

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

GREATER MARYVILLE CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 30, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to congratulate the Greater Maryville Chamber of Commerce on their Centennial Anniversary. On April 23, 1907, the chamber was created when area businessmen came together to improve the economic vitality by promoting businesses and community and enhancing the quality of life in Maryville, Missouri.

The mission of the Greater Maryville Chamber of Commerce is to support advancing agriculture, education, industry, legislation, retail, professional services, recreation, and tourism of the City of Maryville and its surrounding area.

The City of Maryville, organized on February 14, 1845, has become the commercial, educational and entertainment center for the region by hosting such events as fairs, auto shows, and rodeos.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the Greater Maryville Chamber of Commerce and congratulate them on 100 years of service and I look forward to future celebrations.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MARKETS
TAX CREDIT BILL

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 30, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague Congressman NEAL in introducing legislation to extend New Markets Tax Credit program for an additional five years through 2013.

Originally authorized in 2000 as part of the bi-partisan Community Renewal Tax Relief Act, the New Markets Tax Credit has been successful in meeting its principal goal—namely, mobilizing capital to economically distressed urban and rural communities.

Reports from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, reveals that interest in the NMTC from the investor market continues to increase at a rapid pace. More than \$7.7 billion in new private capital has already been raised from 560 distinct investors. A recent report released by GAO indicates that 88% of investors in New Markets Tax Credit projects would not have made the same investment without the Credit.

In addition to stimulating private investment, the credit is creating jobs and financing business development in low-income communities across the United States. In my home state of Kentucky, the credit has been very active. Seven Kentucky-based community development entities (CDEs) have received credit allocations totaling \$153.5 million since 2003. One of these CDEs, Kentucky Highlands Invest-

ment Corporation, is using its \$22 million allocation to invest in health-related businesses and health care facilities in rural Kentucky. Community Ventures Corporation, also secured \$24 million in credits to invest in new and expanding businesses throughout the Commonwealth. These projects have the potential to create new jobs. To date, Community Ventures Corporation has used its credits to raise \$24 million in investment that has been deployed in businesses throughout the state and it has a pipeline of qualified businesses seeking more than \$121 million in NMTC financing that will have to wait until they can secure additional credits.

I believe the NMTC is a successful program because it brings diverse groups together—public and private sectors, investment banks and community development corporations—to attract private capital and jobs into some of the nation's most impoverished areas.

The NMTC has been successful because of the emphasis it places on community involvement. Private sector investment flows through entities like Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation and Community Ventures Corporation that are extremely knowledgeable about the communities they serve and are experienced in providing the types of patient, flexible capital which conventional lenders and investors are unable to provide directly in that market.

The NMTC continues to be a catalyst for small business development. It has fostered start-ups, technology firms, manufacturers, neighborhood retail stores, and shopping centers in low-income communities. These investments in turn have created many jobs.

In addition, the NMTC has been used to finance vital community facilities that are often lacking in poor communities—charter schools, community health centers, biotechnology campuses, employment training centers, day care facilities, as well as mixed-use commercial and housing developments. These facilities are essential to help qualified communities grow and thrive.

I am a strong believer in the potential of the New Markets Tax Credit to bring capital to communities that have traditionally been left behind. I was pleased to be one of the leaders of the campaign to extend the Credit in 109th Congress and am proud of our accomplishments during that period of time. I continue to believe that Congress should extend the New Markets Tax Credit for several years, or provide a permanent authorization. Investors, CDE's and businesses need greater certainty in planning and implementing revitalization strategies in economically distressed urban and rural communities.

For this reason, I believe this legislation takes the correct course by authorizing this program for 5 years. I urge my colleagues to join us in co-sponsoring the New Markets Tax Credit Extension Act of 2007.

WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND
BURROS SALE AND SLAUGHTER
PROHIBITION

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 249, to ban the com-

mmercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros.

At the beginning of the 20th century, there were an estimated 2 million wild horses and burros, but by the 1950s there were only 20,000. Today, the number of horses has increased to 32,000. The population is mainly controlled through adoption. Since 1972, almost 217,000 horses have been adopted.

This is mostly due to the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, which has sought to preserve wild horses and burros on federal lands and has made the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) responsible for their preservation.

In 2004, the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act was amended to reverse the longstanding policy that protected wild horses from being shipped off to slaughterhouses. It also removed the criminal penalties that are imposed for such actions. Seeking to correct this injustice is H.R. 249, which would once again place a prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild horses and burros.

As a compassionate society, we have an obligation to protect all animals. Some scientists have found that America's wild horses have greater genetic diversity, as compared to their domestic counterparts, due to little inbreeding.

Sadly, this bill is too late to save some horses. There have been several cases of horses that were purchased for seemingly innocuous reasons and then sent immediately to slaughter. H.R. 249 would protect the more than 8,400 horses that are in jeopardy of being slaughtered.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 249, which would restore the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros.

RECOGNIZING MAXWELL "MAX"
WILLIAM ELDON PEPPER FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 30, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Maxwell "Max" William Eldon Pepper, 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 376, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Maxwell has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Maxwell has been involved with scouting, he has earned 28 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Librarian, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Quartermaster. Maxwell is an Ordeal Member in the Order of the Arrow and a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Maxwell "Max" William Eldon Pepper for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
"LEAD-FREE DRINKING WATER
ACT OF 2007"

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 30, 2007

Mr. NORTON. Madam Speaker, Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Henry A. Waxman and I re-introduce the "Lead-Free Drinking Water Act of 2007". This bill today was virtually summoned by the District's lead water crisis in 2004. The national attention our crisis generated for the likely presence of lead in the water supply drew many jurisdictions to do their own investigations, uncovering similar problems. When former Senator James Jeffords, Representative Waxman, and I looked at the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Lead and Copper Rule, it was clear that even the revision of the Rule in 1991 did not meet standards that should have been adopted at that time. Our bill incorporates what we learned from hearings on the D.C. water crisis and from the state of the current science.

This bill is necessary because at a recent hearing for the Subcommittee on Water Resources, Benjamin H. Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water in the EPA, promised that new rules on lead and copper in water would be promulgated at the level mandated in this legislation. However, details of the rule have not been shared with the subcommittee, and the rule is not scheduled to be released until the fall of this year. We have heard this same excuse since 2004, illustrating the continuing need for Congress to act. In 2006, as confidence was slowly being restored in our drinking water, the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority was cited for violations of SDWA consent order due to a failure in testing procedures. Most especially, recent reports have documented elevated levels of lead in drinking water in five District of Columbia public school water fountains, even though the children are most vulnerable to lead, thus the important reasons for this legislation remain strong after three years. This bill directly addresses the concerns that also vulnerable are pregnant and nursing women and District of Columbia parents have with lead in the water at schools and would lay to rest well-placed anxiety about lead in the drinking water here and nationwide.

The District of Columbia provided us with a virtual case study in why SDWA must be revised again in 2007. Here are some of the most important provisions taken from the D.C. experience:

(1) *Valid Testing.* This bill eliminates the giant loophole that allowed the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) to continue testing once it exceeded the 15 parts per billion (Ppb) action level, in order to dilute its findings, reduce the percentage of homes to less than 10%, and thus relieve WASA of the requirement to replace lead service lines. Instead, 10% of lead pipes must be replaced until all are eliminated.

(2) *Total Lead Service Line Replacement.* Instead of replacing only publicly owned lead

service lines, this bill requires total replacement, including the portion owned by the homeowner. Our hearings showed that partial replacement can actually increase the amount of lead in drinking water, because the new metal, such as brass or copper, can interact with the remaining lead pipe and accelerate lead leaching into the drinking water.

(3) *Individual Notice From Detection to Correction.* Instead of allowing public notices to be delayed or buried, using generic language deep in a brochure or water bill, as WASA did, our bill requires notice to all customers, individually within 30 days of lead exceedance, stating the scope of testing, results and corrective actions.

(4) *Alternative Water Supply.* Where excessive lead is found, the bill requires that certified water filters be provided to each residence, school and day care facility, a measure that was delayed in the District despite the danger to pregnant women and children under six.

(5) *Testing Water Treatment Chemicals.* The Army Corp of Engineers switched chemicals at the Washington Aqueduct from chlorine to chloramines without conducting a corrosion control test. The evidence is that the new chemical was the likely cause of the spike in lead levels here, but only now are phosphates being tested to counter lead corrosion in the water supply. This bill requires water systems to have corrosion control plans within one year of switching chemical treatment or a finding of excessive lead in the water.

(6) *Lead Free Plumbing.* "Lead free" in this bill is defined as 0.2%, the standard already used in Los Angeles, down from the current 8%. We heard testimony at our hearings that most brass and copper plumbing contains 8% lead.

(7) *Lead Testing In Schools.* This bill requires the repair or replacement of school water coolers found to have excessive lead. Annual testing of water coolers in schools is also required.

The District of Columbia experience has opened the nation's eyes to lead in the water that millions of Americans may be drinking. Our bill will reduce the well-earned fears of residents here and across the country.

**TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1678, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2007, legislation which provides grants for medical centers that administer therapeutic treatment for victims of torture.

Currently, there are approximately 400,000 victims of torture who reside in the United States, all of whom live with painful memories of their trauma. America's torture treatment centers provide crucial recuperative services to these individuals who have suffered both physically and mentally, often while serving our country.

Victims of torture are in a unique position, requiring ongoing psychiatric counseling as well as physical therapy. These individuals carry the scars of their torture on their bodies and minds, and require years of support to overcome these wounds.

In my district and home-town of Chicago, the Marjorie Kovler Center for the Treatment of Survivors of Torture provides comprehensive, community-based services in which survivors of governmental or political torture work together with specialists to identify individual needs and overcome barriers to healing. At the Marjorie Kovler Center, patients find a welcoming and accepting environment which nurtures the body and mind, allowing individuals to successfully transition back into healthy social relationships. This crucial organization generously provides all of its services free of charge to its patients, and centers like it across the country utilize the funding provided in this legislation to deliver services and care to countless victims of torture.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to co-sponsor and support H.R. 1678. This legislation bolsters the therapeutic network for torture victims who have suffered tremendously, and are in great need of care. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the organizations that serve the men and women who are living with the mental and physical scars of torture by voting for H.R. 1678, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2007.

**LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE
BOWL TEAM**

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 30, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to honor 5 outstanding individuals, Stephanie Hull, Shane Daniel, John Ahlfield, David Klco, and Ammon Sarver, who competed in the 2007 National Science Bowl representing Liberty High School. This is Liberty's third year in a row to make it to the National Finals.

Since 1991, the National Science Bowl, through the sponsorship of the United States Department of Energy has brought together high school students to compete in an academic competition in the fields of chemistry, biology, physics, earth science, mathematics, astronomy, and general science.

Also, I want to recognize the great leadership of the team including Coaches Rosemary Camp and Mary Coogan. It is also important to acknowledge the parents, family, mentors and friends who have helped these students succeed in their academic efforts.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the Liberty High School Science Bowl Team on their achievements and wish them the best of luck in their future academic endeavors. It is an honor to represent this team in the United States Congress.