

A pharmaceutical crop or industrial crop is a plant that has been genetically engineered to produce a medical or industrial product, including human and veterinary drugs. Many of the novel substances produced in pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops are for particular medical or industrial purposes only. These substances are not intended to be incorporated in food or to be spread into the environment. That would be equivalent to allowing a prescription drug in the food supply. Experts acknowledge that contamination of human food and animal feed is inevitable due to the inherent imprecision of biological and agricultural systems. This contamination by pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops pose substantial liability and other economic risks to farmers, grain handlers, and food companies.

This bill requires that all genetically engineered foods follow a strenuous food safety review process and attempts to prevent contamination of our food supply by pharmaceutical and industrial crops:

Require the FDA to screen all genetically engineered foods through the current food additive process to ensure they are safe for human consumption, yet continues FDA discretion in applying the safety factors that are generally recognized as appropriate.

Require that unique concerns regarding genetically engineered foods be explicitly examined in the review process, a phase-out of antibiotic resistance markers, and a prohibition on known allergens and requires the FDA to conduct a public comment period of at least 30 days.

Place a temporary moratorium on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops until all required regulations put forth by this bill with regard to these crops are in effect.

Place a permanent moratorium on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops grown in an open-air environment and on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops grown in a commonly used food source.

Require the United States Department of Agriculture to establish a tracking system to regulate the growing, handling, transportation, and disposal of all pharmaceutical and industrial crops and their byproducts to prevent contamination.

Call on the National Academy of Sciences to submit to Congress a report that explores alternative methods to produce pharmaceuticals or industrial chemicals that have the advantage of being conducted in controlled production facilities and do not present the risk of contamination.

#### THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FARMER PROTECTION ACT

Agribusiness and biotechnology companies have rapidly consolidated market power at the same time as the average farmer's profits and viability have significantly declined. Policies promoted by biotech corporations have systematically acted to remove basic farmer rights enjoyed since the beginning of agriculture. These policies include unreasonable seed contracts, the intrusion into everyday farm operations, and liability burdens. The introduction of genetically engineered crops has also created obstacles for farmers, including the loss of markets and increased liability concerns. To mitigate the abuses upon farmers, a clear set of farmer rights must be established.

Furthermore, biotech companies are selling a technology that is being commercialized far

in advance of the new and unknown science of genetic engineering. Farmers may suffer from crop failures, neighboring farmers may suffer from cross pollination, increased insect resistance, and unwanted "volunteer" genetically engineered plants, and consumers may suffer from health and environmental impacts. Therefore, biotech companies should be found liable for the failures of genetically engineered crops.

This bill provides several farmer rights and protections to maintain the opportunity to farm and ensures that the creator of the technology assumes all liability:

Farmers may save seeds and seek compensation for failed genetically engineered crops.

Biotech companies may not: shift liability to farmers; nor require access to farmer's property; nor mandate arbitration; nor mandate court of jurisdiction; nor require damages beyond actual fees; nor charge more to American farmers for use of this technology, than they charge farmers in other nations, or any other unfair condition.

Seed companies must: ensure seeds labeled non-GE are accurate; provide clear instructions to reduce cross-pollination, which contaminates other fields; and inform farmers of the risks of using genetically engineered crops.

The EPA is required to evaluate the concern of Bt resistant pests and take actions necessary to prevent resistance to Bt, an important organic pesticide.

The bill prohibits genetic engineering designed to produce sterile seeds and loan discrimination based on the choice of seeds an agricultural producer uses.

The bill places all liability from negative impacts of genetically engineered organisms squarely upon the biotechnology companies that created the genetically engineered organism.

Farmers are granted indemnification to protect them from the liabilities of biotech companies.

