

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

our wishes regarding our destiny as free citizens.

Earlier this month, Representative JOSÉ SERRANO and I, introduced the Puerto Rico Democracy Act of 2007 (HR 900), together with 93 bipartisan co-sponsors, to provide a federally sanctioned self-determination process for the people of Puerto Rico. I encourage my colleagues in the United States Congress to support this bipartisan bill to establish a formally-recognized process that will enable Puerto Ricans to determine our future based on realistic and legally valid options, recognized by the U.S. Constitution. After 90 years of being citizens of the United States, we deserve that right.

TRIBUTE TO THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 46th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

In October 1960 then Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country and the cause of peace by living and working in the developing world.

This challenge was met with enthusiasm and led to the creation of the Peace Corps less than 5 months later on March 1, 1961. Since then, over 187,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 139 countries.

Peace Corps volunteers have made significant contributions and improved the lives of individuals and communities around the world. They have impacted agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health, HIV/AIDS, and the environment.

The Peace Corps also provides short-term assistance to countries in need through its Crisis Corps Volunteer Program. These former volunteers have assisted domestically with Hurricane Katrina efforts. Internationally, they have helped with rebuilding efforts in tsunami devastated areas of Sri Lanka and Thailand, and in Guatemala after Hurricane Stan.

In addition to their invaluable work abroad, volunteers gain marketable skills for use in the United States upon returning home. Worldwide, volunteers learn over 250 languages and dialects and receive extensive cross-cultural trainings that have been put to use in Congress, the Executive branch, the Foreign Service, education, business, finance, industry, trade, health care, and the social services sector.

I am proud to be a strong supporter of the Peace Corps which has become a symbol of our nation's commitment to progress, opportunity, and development worldwide.

On this anniversary, I would also like to acknowledge the two individuals from my district who are currently volunteering in Africa: Jorge A. Gaitan who is serving in Burkina Faso and Casey L. Kohler who is serving in Togo. I commend both of them for dedicating two years of their lives to helping others abroad

and for serving as ambassadors from the United States.

RECOGNIZING ANN RICHARDS' EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO TEXAS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 42, a bill recognizing Ann Richards' extraordinary contributions to Texas and American public life.

Before assuming the Texas Governorship, Ann Richards worked as a public school teacher; raised four children; and was heavily involved in Democratic politics. She formally entered politics in 1976, first serving as County Commissioner in Travis County, Texas. In 1982, Texans elected Ann Richards as State Treasurer, making her the first woman to hold a statewide office in 50 years. Ann Richards remained in this position until her gubernatorial win in 1991.

Ann Richards navigated Texas politics with a high level of integrity, intelligence and a legendary wit as the second female governor in the great state of Texas, where she served from 1991 to 1995. During her leadership, Governor Richards emphasized ethical reform, environmental protection, and increased diversity in state agencies. She called for a "New Texas," where the faces of Texas leadership would mirror Texas' diversity. True to her vision, she made great strides in ensuring that women, Hispanics, African-Americans, and the disadvantaged shared in Texas power and prosperity.

I knew Ann Richards personally and am honored to support this bill. Ann Richards was a trailblazer in the complete sense—she won her seat at the table by hard work and perseverance; won the affection and respect of her new colleagues; and made space for historically uninvited guests. Texas is a better state because of Ann Richards, as is our Nation. I invite my colleagues in Congress to commemorate her courage, efforts, charisma and memory, by joining me in support of H. Res. 42.

NATIONAL SECURITY FOREIGN INVESTMENT REFORM AND STRENGTHENED TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 556, the National Security Foreign Investment Reform and Strengthened Transparency Act. This legislation strikes the delicate balance between the need to encourage foreign direct investment in

the United States and the ability to critically review potential investment deals that threaten our national security.

I am particularly pleased that this bill formalizes the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) membership and designates the Secretary of the Treasury as the Chair. It is crucial to our economy that we continue to encourage foreign countries to freely invest in the United States, and the legislation before us will do just that.

It is, however, equally important to ensure that in cases where potential investment deals could impact our national security, we have a stopgap measure allowing us to critically review the potential ramifications and to proceed with caution. I am therefore also pleased that this legislation designates the Secretary of Homeland Security as the Vice Chair of CFIUS. The United States has historically been open to foreign direct investment and has provided foreign investors with fair, equitable and non-discriminatory treatment, and I believe this legislation will be implemented within this context.

Foreign direct investment continues to provide benefits to our economy in terms of jobs, technology, management expertise, and capital. The legislation we are considering today will continue to encourage such investment while strengthening the process through which we can ensure that none of these arrangements hinder our national security interests. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Peace Corps Week and the 46th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

While much has changed in the world since the Peace Corps was created on this date in 1961, their goals and ideals to promote peace and friendship remain. Volunteers continue to provide invaluable services in 73 countries as educators, technology consultants, environmental specialists, and business advisors. Indeed, they're involved in a broad spectrum of activity, but they share a commonality as some of America's best diplomats.

At a time when extremism is sweeping through much of the globe, more than ever, we need these dedicated individuals.

As the former chairman of the House Subcommittee on Africa, I have had the opportunity to meet with several Peace Corps volunteers around the continent. The commitment these men and women have shown is extremely impressive and is to be commended.

Madam Speaker, I have seen the valuable work the Peace Corps is doing in Africa, and throughout the world. It deserves our recognition and support. Under the new leadership of Director Ron Tschetter, the Peace Corps is well poised to address the rapidly evolving challenges of the developing world.