 150th Anniversary of the Lewisville Masonic Lodge for their dedication and continuing support of the Lewisville School District and the entire community. I look forward to participating in the celebration.

THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEACE CORPS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, as a former Peace Corps Volunteer, I am honored to formally recognize the agency on the 46th Anniversary of its inception and to help kick-off National Peace Corps Week. This week begins a week long celebration of Peace Corps' 46th Anniversary with celebratory and educational events taking place across the country.

During National Peace Corps Week, we salute the men and women of this nation who selflessly have served abroad as Peace Corps Volunteers, as well as those current Volunteers who continue to carry out the Peace Corps mission: Empowering people in developing countries through their grassroots development efforts.

I fondly remember my time as a volunteer in El Salvador in the 1960's where I built schools and health clinics. The experience meant much to me personally and professionally, sparking a lifelong desire to serve in the public

sector. I returned with a passion for teaching, and quickly put my skills, including fluency in Spanish, to use in Santa Clara County schools. Most importantly, I returned to the United States with a deeper understanding of humanity and a personal commitment to speak on behalf of the marginalized and powerless.

I am encouraged by the growth in the number of Peace Corps Volunteers and posts over the years. 7,749 Volunteers are currently in 67 posts serving 73 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Pacific Islands. 2007 also marks the first year of a new Peace Corps program to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

I am excited by the recent announcement of the Peace Corps intention to return to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Following my visit to Ethiopia in 2005, as Chair of the Congressional Ethiopia and Ethiopian American Caucus, I wrote the Peace Corps Director directly to request a reinstatement of a Peace Corps post.

In addition to these programs, the Peace Corps recently sent its 1000th Crisis Corps Volunteer into service. Crisis Corps is composed of former Peace Corps Volunteers that return to service for shorter 3 to 6 month tours in areas in need of more immediate services. Crisis Corps Volunteers have served both at home, following Hurricane Katrina, and abroad, following the tsunami in Southeast Asia, providing valuable expertise following major disasters.

As a newly appointed member of the House Appropriations Committee, I will support the Administration's FY08 request for Peace Corps at \$333.5 million. Though this is a modest increase from the FY07 enacted level of \$318.8 million, it will optimize the number of Volunteers and staff in existing countries, strengthen and expand recruiting efforts, and maximize safety and security training and compliance efforts. I encourage my colleagues in the Foreign Operations Subcommittee to fulfill the Administration's request.

Today, I honor the Peace Corps and its brave Volunteers for their service to our nation and to the international community. Volunteers are providing expertise and development assistance to countries around the world, finding common ways to address global challenges, and forming bonds with people throughout the world. They make service a cultural necessity. They set a universal standard for how we are to embrace the realities of an ever-shrinking world.

The Peace Corps mission is more vital than ever, and I hope that each one of you will join me in thanking the Volunteers and the Peace Corps for their hard work in pursuit of an altruistic mission.

NATIONAL SECURITY FOREIGN INVESTMENT REFORM AND STRENGTHENED TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the National Security Foreign Investment Reform and Strengthened

Transparency Act of 2007, H.R. 556, of which I am also an original co-sponsor.

Last year, the proposed sale of the P&O firm—which manages terminal operations at major East Coast ports, including the Port of Baltimore—to a company controlled by the government of Dubai raised several significant issues to the attention of Congress.

In addition to making many aware for the first time that operations in American seaports are frequently managed by foreign interests, the sale brought renewed attention to the significant gaps in our port security regime.

Further, the proposed deal revealed the inadequacy of our systems for assessing the security risks that the increasingly global nature of business ownership relationships may pose—not just in the port management industry but in almost all critical industries in the U.S.

Fulfilling our unwavering commitment to the security of our homeland, the Democratic leadership has moved systematically to address the security concerns raised by the proposed sale of P&O to Dubai.

The first piece of legislation the House considered and passed this year—H.R. 1—would close an enormous gap in port security by requiring the examination of all shipping containers bound for the U.S.

The bill before us today, H.R. 556, will reform the processes of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to ensure that this Committee casts greater scrutiny on transactions involving entities owned by foreign individuals or governments—and to ensure that Congress receives the information it needs to oversee this process.

As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I understand the critical need to balance security and economics—particularly at our ports.

However, we must ensure that the CFIUS process—which is as much a part of our homeland security system as any scanner or radiation detector—is adequate to ensure that the implications of all transactions involving foreign entities are fully understood and that only those investments that pose no national security risks are allowed to move forward.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 556.

