

serves as director of marketing and communications. She is an active member and ambassador of the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce. Sharon is also a member of the American Heart Association Board, among a myriad of other civic and community involvement.

Past WISE Award winners have served in a variety of ways, but they are united by the long-lasting impact they have made on their community. Their service and community involvement continues to inspire younger generations.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize all of the WISE honorees for their outstanding service and congratulate them on their awards. Thank you, ladies, for helping make our community and country a better place.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA TO END ITS CRACKDOWN IN TIBET

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this important resolution. On Monday, activists spread a huge banner across the Golden Gate Bridge reading "One World. One Dream. Free Tibet." I think we can all learn from these powerful words. China's crackdown on the Tibetan people has reminded us that human rights violations are an all too common part of life under Chinese rule.

As a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, I believe China must engage in an open dialogue with the Dalai Lama that respects the independent national identity of the Tibetan people. However, China's violent oppression of these peaceful protestors only shows their refusal to reach a solution to this crisis. Additionally, China has refused to end its support for the Government of Sudan, continuing to invest in its corrupt leaders. Unfortunately, China's support has helped prolong the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

We cannot expect China to lead the international community by hosting the Olympic games when it continues to show a lack of respect for fundamental human rights. Our President and all American travelers must seriously reflect on whether to support the Beijing Olympic games in any way because our country must never support those who stand in the way of peace and freedom.

KC-135 AIR REFUELING TANKERS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the Air Force's recent decision to award Northrop Grumman and its partner, European Aeronautic Defense and Space, EADS, the \$40 billion contract to replace the KC-135 air refueling tankers. The Air Force chose against a Boeing team that included Connecticut-based Pratt & Whitney as the engine supplier.

After the contract was awarded, the Connecticut congressional delegation requested a briefing from the Air Force on the source selection process and learned that the two competitors were essentially on par in their bid to win the contract. By all objective measures there was no clear winner, and so the contract award and all the American jobs associated with it were ultimately given to Northrop-EADS for seemingly subjective reason by unidentified personnel within the Air Force. That begs the question: why did the tie not go to the home team?

The Air Force was unable or unwilling to delve into extensive detail as to why Boeing lost the award. Boeing filed a protest with the General Accountability Office shortly after it lost the bid.

What I find particularly troubling in this case is that the Air Force—despite the \$40 billion price tag—is not required and does not consider U.S. jobs or the economy in its decision-making. Even more disconcerting is the fact that the Air Force does not seem to be concerned with the security risks of having foreign companies and their employees work on such a major defense project.

Our national economy and our national security are significantly affected by this decision. We have a responsibility to take all the potential consequences into account and in addition, examine the international context in which this decision is being made. The fact is that the impact of this contract will not occur in a vacuum.

For example, the Office of the United States Trade Representative is aggressively challenging in the World Trade Organization, WTO, the millions of dollars in European government subsidies that Airbus—EADS is its parent company—is receiving. The United States accuses Airbus of taking advantage of "launch aid"—grants and loans at unfairly favorable rates. And so, during a recent hearing, U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab told the Senate Finance Committee that the USTR had briefed the Air Force some time ago about the pending U.S. trade case against Airbus at the WTO. Nevertheless, Air Force officials told the Connecticut delegation there is nothing in their rules that call for them to consider the dispute. They ignored it, just as they ignored concerns over their decision's effect on the economy and the likely off-shoring of good paying jobs and our defense industrial base.

Madam Speaker, I believe that this decision will have a deep, long-term negative impact on the aerospace industry and supporting industries in this county, which are so critical to both our national security and our economy. At a time when our Nation faces a recession and a rising unemployment rate, it is wrong-headed to award such a major contract to another nation rather than utilize our own skilled workers and keep scarce resources here at home. The decision will not only continue but also accelerate the erosion of our industrial base and skilled workforce—jeopardizing both our national security and economic prosperity.

Indeed, Connecticut alone stands to lose thousands of jobs at Pratt & Whitney, along with many more from small vendors and suppliers who would have benefited from the award. For Pratt & Whitney's Middletown operations, this news is especially hard to bear, for the company had been planning to use the tanker award to transition away from the old C-17 engine systems.

Labor leaders, businesses, policy experts and others agree that the Air Force made the wrong decision. Organizations such as the Center for Security Policy argue that awarding the contract to an international consortium threatens U.S. national security. And they are joined by organizations like the AFL-CIO and International Association of Machinists in opposing the award.

Finally, I would like to point out that this contract has no contingency plan for dealing with potential cost overruns and schedule delays—problems currently facing the Marine One presidential helicopter program. Defense projects that have been outsourced to foreign countries have experienced significant delays and excessive cost overruns. The Pentagon recently acknowledged that the current helicopter contract awarded to Lockheed Martin and its British-Italian Partner, AugustaWestland-Finmeccanica, is significantly over budget—\$11.2 billion, up from an initial estimate of \$6.1 billion—and will breach the cost threshold set by Congress.

I am deeply concerned by the fact that, like the Marine One contract, the Air Force has given almost no consideration to the myriad security and economic implications underlying the award of a multi-billion dollar contract to a foreign company. It is déjà vu all over again with the American worker, taxpayer and military likely to come out on the losing end.

IN HONOR OF THE 2007 SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, as the Sacramento River Cats 2008 home opener approaches, I rise in tribute of their 2007 season in which they won the Pacific Coast League and the Triple-A Championship. The River Cats capped their season off in impressive fashion winning 7 straight playoff games to clinch the title. Upon sweeping the New Orleans Zephyrs to win the Pacific Coast League championship, Sacramento laid their claim as outright Triple-A champions by defeating the Richmond Braves in the second annual Bricktown Showdown, a one game playoff between the Pacific Coast Champion and the International League Champion. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting the triumphant 2007 Sacramento River Cats.

The River Cats remarkable playoff run began when they clinched the Pacific Coast League Southern Division by finishing the regular season with a record of 84-60. Despite falling behind two games to none against Salt Lake City in the playoff's first round, the River Cats came back to win the next three games. Using that positive momentum, the River Cats quickly beat the New Orleans Zephyrs in three games, winning the Pacific Coast League title for the third time in 5 years. The series final game was seen before a spirited and sellout crowd of 14,414 fans at Sacramento's Raley Field.

The 2007 Sacramento River Cats exuded resilience in the face of adversity. Despite being a revolving door that allowed their parent affiliate, Major League Baseball's Oakland A's, to replenish their injured roster, the River

Cats overcame more than 180 roster changes to win the championship. This meant that they accomplished the feat by receiving contributions from numerous and sometimes unlikely sources. No one epitomized this more than Nick Blasi, who spent much of the season with Class-A Stockton before becoming a playoff catalyst and the Pacific Coast League's Series MVP. Blasi hit a remarkable .457 in the play-off.

Throughout this roster shuffle, every member of the 2007 River Cats demonstrated outstanding commitment to team play and hard work. Manager Tony DeFrancesco once again was the steady mentor for his young and ever changing roster that featured some of baseball's brightest prospects who are destined to become the stars of tomorrow. The roster was anchored by contributions from now major leaguers: Daric Barton, Kurt Suzuki and Santiago Casilla, as well as prospects Jason Perry, J.J. Furmaniak and Brad Knox.

Under the leadership of President and CEO Art Savage the River Cats players reaffirmed the front offices commitment to the people of Sacramento. On the Opening Day of the season, the River Cats unveiled their Mario Encarnacion Humanitarian Award which will annually honor a young student athlete who shows a commitment to his or her teammates and classmates. Furthermore, the River Cats Foundation has been providing support to Sacramento nonprofits that assist with youth and family activities. The River Cats commitment to the community was reciprocated by the Sacramento fans, as the River Cats led the Pacific Coast League in attendance for an astounding 8th year in a row. Around 710,000 fans attended River Cats 71 home contests this year, and since beginning play at Raley Field in 2000, the River Cats have drawn over 6,000,000 fans.

Madam Speaker, as the River Cats prepare for another successful season, I am honored to pay tribute to the many hard-working men and women of the River Cats organization who brought so much joy and pride to the people of Sacramento. Their successes are highly commendable. I ask all my colleagues to join one in celebrating the River Cats 2007 championship season.

PAYING THE PRICE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, the time has come to recognize the effects of climate change on the Caribbean community; I want to enter into the RECORD editorials from the New York CaribNews for March 4, 2008 and March 11, 2008, respectively, "Paying the Price for Climate Change" and "Deal with Climate Change."

The Caribbean community countries (CARICOM), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other Least Developed Countries (LCD's) are experiencing the serious effect of climate change even though they contribute the least to the problem and have the least capacity to adapt to the new conditions created.

CARICOM Member States are being forced to divert resources from important develop-

ment initiatives such as health, food, education and critical infrastructure issues to adapt to the damages being caused by the climate change. Some of the major effects being experienced include sea-level rise, increasingly severe hurricanes, drought and water scarcity, coral bleaching and declining fish stocks.

CARICOM is asking developed countries to take immediate action to help counteract the effects of climate change and to increase funding over and above traditional official development assistance. The United Nations has been requested to assist specifically with disaster preparedness.

I encourage the International Community to mobilize to help the Caribbean protect its precious beautiful environment as a legacy for all mankind.

DEAL WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

REGION OUTLINES WISHES TO U.N.—HOW INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN HELP CARICOM STATES

(By Tony Best)

Citing their own high vulnerability CARICOM nations have called on the international community to help them deal with the costly impact of climate change.

What the countries, which include Antigua, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica Grenada, Haiti, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Vincent, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago want the United Nations system to do is to help them cope with disaster preparedness.

This means high-priced insurance to aid in recovering losses due to the fall-out from climate change while aiding in risk management and climate monitoring, among other things.

CARICOM's shopping list of needs, will, was presented to the U.N. General Assembly by Dr. Christopher Hackett, Barbados' U.N. Ambassador, who in an address on behalf of the entire region complained that although an "unfortunate reality" was that Caribbean nations and other Small Island Developing States, (SIDS), as well as the world's least developed countries, (LDCs), contributed "the least to the problem" they were "confronted with the most serious challenges" associated with climate change.

Just as important, Dr. Hackett told a special session in New York that was devoted to the issue that the smaller and poorer nations "possess the least capacity to adapt" and meet the challenges.

"CARICOM member-states are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts including sea-level rise, increasingly severe hurricanes and other extreme weather events, such as drought and water scarcity, coral bleaching, and declining fish stocks," he explained.

That is why Caribbean states wanted U.N. agencies, funds and programs to "ensure that their activities in the area of climate change in our region are fully supportive of national and regional efforts to address these specific challenges."

Specifically, they appealed to the U.N. to: * Assist CARICOM in "incorporating climate change adaptation concerns in national development plans and strategies"

* Provide technical and other forms of assistance to CARICOM so they can "strengthen" the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center and other "co-ordination mechanisms."

* Back plans designed to promote information sharing "on adaptation technologies, development and transfer between exchange developing countries;" including the exchange of ideas on "best practices."

* Help CARICOM undertake the monitoring of climate while expanding the ability

to assess the region's vulnerability and to carry out impact studies.

* Give both "technical and financial" support in such areas as disaster preparedness, early warning, risk management, disaster mitigation and disaster recovery and rehabilitation.

* Develop new financial arrangements to support "adaptation measures" while providing insurance coverage to small island states so they "recoup losses due to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise."

As Dr. Hackett explained it, "climate change of very damaging proportions and which poses a very serious danger to the very existence of our countries is already occurring and the longer the international community postpones the implementation of the necessary greenhouse gas emissions cuts, the more adaptation will be required by SIDS and at much greater costs." The region complained that the island-nations and coastal states in the region had "been forced to divert scarce resources" from key development initiatives" such as health, education, food and the provision of critical infrastructures to meet the demands of climate change adaptation.

"Surely," he added, "this has major implications for achieving sustainable development goals."

PAYING THE PRICE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

HOW CARIBBEAN NATIONS ARE FACING SERIOUS CHALLENGES

It is an unfortunate reality that CARICOM countries and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), all of whom contribute the least to the problem, are confronted with the most serious challenges associated with climate change; yet we possess the least capacity to adapt. Climate change of very damaging proportions and which poses a very serious danger to the very existence of our countries is already occurring and the longer the international community postpones the implementation of the necessary greenhouse gas emission cuts, the more adaptation will be required by SIDS and at much greater costs.

Negotiations around the four themes agreed to at Bali—Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance and Technology—should not prevent advancement of, or immediate action under any theme. For CARICOM adaptation, finance and technology are not only required in 2009 or post-2012, they are urgently needed now.

CARICOM Member States have been forced to divert scarce resources from key developmental initiatives (e.g. health, education, food, provision of critical infrastructure etc) to climate change adaptation activities. Surely this has major implications for achieving sustainable development goals.

The inadequacy of financing for adaptation activities in developing countries is a major failing of the entire international system. As stated in the 2007 UNDP Human Development Report "the current framework provides the equivalent of an aid sponge for mopping up during a flood". That report estimates that new additional adaptation finance of at least US\$86 billion a year will be required by 2015 to meet the most basic and pressing adaptation needs of developing countries. Expressed in other terms this figure represents a mere one tenth of what developed countries currently mobilize for military expenditure.

While increasing emphasis is being paid to private-public partnerships the role of international cooperation remains essential and must be enhanced. CARICOM urges developed countries to take immediate action to significantly scale-up the level of financing devoted to adaptation through the provision