EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GRANT DICKSON LANG

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Grant Dickson Lang of Gladstone, Missouri. Grant is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1155, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Grant has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Grant has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Grant Dickson Lang for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING DENVER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. BRALEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by Denver High School in Denver, Iowa by being named a 2008 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School.

The program honors elementary, middle and high schools that are superior academically or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. Students at Denver High School ranked in the top 10 percent on state tests.

Denver High School is one of five Iowa Schools receiving the honor this year. This a true credit to the staff and teachers who continually challenge students to want more and be better. Denver students can earn more than 30 hours of college credit before graduating high school.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Denver High School, its former Principal Paul Gebel, and its current Principal Tom Oppelt. Earning this award shows strength and persistence and I am proud to serve this fine school and its students in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO KYLE BAKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kyle Baker, who was named the national champion in sheet metal fabrication at the 2008 Skills USA/VICA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

Kyle Baker is a senior at Jefferson-Scranton High School where he excelled in industrial technology class for the past two years. In 2007, he placed fourth in the same competition and was the Iowa state SkillsUSA/VICA champion the last two years. Kyle is the sixth student from Jefferson-Scranton High School to be a national champion in the last eight years.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. This organization serves more than 300,000 students and instructors annually and served more than 9.6 million members since its founding in 1965.

I congratulate Kyle Baker on his well-deserved award, and I'm certain that he will continue to excel in all future endeavors. It is a great honor to represent Kyle, his parents, and his teachers in the United States Congress, and I wish him the best.

GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S.J. Res. 45, Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. As an original cosponsor of the companion legislation reported by the House Judiciary Committee and as co-chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, I am very pleased that Congress is taking this historic and much-needed step forward to enact legislation implementing a framework for overall management of our precious natural resource: the Great Lakes basin.

The Great Lakes make up 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater and 90 percent of the surface freshwater of the United States. The Basin provides its surrounding states with major economic benefits, some of which include tourism, manufacturing jobs, shipping, and clean drinking water. It also provides habitat for millions of breeding mallards, other ducks, and migratory waterfowl, and supports a diversity of species and ecosystems vital to our natural world. We in Congress, as well as state and local policymakers, have attempted to address the potential threat low water levels in the Great Lakes will have in the future on our national treasure. In 2000, the Congress directed the governors of the 8 Great Lakes States to negotiate a water management agreement. In 2005, the governors completed negotiations, which included coordination with the Canadian Premiers in Ontario and Quebec. Since then, the State Legislatures in all 8 states have agreed to the Compact, and the governors have signed the legislation. On August 4, 2008 I proudly took part as Governor Granholm signed the Compact after it was ratified by the Michigan Legislature. In the Senate, our senior Senator, CARL LEVIN, provided extraordinary leadership to get the bill passed through that body. Today, with the active support of members representing the Great Lakes' states, we will vote on this legislation in the House.

The Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact will mandate a general ban on new diversions of water from the Basin with limited exceptions for communities near the Basin meeting rigorous standards. All of the Great Lakes' states and their communities will have to comply with new standards and all will be subject to consistent decision-making and appeals processes. The Compact also calls on Great Lakes' states to develop regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency. One of the most important aspects of the Compact, it is designed in a way that will ensure the Great Lakes Basin continues to provide a solid economic base for its surrounding states.

Mr. Speaker, as I have recently noted, the Great Lakes Basin deserves much more attention than it has gotten over the past 8 years from the Bush Administration. One of the ways we protect the Great Lakes is by providing its governing agencies with the money they need to do their job. With my support, the House passed last week the Great Lakes Legacy Reauthorization Act which, among other things, authorized $150 million a year for 5 years to clean up toxic pollutants contaminating the Lakes. Another way we will serve the best interest of the Great Lakes is by moving forward with the Great Lakes Compact and, with the help of our future President—hopefully one from Illinois who understands the importance of protecting the Great Lakes—put the Basin on a path of sustained water levels over the long-term.

Some have expressed concerns about the Great Lakes Compact, such as whether the Compact will subject Great Lakes waters to international trade agreements, what the legal and practical implications are of exempting diversions of water in containers less than 5.7 gallons, and whether the designation of water as a ''product'' would subject state actions restricting diversions to claims under the World Trade Organization. These considerations and questions were raised as states legislatures were deliberating on approval of the Compact. The acknowledged need for action now—and not some time in the future—coupled with the reassurances of language already in the Compact prompted all 8 Great Lakes states to ratify the Compact. Today, the House must respond with the same urgency; we must not let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my colleagues from the Great Lakes' delegation who have worked so hard on the Compact over the years, and urge them to join me in voting ''yes'' on S.J. Res. 45.

● This ''bullet'' symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.