CELLULOSIC ETHANOL TECHNOLOGY

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY. Madam Speaker, tonight, I rise to honor two companies in Florida's District 16 who are on the leading edge of cellulosic ethanol technology and encouraging the use of crops other than corn to help meet the energy needs of our country—Citrus Energy, LLP and Alico, Inc.

Recently, each of these companies was awarded a \$2.5 million grant from the Florida Department of Agriculture in recognition of their efforts to establish a meaningful renewable energy industry.

With their state grant, Citrus Energy, based in Clewiston, Florida, plans to convert citrus peel, pulp, seeds and membrane into 4 million gallons of ethanol a year. I commend Citrus

Energy President Dave Stewart for his commitment to finding alternative energy sources and for looking to by-products that are abundantly available to help meet our country's needs.

Similarly, Alico, Inc. located in Labelle, Florida, plans to use its grant to build a 7.5 million-gallon-a-year plant to produce ethanol and electricity. Alico intends to use high-fiber sugar cane and agriculture wastes, such as hurricane debris to make ethanol. I also commend Alico President John Alexander for his commitment to helping this great country find alternative energy sources through agricultural by-products.

It is exciting that both of these companies have recognized the potential resources that Florida can contribute to their efforts, and I am particularly pleased that they both have chosen to locate their new energy plants in District 16. Their endeavors will provide economic benefits to these communities and will provide substantial environmental and economic benefits for our entire country.

With the price of corn at \$4.00 per bushel, it is imperative that American companies recognize the importance of diversifying our ethanol portfolio and the potential that our American farmers can contribute to those efforts. These two Florida companies are just the beginning of what I hope will become a burgeoning industry throughout our great State of Florida and our country. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to ensure that adequate funding is provided for the research and production of bio-fuels and alternatives to corn ethanol.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2007 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Herndon Police Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that can be awarded to a public safety officer: the Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that I enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2007 Valor Awards in the Herndon Police Department. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Senior Sergeant Jerry S. Keys, Corporal Robert A. Galpin, Police Officer First Class Damien C. Austin; the Certificate of Valor: Police Officer First Class Edward E. Stapleton, Detective Lisa A. Kara, Police Officer First Class E. Brian Hamilton, Police Officer First Class Justin P. Dyer.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Herndon Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the

citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP FOR PUERTO RICANS

HON. LUIS G. FORTUÑO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. FORTUÑO. Madam Speaker, at the end of the Spanish American War in 1898, Puerto Rico was ceded to the United States and became a territory under the Territorial Clause of the U.S. Constitution. It was not until 1917, by virtue of the passage of the Jones Act by Congress, that people born in Puerto Rico were granted the privilege of becoming citizens of this great Nation.

It was on March 2, 1917, 90 years ago, that Puerto Ricans became U.S. citizens. Tomorrow we celebrate the anniversary of that historic occasion by re-affirming our love for our citizenship, like our forbearers have been doing for 90 years. We cherish our U.S. citizenship dearly, for the same basic principles and rights that have made this Nation great, among which are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

We, as American citizens, share a common belief and admiration for all the principles and lights embodied in our Founding Documents and espoused by our Founding Fathers. This is the common bond that unites us with our fellow citizens.

We have honored our citizenship for these 90 years by making major contributions to our great Nation. We have distinguished ourselves in the arts, the sciences, and sports; but most important of all, Puerto Rican men and women have served with distinction and valor in every battlefield in which our Nation has been involved, from World War I to the current War on Terror, defending our valued principles of freedom and democracy around the world, from Europe to the Pacific, from Korea to Vietnam to the Middle East.

Since 1917, Puerto Ricans have established themselves as an integral component of American society, adding to the fabric of local communities across the United States.

Like most Americans, the nearly 4 million U.S. citizens living in Puerto Rico patriotically cherish their American citizenship, and value the opportunity that comes with our longstanding political relationship with the United States. This relationship provides Puerto Ricans a sense of belonging to a community that transcends the geographic limitations of our Island; it is our common thread, what binds us. After 90 years, however, we still have neither the full nor the equal rights and duties of U.S. citizenship that our fellow Americans enjoy in the 50 states.

Even though American citizenship was conferred 90 years ago, to this day Americans in Puerto Rico have not been afforded the opportunity for self-determination regarding our future political status by a federally-mandated plebiscite. American citizens in Puerto Rico continue to lack full voting representation in Congress, voting rights in federal elections, equal civil rights, full democracy at the national level, and a formal process to express