

I had the privilege of visiting Wally at his store and it was an amazing experience. His enthusiasm and passion were contagious. He was truly an ambassador for the community of Frankenmuth and the State of Michigan, throughout our country and the world. It is hard to think of Christmas without thinking about Wally Bronner. BRONNER'S CHRISTmas WONDERLAND is truly one of a kind and provides visitors with the opportunity to experience different cultures and Christmas traditions from around the world.

Wally Bronner was born and raised in Frankenmuth, MI. He started a sign painting business while in high school and then decorated window displays for a local hardware store. Several merchants approached him about providing them with Christmas decorations and that was the beginning of what has now become BRONNER'S CHRISTmas WONDERLAND, which sits on 45 acres of land with a shipping department that is the size of 5½ football fields and a chapel.

Wally had a deep faith in God and was passionate about giving back to the community. His generosity has been felt in Frankenmuth and beyond. The Walter and Irene Bronner and Family Foundation, which he founded, has made many special things happen for the community, including a new auditorium at Frankenmuth High School and "Operation Sparkle" that provided the equipment needed to clean up Saginaw.

BRONNER'S CHRISTmas WONDERLAND will continue to delight people of all ages across the world, but Wally's presence will surely be missed. I want to express my deepest sympathies to his wife Irene Bronner and his children Carla Spletzer, Maria Sutorik and Wayne Bronner. Frankenmuth, the State of Michigan and Christmas lovers everywhere are forever indebted to Wally Bronner.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4847. An act to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4847. An act to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. DODD):

S. 2822. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal a section of that Act relating to exportation or importation of natural gas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1437

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1437, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

S. 1963

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1963, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow bonds guaranteed by the Federal home loan banks to be treated as tax exempt bonds.

S. 2369

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2369, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide that certain tax planning inventions are not patentable, and for other purposes.

S. 2485

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2485, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2709

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2709, a bill to increase the criminal penalties for illegally reentering the United States and for other purposes.

S. 2717

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2717, a bill to provide for enhanced Federal enforcement of, and State and local assistance in the enforcement of, the immigration laws of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2719

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2719, a bill to provide that Executive Order 13166 shall have no force or effect, and to prohibit the use of funds for certain purposes.

S. 2766

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2766, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to

address certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a recreational vessel.

S. 2774

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2774, a bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit and district judges, and for other purposes.

S. 2785

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2785, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Security Act to preserve access to physicians' services under the Medicare program.

S. 2821

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2821, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the limited continuation of clean energy production incentives and incentives to improve energy efficiency in order to prevent a downturn in these sectors that would result from a lapse in the tax law.

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2821, supra.

S. RES. 495

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 495, a resolution designating April 2008 as "Financial Literacy Month".

AMENDMENT NO. 4382

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4382 proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

AMENDMENT NO. 4384

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4384 proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon

emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

## AMENDMENT NO. 4387

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4387 proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

## AMENDMENT NO. 4399

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4399 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

## AMENDMENT NO. 4406

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4406 proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

## AMENDMENT NO. 4414

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4414 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

## AMENDMENT NO. 4419

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4419 proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

## AMENDMENT NO. 4421

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4421 proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

## AMENDMENT NO. 4423

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4423 proposed to H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. DODD):

S. 2822. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal a section of that Act relating to exportation or importation of natural gas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, along with Senator CLINTON, Senator LIEBERMAN, and Senator DODD, I am introducing legislation that will correct a fundamental wrong perpetrated in the 2005 that allowed Federal bureaucracy to override local control by placing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the primary role of siting Liquefied Natural Gas, LNG, terminals. That action, taken in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, took what had historically always been a state government responsibility—the permitting of LNG storage terminals—and handed it off to a Federal agency in Washington, DC—FERC.

At the time, 45 Senators went on record saying that cutting State siting agencies out of the LNG siting process was a bad idea and the history of FERC's actions since then have borne us out.

Right now, in Oregon, we have three separate LNG proposals pending before FERC. Together, they would have a combined capacity of 3.3 billion cubic feet, BCF, of gas per day. Oregon and Washington, together, only use 1.33 BCF per day. Yet, FERC categorically refuses to address the basic question of whether the three proposed facilities are even needed to serve our market. FERC also refuses to consider whether any of the three publicly announced interstate pipeline proposals to bring natural gas to Oregon from the Rocky Mountains would be a better option. In fact, FERC asserts that it's not its job to determine which, if any, of these proposals best serves our market. FERC also asserts that it has no obligation to determine which of these proposals—and the hundreds of miles of pipelines that would cut through forest lands, farms, vineyards, and residential neighborhoods to connect them to the interstate pipeline system—has the least environmental impact to our State and our citizens' private property.

To make matters worse, FERC's insistence that each of these projects is a separate, unrelated project has produced a bureaucratic nightmare of competing public meetings, scoping hearings, and filing requirements for each project. Letters from local officials to FERC asking legitimate questions about impacts on local land use don't get answered. They simply get filed, because that's what the FERC process is set up to do—to process paper and not address real concerns.

The end result is a public process in which the public has no due process and no assurance that their concerns will be heard, much less addressed.

At every turn, FERC's LNG siting process in Oregon has defied common sense and public accountability. It is a process divorced from the real world questions that need to be answered. The situation in other parts of the country is no different.

It's time to restore the local and State role in these critical decisions about in whose backyard a pipeline or