

THE GREEN SCHOOLS ACT OF 2008,
H.R. 6065

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand here today to introduce legislation with Congressman CHRISTOPHER CARNEY (D-PA) which will provide healthier and more productive environments for students.

As energy prices soar and state budgets shrink, schools around the country need more assistance than ever to keep afloat. Congress can provide a commonsense way to help schools achieve fiscal sustainability by helping them to reach energy sustainability through energy efficient and other green improvements.

According to the independent U.S. Green Buildings Council which established a nationally recognized green school certification program, the LEED rating system, green schools on average save \$100,000 per year. This is enough to hire two new teachers, buy 500 new computers or purchase 5,000 new textbooks. In fact, if all new school construction or school renovations went green, energy savings alone would total \$20 billion over the next ten years.

Green schools also provide better environments for our children, improving student achievement and health. Students at LEED certified schools perform twenty percent better on reading tests and twenty-four percent better on math tests than the average student. There are nearly forty percent fewer asthma occurrences at green schools, contributing to the decreased number of sick days students experience.

Providing green school improvements are extremely cost effective. Construction costs average less than \$3 per square foot more to build, yet save roughly \$12 per square foot in energy and water savings.

Some schools are already investing in green school technology to take advantage of all the benefits it provides. I am proud that a school in my Congressional District of northern Illinois, Thomas Middle School, installed a one-kilowatt solar array on its roof in November, 2007 with a \$10,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. The photovoltaic panel produced enough energy to date to offset more than 310 pounds of carbon dioxide. The output so far is equivalent to the energy needed to power 3 homes for one day, or operate one TV for 1,084 hours.

Thomas Middle School teachers also use the solar array data to help teach students about the importance of renewable energy. Classes use the information from the solar panels in experiments about energy conservation and environmental protection.

I applaud Thomas Middle School Principal Tom O'Rourke and science department chair Jay Bingaman for taking such an initiative to improve the school, environment and education of their students.

We are introducing the Green Schools Act to encourage schools all around the country to follow the example of Thomas Middle School. This legislation provides up to \$10,000 in matching grants for schools to undertake green construction and improvement projects. The bill would also reauthorize the Qualified

Zone Academy bonds program, which is used to fund renovations and repairs at schools in low-income neighborhoods. The bill would require that any improvements or rehabilitations be energy efficient. Since its establishment in 1997, the QZAB program has provided nearly \$1.7 billion for school improvements projects.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill to improve the health and education of our children and provide financial security to schools.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419, FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, I have supported and cosponsored legislation to allow farmers who grow fruit and vegetables for processing to opt out of farm programs on an acre for acre basis without limitation. That legislation would reduce farm program costs and improve the environment by allowing more extensive crop rotations. I am very pleased that the conference report takes a step toward that proposal by establishing a pilot project to allocate 75,000 acres of new authority for production of fruit and vegetables for processing in specified Midwestern states. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has broad discretion in administration of this pilot project to meet the objectives of the pilot project. The conference report does not specify a procedure for allocation of the pilot project acreage or other administrative matters, such as re-allocation of unused acreage allocations among states. However, the USDA is clearly required to establish rules to assure that this additional fruit and vegetable production authority will not be abused. Only fruit and vegetables under contract for processing are to be produced under this authority.

The USDA is to assure that all of the crop produced is delivered to a processor and that the quantity of crop delivered under the original contract (the contract in existence upon Farm Service Agency certification) does not exceed the quantity that is produced on the contracted acreage. Additionally, the effects of the pilot project and fruit and vegetable restrictions on the specialty crop industry, both fresh and processed, are to be evaluated. These restrictions are intended to ensure protection of the objectives of the pilot project, not to compel food waste or excessive regulatory burden. Further, the conference report includes an important statement of policy indicating that in the next recalculation of base acreage, fruit and vegetable production will not cause a reduction in farmer's base acreage. While this is a timid step in reducing restrictions on production of fruits and vegetables, I commend this step in the right direction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 307, I was detained in traffic while returning to the Capitol. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN R. DEHAVEN ON BEING NAMED 2008 VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor LTC John R. DeHaven of Findlay, OH, on being named 2008 Veteran of the Year at the Armed Forces Day Celebration on Saturday, May 17, 2008, in Findlay, OH.

A graduate of Findlay High School, John was drafted in 1941 into the Infantry and taught trainees to use rifles in Texas Training Camp. In 1942, he passed the exam for the Army Air Corps and took his Basic Flight Training in Randolph Field in San Antonio, TX. He later completed his advanced pilot training in Victoria, TX. During his training, he flew the BT-6 single engine biplane. Later in 1942, he graduated and stayed in Victoria as a flight instructor.

During World War II, John was assigned to the Chinese-American Composite Wing to fight against the Japanese. Before his move to China, he trained in Mitchell Field on Long Island. His mission was to fly P-40's from Karachi, India to Kunming, China. While in Karachi, John trained American and Chinese Pilots for the 5th Fighter Group.

As the struggle in China against the Japanese intensified, John showed incredible bravery. His unit was constantly re-deployed and they eventually ended up in Zhejiang, a mountainous area where flights were incredibly dangerous.

His main mission was to strike the Japanese, often going after eight to ten aircraft per mission. He also escorted B-25 bombers to Japan. On one mission, John was returning to base and got separated from his squadron. It got dark and John was lost and running out of fuel. He had to fire his machine gun over a town, causing all the town's lights to go out. He then saw the searchlight in the distance and followed it to base.

As the war drew to a close, John returned to the United States to train pilots in Texas. When the war ended, he remained in the Air Force Reserve and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After his retirement, he remained active with the military, serving as a liaison for the Air Force Academy interviewing and recommending Academy applicants.

I am honored to join the chorus of well-wishers as the State of Ohio again recognizes his distinguished service to Ohio's veterans. He is a shining example of our mutual responsibility to serve those who devoted their lives to protecting the freedoms we enjoy.