The bill prohibits any transfer of liability away from the biotechnology companies that created the genetically engineered organism.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman DAVID L. HOBSON.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Provision: Title I, Department of Defense, Military Construction.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Ohio National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2825 West Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$12,800.00 to fund acceleration of construction of a facility to relocate the Ohio Air National Guard's 269th Combat Communications Squadron and 251st Combat Communications

Group to another part of the Springfield, Ohio, Air National Guard Base. The current 25-year-old facility is obsolete and places severe restrictions on the ability to perform equipment maintenance and conduct training operations. It does not comply with existing codes and has excessive operations and maintenance costs. The current building can be reused for other functions but cannot be made functionally adequate for the communications mission.

CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. GIOVANNI AND LINA DEL SIGNORE ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Giovanni and Lina Del Signore, who on March 9, 2008 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Giovanni and Lina both grew up in Italy, where they met, and decided to marry in the spring of 1958. Just one week after the wedding Giovanni left his hometown and wife to pursue a future in the United States. Four years later, Lina was finally able to join her husband in Michigan, and in 1963, the couple opened DiGiovanni's Pizza in Livonia, Michigan. Today the Giovannis are the proud owners of the Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center, which has been a family affair since its opening in 1988.

While their restaurant business prospered, John and Lina have made time for their loving family they have built together. Over the years, they have been blessed with four beautiful children, Constantino, Luciano, Nazzrena, and Renata. In subsequent years each of their children went on to assist their parents in continuing the tradition of quality and hospitality within the community.

Madam Speaker, this year John and Lina returned to Italy to renew their vows and celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Today, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this spectacular milestone and sending our best wishes for many more years of happiness.

ON THE BIRTH OF MADELYN CLAIRE KAPLAN AND AINSLEY ELIZABETH KAPLAN

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my friend Andrew Kaplan and his wife Danleigh Kaplan of Washington on the birth of their new twin girls. Madelyn Claire Kaplan and Ainsley Elizabeth Kaplan were born on July 27, 2008 weighing 5 pounds 2 ounces and 5 pounds 8 ounces respectively. Madelyn and Ainsley have been born into a loving home where they will be raised by parents who are devoted to their well-being and bright future.

I am so excited for this new addition to the Kaplan family. On behalf of my wife Roxanne,

and our entire family, we want to wish Andrew, Danleigh, Madelyn, and Ainsley all the best.

#### THANK YOU FOUNDATION

#### HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Thank You Foundation of Lebanon, Ohio. The Thank You Foundation is an all volunteer, non-profit organization whose stated mission is to show appreciation and express gratitude for those who have served in the United States Armed Forces both past and present.

The Thank You Foundation was created by John Guinn, a veteran of the United States Army and the organization's current President. John's inspiration came from his mother, who worked tirelessly for the Am Vets Organization and served as President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Post 24, in Dayton, Ohio. John's mother Juanita believed that gratitude and appreciation for soldiers and veterans should always be a priority and that without exception our support and respect should be presented publicly.

The Thank You Foundation provides an array of support for our soldiers and veterans. This includes sending care packages to active duty personnel serving overseas; providing resume and job coaching services to veterans and their families; and visiting veterans in care facilities. The Thank You Foundation is currently spearheading a large project to construct a Mobile Health Unit for use by the Veterans Affairs Cincinnati Medical Center. Once completed the mobile unit will travel the Cincinnati region and act as a one-stop center for veterans to enroll for care, receive initial examinations, and have access to mental health counseling. Just recently, The Thank You Foundation visited Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where they helped entertain and bring encouragement to the children of wounded veterans.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing all the amazing volunteers from The Thank You Foundation who continually lend their time to give so much to our men and women in the Armed Forces who preserve our Freedom.

#### RECOGNIZING JUDGE RAMONA ROBERTS

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Judge Ramona Roberts as she retires as a Flint District Court judge. A celebration is planned for August 9th to honor Judge Roberts in Flint, Michigan.

Ramona Roberts graduated from Flint Northern High School in 1964 determined to become an attorney. She attended Flint Junior College, now Mott Community College, and graduated from Michigan State University with

high honors. She obtained her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from University of Toledo—College of Law in 1980.

