

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 Af-
airs.

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

PROFESSOR BRIAN ROTHSCHILD
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 ROTHSCHILD 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.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates' announcement yesterday that all active-duty soldiers currently serving in Iraq would have their rotations extended by three months is the latest evidence that our military cannot meet the demands placed on it.

Furthermore, the Pentagon this week alerted four National Guard brigades for a second tour in Iraq, long before those units have had five years at home since their last deployment, as policy dictates.

Some active-duty units, such as the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, are serving their third tour in Iraq in four years.

They recently returned to Iraq after a shortened rest and re-training period. Newer soldiers have, in many cases, not had the time to train with their new comrades before being sent into battle.

Reserve units that have already served are woefully short on equipment and ammunition to properly retrain, either for the maw of Iraq or defending America itself. The Marine Corps recently announced that jungle training—a Corps mainstay—will be suspended as that service is forced to concentrate all resources on training for Iraq.

In the event of a major conflict erupting between the U.S. and another nation—Iran, North Korea and Pakistan come immediately to mind—America's ground forces, particularly the Army, are in no way, shape or form capable of responding appropriately.

Meanwhile, the current administration—particularly the vice president—continues to maintain that everything is progressing as scheduled in Iraq, and that anyone who begs to differ is a defeatist or unpatriotic. Trouble is, there was no schedule and little planning involved in the Iraq debacle.

The administration went to Iraq on a platform of lies, failed to heed the warnings of senior military officers and other warfare experts, and did not react appropriately when things started going bad in Iraq shortly after the invasion.

Indeed, under Donald Rumsfeld, the defense establishment followed the 'script' rather than act to prevent the looming realities that are obvious now.

Since 2001, America's military has been engaged full-time in two separate wars: The War on Terrorism (primarily in Afghanistan), and (since 2003) a second, unnecessary war that has only begotten more terrorism, further destabilized the Middle East and left America very vulnerable.

As an Army National Guard veteran of the Iraq War, I've seen firsthand the toll that a combat deployment will have on a unit, its equipment, soldiers and, their families. It takes years for a unit to properly recover and be ready to deploy again.

Sending units back to Iraq on a speeded-up schedule is a disservice to not only the soldiers and families affected, but America's long-term strategy (if there is one) in Iraq as well as America itself.

All the while, there has been no effort to expand the military or adequately address the equipment shortcomings of units after serving in the harsh climate of the Middle East.

The recent spate of Guard alerts, tour extensions and shortened rest periods are indicative of a problem that the Pentagon and administration utterly refuse to acknowledge: The United States Army is broken, and it will take billions of dollars over at least a decade to bring the Army back up to a fully competent readiness level.

THANKING DAVID (DAVE) FOLK
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on May 2, 2007, we rise to thank Mr. David C. Folk for 20 years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. David has served this great institution as a valuable employee for the Chief Administrative Officer.

David began his tenure with the United States House of Representatives in May of 1987 as a data communications specialist in the House Information Systems group. David's career at the House is one of consistent and steady contributions while meeting customer requests in voice and data wiring infrastructure. Specifically, David managed the rewiring upgrade of the House side of the Capitol and the Member Offices in all of the House Office Buildings.

He also was the Quality Assurance Evaluator on the original House Infrastructure contract and assisted in the development of differing voice systems such as the Member Paging System and the press secretaries systems for the broadcast media organizations. Finally, David managed the first Secure Communications program for the House and grew it from its infancy to where it is today.

David has been a key contributor to the CAO efforts on wiring infrastructure. His standard of excellence, dedication to passionate customer service, organizational skills, professionalism and ability to get the job done is well noted by his colleagues.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to David for many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. We wish David many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

HONORING NICK POLIZZOTTO

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Corporal Nick S. Polizzotto, nine year veteran of the South Bend Police Department, who gave his life in the line of duty. For the people of South Bend, Indiana, Corporal Polizzotto is indeed a hero.

On April 24, 2007, a report of gunshots brought Corporal Polizzotto and his partner, Patrolman Michael Norby, to a local motel. There, at 1:37 a.m., an armed suspect shot both policemen, killing Corporal Polizzotto. Patrolman Norby credits Corporal Polizzotto with saving his life.

Our community has lost a beloved family member, a generous friend, a devoted father and a dedicated protector. Often described as having a heart of gold, he proudly wore his uniform and bravely patrolled the streets of our city until making the ultimate sacrifice.

Born and raised in South Bend, Nick always wanted to be a police officer and graduated

from Indiana University with a degree in criminal justice. During his many years as a Southeast South Bend beat officer, he received 18 commendations and was Officer of the Month in 2006.

Corporal Polizzotto leaves behind his parents, his son, Joseph, a brother and sister and countless relatives and friends who loved him. South Bend has lost a brave guardian.

Madam Speaker, we grieve for our hero, Corporal Nick Polizzotto. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

IN HONOR OF PETER DELFINO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Peter J. Delfino, a man who was famous throughout the Monterey Bay area for his great gusto for life.

Peter was born in San Francisco to Nick and Angie Delfino on December 29, 1917. His family soon moved to a farm in Moss Landing where he and his brother Louie helped with the artichokes and other fresh vegetables they grew. Peter went to work for Bank of America after graduation from Monterey High School, but his heart remained on the farm. Ten years later, he joined the Odello family in growing artichokes on the banks of the Carmel River, and he continued to farm until he retired.

The Italian community in Monterey has always provided a busy social calendar, and Peter met his wife, Mary, through these activities. They were married on September 30, 1945. They had one son, Alan, three grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Peter's other passion was picturesque properties in Carmel and Carmel Valley, Big Sur and Lake Tahoe. Family and friends spent many memorable weekends at these places, especially at his famous wild boar and lamb BBQs in Big Sur.

Peter loved being with people and belonged to several service clubs. After retirement he took great pleasure in helping friends in the construction industry with their various projects as it kept him working outside and in their company. Throughout his 89 years he enjoyed life to the fullest, and was never shy about striking up conversations with anyone he met.

Madam Speaker, I honor the life of Peter Delfino, a man who worked hard and diligently at a job he loved, and who made the world a happier place as he passed through.

TRIBUTE TO VIVIAN BERRYHILL

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vivian Berryhill, President and founder of the National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses. In her role with NCPS and as First Lady of the New Philadelphia Baptist Church in Memphis, TN, Mrs. Berryhill has been a goodwill ambassador across the world, conducting global outreach on HIV/AIDS. In addition to her passionate charitable work, Mrs. Berryhill is also an acclaimed songwriter.