

CONGRATULATIONS TO INDEPENDENCE RENEWABLE ENERGY CORPORATION FOR BEGINNING PRODUCTION IN ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Independence Renewable Energy Corporation on the occasion of the opening of its Alabama biodiesel plant. After breaking ground in October 2006, Independence Renewable Energy Corporation produced its first gallon of biodiesel earlier this month.

From this first trickle of biodiesel, the plant is in the process of increasing its capacities and will soon boost production to 40 million gallons a year by May 2007, making it not only the largest producer in the State, but the largest producer in the Southeast.

Located in the town of Claiborne, in Monroe County, this plant currently converts soybean oil into biodiesel fuel, although its design flexibility provides for the use of alternative feedstocks. Independence Renewable Energy Corporation will use more than 27 million bushels of soybeans a year, which is nearly 1 million acres worth of soybeans.

The plant currently employs seven and will employ ten when at full operation in May. These 10 jobs will support up to an additional 150 jobs in agriculture, as well as an estimated 100 jobs in transportation and petroleum blending industries. The biodiesel plant is expected to generate annual revenue of \$120 million by distributing fuel to markets in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana.

This new facility is not only important for the economic impact that it will have on the State and region, but also for leading the way in the development of alternative fuels that are less harmful to the environment, while reducing our dependence on foreign oils and gas. Biodiesel, when blended with conventional fuels, reduces greenhouse gas and toxic emissions associated with petroleum derived diesel. This facility will benefit not only the people of Alabama but the entire Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Independence Renewable Energy Corporation. The people of Claiborne—and Monroe County—are extremely proud to be part of the solution to our Nation's energy crisis.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KUUMBA HOUSE DANCE THEATRE FOR ITS 25 YEARS OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a Houston cultural treasure, the Kuumba House Dance Theatre. For 25 years of artistic excellence, the Kuumba House has been dedicated to ensuring that African dance forms thrive and grow both artistically and professionally in the city of

Houston as well as throughout Texas and the United States.

It has been said that the mind may know the steps, but only the spirit can dance. Dance is a transcendent expression of mind, body, and soul intertwined that when executed, captivates its audience and pulls them into its resplendent world of free flowing and creative aesthetics. The Kuumba House Dance Theatre has been enthralling its audiences with its high-energy, high-octane performances for the past 25 years in Houston, Texas.

The Kuumba Dance Theatre reflects its name well, which means "creativity" in Swahili. Through the art form of African dance, the body is allowed to creatively express and reflect the mood of its dancer while bending, jumping, and undulating gracefully to the rhythm and beat of the African drum. African dance reflects the rich culture and joy of the African people, and I applaud Kuumba House for having achieved international recognition by bringing African dance to Houston and the world.

Madam Speaker, we need to encourage creativity in this day and age, especially in our youth. For over two decades, the Kuumba House Dance Theatre has worked diligently in Houston and all over the U.S. to facilitate quality dance education and performances as well as promoting understanding of African cultural art forms and creative expression. I commend Kuumba House for not only teaching this beautiful cultural art form to our youth, but for also hosting educational activities, concerts, and community outreach events to all audiences that support and appreciate the beautiful art form of dance.

On behalf of the constituents of the 18th Congressional district of Texas, I commend this group on their faithful service to the Houston community and join them in the celebration of their 25th Anniversary. I am honored and humbled to be Co-Chairing Kuumba House's March 23rd, 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner with Global Energy Limited CEO Mr. Kenneth Yellowe.