Before returning to her hometown of Flint, Judge Roberts spent time working in Ohio completing legal research. Back in Michigan she spent several years working for Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, UAW Legal Services and as a judicial assistant to former Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Earl E. Borradaile. She entered private practice sharing office space with LoLanda R. Johnson and the soon to be named Chief Genesee County Circuit Judge Archie L. Hayman.

She successfully ran for Judge of the 68th District Court in 1992 because she wanted to bring a woman's perspective to the bench. She has served the people of Flint in this capacity since then. In 1992 she was elected by the highest number of votes for any Flint District Court judge and has been reelected twice, unopposed. In addition to her judicial duties, Judge Roberts has also served as the Financial Secretary of the Judicial Council National Bar Association and in 2002 she was President of the Michigan District Judges Association. She is the past President of the Boys and Girls Club of Flint and their learning center is named in her honor.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Judge Ramona Roberts the best as she enters this new phase of her life. The 68th District Court and the people of Flint are losing a wonderful public servant and a diligent legal mind with her retirement.

#### REMEMBERING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE

#### HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge and remember the 55th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice and to remember the more than 474,000 Allied troops who lost their lives defending our freedom and liberty.

On June 25, 1950, the North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th parallel in blatant contravention of international law and aggression against South Korean democracy. Under the guise of a counter-attack, the North Korean Army struck on the early Sunday morning behind a firestorm of artillery. The North Korean army advanced quickly and eventually gained control of nearly 90 percent of the peninsula. After days of bloodshed, South Korean and Allied troops pushed North Korean forces back beyond the 38th parallel. Then on October 8, 1950, Chinese forces joined efforts with North Korean troops. Fighting continued for the next two years, and both sides struggled until ultimately ended in a stalemate. By July 27, 1953, a ceasefire was established at the front line which by that time was again the 38th parallel. After three years of full scale fighting, tens of thousands of allied troops and South Korean civilians had died.

Today, South Korea and the United States share a deep and abiding commitment to uphold the ideals of freedom, democracy, justice, and human rights.

Madam Speaker, today many people refer to the Korean War as the "Forgotten War,"

but we cannot forget the sacrifice of our American service men and women. I ask my colleagues to rise with me in remembering the courage and sacrifice of those lost.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, as a leader on earmark reform among House Republicans, I am committed to honoring House Republican rules that provide for greater transparency. The Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriation Act contains the following funding that I requested:

Requesting Member: Rep. ZACH WAMP.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Military Construction, Army National Guard.

Legal Name Requesting Entity: Tennessee National Guard.

Address: 3041 Sidco Drive, Nashville, TN.

Description of Request: \$10,372,000 for the construction of a new Army National Guard Readiness Center to replace the inadequate Readiness Center that was constructed in 1954. The existing facility has numerous health and safety issues as well as significant electrical code issues, and ADA violations. The new facility will house the 20th Troop Command, and the Company Headquarters of the 1175th Transportation Company. This project is in the Army National Guard's Fiscal Year 2012 Future Year Defense Plan.

#### H. CON. RES. 361, A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF IRENA SENDLER

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as an original co-sponsor and strong supporter of House Concurrent Resolution 361, a resolution which commemorates the life of Irena Sendler, a woman whose courage and selflessness saved the lives of thousands of Polish citizens from Nazi brutality during the Holocaust.

I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY of Illinois, for introducing this legislation, as well as the 63 other bipartisan Members of Congress for their co-sponsorship of H. Con. Res. 361.

This important resolution commemorates the work of Irena Sendler, a Polish woman who dedicated her life to saving 2,500 Jewish children from Poland's Warsaw Ghetto and Nazi extermination during the Holocaust. As an early activist during World War II, Sendler joined Zegota, an underground movement that provided a safe haven for Jews who would otherwise be sent to death camps throughout Europe. In addition, Sendler built strong connections in Warsaw's Welfare Department that enabled her to help ferry Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto.