

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO FORT MASSAC ON IT'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 250th anniversary of one of the most important historic sites in Southern Illinois.

It was in 1757, during the French and Indian War, that French pioneers exploring the lower Ohio and Mississippi River valleys built Fort l'Ascension on a strategic bluff over the Ohio, near the present-day community of Metropolis, Illinois. Two years later, the site was renamed Fort Massiac. After the Revolutionary War, President George Washington ordered the site rebuilt, and in 1794 the fort was reconstructed as Fort Massac. The fort is the namesake for Massac County and for Fort Massac State Park, which has served generations of Illinoisans with the opportunity to see history with their own eyes; to gain a greater understanding of how our region and our nation were built; and to see the difficulties that our pioneers encountered as they settled the area we now call home. This gift is due in large part to the hard work of Friends of the Fort, and the staff of Fort Massac State Park who have preserved this treasure for us. In 1908, Fort Massac became Illinois' first state park.

Each October, Fort Massac is the site of the Fort Massac Encampment, a re-creation of life in Southern Illinois during the late 1700s which draws nearly 80,000 visitors. Several weekends during the year are dedicated to living history, giving visitors the unique opportunity to see life as it was two hundred years ago.

I want to thank Sue Barfield, President of Friends of the Fort, and Terry Johnson, site superintendent of Fort Massac State Park, as well as all the local residents and historians who have put so much dedication into preserving Fort Massac for future generations to enjoy.

RECOGNIZING SARAH HARRIS, MICHIGAN'S 2007 "POETRY OUT LOUD" STATE CHAMPION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Sarah Harris for her victory in the 2007 "Poetry Out Loud" Michigan State Championship.

Besting 8 other contestants from around Michigan to take the State title in March, Ms. Harris earned a trip to the National Finals held this week in Washington, DC. For the competition, each student recited three poems, and four judges graded each recitation based on five categories: Physical Presence and Posture; Voice Projection and Articulation; Appropriateness of Dramatization; Level of Difficulty; Evidence of Understanding; and, Overall Per-

formance. The three poems recited by Ms. Harris were: The Cremation of Sam McGee, by Robert Service; Mrs. Krikorian by Sharon Olds; and, The Weary Blues, by Langston Hughes.

The "Poetry Out Loud" program, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, builds on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form. Through this important endeavor, students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. I am proud that the Michigan Humanities Council has been a strong supporter of "Poetry Out Loud," and that Holt High School has been so active in fostering a renewed interest in poetry.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to celebrate Sarah Harris's extraordinary achievement. Her passion, creativity and dedication indeed serve as an example to us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Harris for her State Championship and to wish her the best of luck in the National Finals.

INTERNATIONAL SOLID WASTE IM- PORTATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I ask that my letter be inserted in the RECORD as part of the consideration of H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007, which passed under suspension of the rules on April 24, 2007. This letter responds to the letter received by the Speaker from Mr. Justin McCarthy, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Congressional Affairs, and the Hon. Jeffrey T. Bergner, Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, regarding H.R. 518.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Washington, DC, April 30, 2007.

Mr. JUSTIN J. MCCARTHY

Assistant U.S. Trade Representative, for Congressional Affairs Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Washington, DC.

Hon. JEFFREY T. BERGNER

Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCCARTHY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY BERGNER: I have obtained a copy of your April 23, 2007, letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi expressing the Administration's concern with H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007. I sponsored this bipartisan bill with the entire Michigan delegation and a number of other Members of the House of Representatives. It was favorably reported by the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials and the full Committee on Energy and Commerce in late March and passed the House of Representatives on April 23, 2007, by a voice vote without opposition.

Your letter implies and attempts to raise concerns that H.R. 518 would somehow apply

to hazardous waste shipments or in some way would be incompatible with U.S. obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement and WTO agreements. Neither of these observations is correct.

First, the bill expressly applies only to "foreign municipal solid waste," not hazardous waste (new section 4011) (f)(2)). Further, hazardous waste is explicitly excluded from the term "municipal solid waste" (new section 4011 (f)(3)(B)(i)).

With regard to the issue of whether H.R. 518 is compatible with our international trade obligations, the bill explicitly preserves prior law relating to international trade obligations. New section 4011(a)(3) provides as follows:

"(3) Trade and Treaty Obligations.—Nothing in this section affects, replaces, or amends prior law relating to the need for consistency with international trade obligations.

Thus, Canada retains all of its rights under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements to challenge a State action alleged to be inconsistent. Domestic waste trade measures that allegedly violate NAFTA might be challenged under the NAFTA general dispute settlement chapter.

Even where a measure is alleged to be inconsistent with NAFTA, the Congressional Research Service has noted that there may be general exceptions incorporated from Article XX of the GATT 1994 that allow parties to adopt or enforce measures necessary to protect human, animal, or plant life or health and measures relating to the conservation of exhaustible natural resources if such measures are made effective in conjunction with restriction on domestic production or consumption.

Finally, your letter states that there are other ways to address concerns about imports of foreign waste, noting as an example the U.S.-Canada Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste. I would hope you are aware that H.R. 518 is providing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the requisite statutory authority necessary to enforce that very agreement as it applies to municipal solid waste. EPA has maintained that it cannot fully implement and enforce the U.S.-Canada bilateral agreement without the authority provided by H.R. 518 in new section 4011(c).

I also note that almost four years ago EPA officials testified that the current Administration would submit the necessary implementing legislation for the U.S.-Canadian bilateral agreement "soon." No such legislative proposal has ever been submitted by President Bush.

You should be aware that H.R. 518 directs the EPA Administrator to implement the U.S.-Canadian bilateral agreement within 24 months and, as noted above, provides the necessary authority to enforce its provisions with respect to municipal solid waste. Thus, our bill would give effect to the U.S.-Canada bilateral agreement and ensure that it is implemented. The passage of H.R. 518 is important to the people of Michigan and similarly affected States.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I hope this correspondence serves to correct any misunderstandings concerning H.R. 518.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. DINGELL,
Chairman.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This letter is to express the Administration's concern with H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007. H.R. 518 would authorize states to restrict the receipt and disposal of municipal solid waste generated outside the United States.

The Administration is concerned that enactment of H.R. 518 would have the unintended result of increasing the disposal of hazardous waste in the United States and lead to an unnecessary trade dispute. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, approximately 230 U.S. companies, in over 32 states shipped hazardous waste to Canada in 2004 alone. If states use the authority in H.R. 518 to restrict foreign waste imports, this could provoke reciprocal actions by Canada or other trading partners against U.S. waste exports.

In addition, because H.R. 518 would authorize states to enact laws or regulations that exclusively restrict the disposal of foreign-generated waste or limit the amount of foreign waste shipped to the United States, it could raise concerns by our trading partners regarding U.S. compliance with international rules prohibiting trade discrimination. In fact, the Government of Canada has already questioned whether H.R. 518, as well as the state laws and regulations it could lead to, would be compatible with U.S. obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement and WTO agreements.

Moreover, H.R. 518 could result in a patchwork of individual and possibly conflicting state and federal laws and regulations on the receipt and disposal of foreign municipal waste that could make it more difficult to manage cross-border waste flows in an environmentally sound and economically efficient manner.

Finally, there are other ways to address concerns about imports of foreign waste. For example, the U.S.-Canada Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste has been a successful mechanism for managing the flow of hazardous waste between our countries and illustrates how issues relating to this type of trade can be handled in a manner that does not raise concerns for our trading partners.

We appreciate your attention to these concerns. The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the President's program.

Sincerely,

JUSTIN MCCARTHY,
Assistant U.S. Trade
Representative for
Congressional Affairs.

JEFFREY T. BERGNER,
Assistant Secretary of
State for Legislative
Affairs.

PROFESSOR BRIAN ROTHSCILD
HONORED BY NOAA

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, one of the most important institutions

in the part of southeastern Massachusetts I have the privilege of representing, is the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. The school has a justified reputation as a key agent for economic and educational development in the region, particularly along the State's south coast. One of the reasons for that reputation is Professor Brian Rothschild, who was until recently the Dean of UMass Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology, SMAST, and currently serves as the school's Montgomery Charter Professor of Marine Science and Technology, as well as Co-Director of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute, and Chairman of New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang's Ocean and Fisheries Council.

I was delighted to learn that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, recently named Dr. Rothschild as one of the recipients of the agency's 2007 Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards. I can't think of anyone who is more deserving of this award, or who better exemplifies the effort to harness science in the furtherance of sustainable fisheries. I have found him to be not only an accurate, completely reliable source of information, but also someone who consistently offers creative solutions to fishery science and management problems. In other words, he not only possesses extraordinary scientific acumen—he also uses it in the service of larger, societal goals.

For him, sustainability means a fishery that supports both healthy stocks and healthy fishing communities. Knowing of his commitment to this concept, I was not surprised he was chosen to head New Bedford's Ocean and Fisheries Council. This position has given him a broader platform from which to promote sustainability, and his advice and contributions continue to be valuable, whether they relate to the recently enacted Magnuson Reauthorization bill, environmental factors that affect fish stock abundance, how to more accurately determine fish populations in multi-species fisheries, or other vital research areas.

Madam Speaker, in view of Professor Brian Rothschild's distinguished career in fishery science, and in recognition of his many contributions to that discipline in southeastern Massachusetts and all of New England, I applaud NOAA's decision to honor him with a Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Award, and I ask that the recent New Bedford Standard-Times article noting this achievement be printed here.

[From the New Bedford Standard-Times,
April 21, 2007]

UMD'S ROTHSCILD WINS NOAA AWARD
(By Becky W. Evans)

NEW BEDFORD.—Fishery scientist Brian Rothschild has won the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's sustainable fisheries leadership award for his contributions to marine science and education.

Dr. Rothschild, former dean of the UMass Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology, is one of seven recipients of the award, created in 2005 to recognize individuals, organizations and industries "whose contributions to science and management have served to promote best stewardship practices for the sustained use of the nation's living marine resources," according to NOAA's Office of Constituent Services.

"I feel very appreciative of people who recommended me for this honor," Dr. Rothschild said. "I have dedicated my whole career to service and it is nice to have some recognition."

Dr. Rothschild is the Montgomery Charter Professor of Marine Science and Technology

at SMAST. He also is chairman of New Bedford Mayor Scott W. Lang's Ocean and Fisheries Council and is co-director of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute.

According to NOAA, Dr. Rothschild is "one of the most cited fishery scientists in the world," having published more than 100 scientific papers and book chapters. His research interests include population dynamics, biological oceanography, fisheries management and natural resources policy.

Before arriving at SMAST in 1995, Dr. Rothschild held professorships at the University of Washington and the Center for Environmental and Estuarine Studies at the University of Maryland. He spent a decade working for NOAA as a policy adviser and director of several offices. He has consulted on fishery issues for the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization in India and Namibia and with the governments of Great Britain, Korea, Egypt, Peru, France and the Republic of Ireland.

The sustainable fisheries leadership awards will be presented during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on June 7.

A TRIBUTE TO STEVE DONAHUE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, last week Steve Donahue, a longtime community leader and friend from my district, passed away. I want to take this opportunity to honor his life, mourn his passing and pray for his wife and four children.

Steve was beloved by his friends and neighbors. As the longtime Chief of the Pawcatuck Fire Department, he commanded an abounding level of respect among his colleagues and community, and touched the lives of hundreds.

Steve was a young man of only 48 years. Although I wish that he had more time to spend with us, Steve certainly made the most out of what time he had. It is difficult to find someone in Pawcatuck who doesn't have anything but flattering things to say about Steve.

Hundreds of people from the community came to pay their respects at Steve's funeral last Saturday. He was a man of great integrity who made friends everywhere he went.

Today I join my colleagues in Congress to celebrate Steve's life and to pray for his wife Mary Lynne, and their four children. Steve, we will miss you.

ARTICLE BY THOMAS M. RUYLE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, Thomas M. Ruyle wrote an excellent article, entitled "Army Stretched Beyond Limits", which appeared in the Sedalia Democrat on April 12, 2007. This article accurately describes the current state of our Army and the challenges it faces. I wish to share Mr. Ruyle's writing with the rest of the chamber:

[FROM THE SEDALIA DEMOCRAT, APR. 12, 2007]

ARMY STRETCHED BEYOND LIMITS

(BY THOMAS M. RUYLE)

The Army is broken.