The gala will feature such dignitaries as featured speaker Dr. Barbara Masekela, who has been a devoted member of the African National Congress for over three decades and is currently the South African Ambassador to the United States. An African luminary and personal friend who will be presented with the "Legend of Africa" award is NBA superstar and humanitarian Dikembe Mutombo. I am proud to say that I was more than glad to assist Dikembe who through his foundation has donated \$15 million to construct and open the Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital and Research Center, a \$29 million, 300-bed hospital in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In conclusion, the Kuumba House Dance Theatre would not be where it is today without the steadfast dedication of its Founder and Artistic Director, Lindi Yeni. I thank Lindi for her vision, hard work, and wholehearted commitment to Kuumba House and in this evening's auspicious gala. Once again, I pay tribute to the Kuumba House Dance Theatre and look forward to many more decades of thrilling and creative dance performances, which contribute to the rich diversity of our community.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER WAYNE MULLER FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Muller, 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 397, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Christopher has been involved in Scouting, he has earned 32 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Troop Librarian, Patrol Leader, and Troop Guide. Christopher has earned numerous awards such as the Top Gun Award for being the best shooter in the Explorer Post and the H. Roe Bartle Heritage Award. Christopher is currently a Brave in the tribe of Mic-O-Say. His tribal name is "He Who Walks Like Thunder."

For his Eagle Scout project, Christopher painted fire hydrants for the city of Kearney, Missouri.

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

CONGRATULATING AIRINC/FOKKER SERVICE IN FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA, ON RECEIVING THE 2007 GOVERNOR'S TRADE EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor AIRINC/Fokker Services located in Fairhope, Alabama, for winning the State of Alabama's Governor's Trade Excellence Award.

Two years ago, Alabama Governor Bob Riley established the Governor's Trade Excellence Award to honor businesses of all sizes—from all regions of the State of Alabama—for their excellence in exports. The goals of the award are to identify Alabama businesses making significant contributions to the export business and to promote Alabama exporters as role models and supporters to the Alabama business community, while encouraging businesses to become involved in the global marketplace. The award also aims to increase awareness of the impact of exporting on Alabama's economy.

The eight winners of the award are chosen by a panel from the Export Alabama Trade Alliance who judge the businesses on a wide range of criteria. Criteria include the level of export sales as a proportion of total sales and innovations in exporting. I am proud to announce that two out of the eight winners of the Governor's Trade Excellence award are located in Alabama's First Congressional District.

One of the eight recipients of this year's award, AIRINC/Fokker Services, specializes in the maintenance, repair, and overhaul work for aircraft including Airbus and Boeing airplanes. AIRINC was recognized by the award for being an excellent role model to the Alabama business community, for its continuous strong support of the entire Alabama export community, for its involvement at the international level, and for its continued growth as a business themselves. With a 26,000 square foot facility and 65 employees, AIRINC brings in approximately \$13.5 million in revenue each year, and regularly sends employees on business to parts of Europe and Asia.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating both the employees and management team at AIRINC/Fokker Services for receiving the Alabama Governor's Trade Excellence Award. I know the employees, their friends, families, and members of the community join with me in praising AIRINC/Fokker Services for their many accomplishments, and I extend my thanks for their continued service to the Alabama business community, the First Congressional District, and to the international business community.

IN TRIBUTE TO GWEN JACKSON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a compassionate leader and volunteer from the Fourth Congressional District, Gwen T. Jackson. Her involvement in the voluntary and nonprofit arena has been a lifelong pursuit: she has served on the board of over 50 different organizations in the Milwaukee metro area. Mrs. Jackson is a recognized leader at the national, regional and local level for her work in the community.

Mrs. Jackson was a pioneer for women in management and executive business positions and was vice president of human resources when she elected for early retirement in 1981 from BRILLS, Inc. where she worked for over 30 years.

Mrs. Jackson is well known as the consummate volunteer and her commitment to civic involvement includes the following leadership roles: chairman, Women's Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation; United Way of Greater Milwaukee; Volunteers of America of Wisconsin; Alliance for Children and Family; Milwaukee County Department on Aging; African American Women's Project and chapter chair and chairperson emeritus of the red cross of greater Milwaukee among others. Mrs. Jackson's over 40-year tenure of volunteering at the Red Cross is held as her signature volunteer service. Further, she served as the national chairman of volunteers and part of the senior management team for the American National Red Cross in Washington D.C.

Mrs. Jackson's advocacy and leadership on a myriad of issues including the fields of aging, health, women and youth has earned her the respect and heartfelt admiration of Milwaukeeans. She has not only been the recipient of countless awards including an Honorary Doctorate from Cardinal Stritch University and Outstanding Citizen Award from the

National Council of Christians and Jews, but she has also had awards and scholarships named in her honor including the Gwen T. Jackson Angel Fund to provide quality of life assistance to frail elderly and mentally challenged adults who live in Volunteers of America of Wisconsin group homes.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Jackson's contributions to the Fourth Congressional District. She is a community treasure and the many honors and awards she has received are a testament to the positive impact she has had on Milwaukee.

TRIBUTE TO DMITRY A. BROWN
FOR THE AWARD OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dmitry Brown, 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 397, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dmitry has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Dmitry has been involved in scouting, he has earned 41 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Scribe, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Dmitry is a brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow and a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Dmitry has earned numerous awards such as the Leave No Trace Award, World Conservation Award, God and Life Award, and the Bartle Heritage Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Dmitry constructed a sandbox and bench for the students of Dogwood Elementary School.

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

CONGRATULATING ABRAHAM
MITCHELL FOR BEING NAMED
MOBILIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mr. Abraham Mitchell on the occasion of being named Mobilian of the Year for 2006 by the Mobile Civitan Club.

The Mobilian of the Year is the city's most prestigious civic honor, and Abe is most deserving of his award. With his brother Mayer, Abe co-founded the Mitchell Company in the 1950's, which would go on to become one of the southeast's largest real-estate companies before being sold in 1985. After his retirement from real estate, Abe became co-owner of another endeavor, Mitchell Brothers, Inc., which

has focused on investments and philanthropic support.

Abe is not only a very successful businessman, but he and his family have set a new standard in the state of Alabama for their philanthropic endeavors. Abe has always believed that education is paramount to the improvement of the human condition and, to that end, he has been extremely supportive of Mobile's institutes of higher education.

According to the University of South Alabama, Abe has donated at least \$4 million personally, providing for three endowed chairs in the College of Medicine and the soon to be opened Resources Learning Center in the Mitchell College of Business.

Moreover, he has funded the largest private scholarship program at USA, which provides 20 full academic scholarships each year. Abe has also supported the University of Mobile, Springhill College, Bishop State Community College, among others. He has also been heavily involved in philanthropic support of numerous cultural endeavors and community health and human service programs.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Mr. Abraham Mitchell for being named the Mobilian of the Year for 2006 and in so doing recognize him for his many outstanding professional and philanthropic accomplishments.

Abe's enormous generosity not only benefits the students of the University of South Alabama but our entire community, State and Nation. His extraordinary positive impact has set an exemplary example for young and old alike in Mobile. I know that my colleagues will join me in commending him for his commitment to improving the lives of so many others.

INTRODUCTION OF DIVIDENDS
PROPOSAL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, since 2003, certain qualified dividends from corporations have been eligible for a lower rate of tax. This lower rate of tax is 15 percent for higher income taxpayers and 5 percent for lower income taxpayers, specifically those in the 10 and 15 percent brackets. The rate of tax for lower income taxpayers becomes zero in 2008 and beyond. At the end of 2010, these special rates expire and dividends will be once again taxed as ordinary income.

This special rate was first proposed by President Bush on January 7, 2003. The proposal was described in a document released later that month by Treasury entitled, "Eliminate the Double Taxation on Corporate Earnings." Treasury explained the reason for the change was the double burden of a corporate level tax on top of the individual tax on dividends. The proposal would apply only to income that had been subject to U.S. income tax at the corporate level. But the proposal was terribly complicated.

The House then proposed a simpler cut in the dividend rate to 15 percent for any dividends received from domestic corporations. However, the final conference report did allow some dividends from foreign corporations to