life for New York farmers,'' stated American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman. New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker said Lincoln leaves ''a legacy on agricultural policy that will remain for decades.''

Prior to becoming president in 1994, Lincoln was state Farm Bureau vice president for nine years and also served as the county president for Ontario County Farm Bureau.

Lincoln owns and operates Linholm Dairy LLC with his wife, Anne, and their children, Mike Lincoln and Julie Pellett.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION TAX ACT of 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation that will extend critical tax credits for renewable energy and for American families while not adding to the federal deficit.

As cochair of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus, I am especially pleased to see the House take action on needed tax credits for renewable energy. The Production Tax Credit, PTC, in particular has been instrumental in promoting the creation of a renewable energy industry. An extended PTC will provide more market certainty and we must have an extension of this key tax credit before the current credit expires at the end of 2008.

I must add that, while I am pleased that the bill provides a three year extension of the PTC for most renewable energy sources, I am concerned that it only provides a one-year extension for wind energy. Wind is a very promising renewable energy source and a one year extension will not be as helpful for the industry. I will continue to lead the fight to extend the wind energy PTC for more than one year.

The bill also extends the Investment Tax Credit, ITC, for solar energy, qualified fuel cells, and microturbines for eight years. The ITC will help companies with initial investment costs in expanding these renewable energy sources across the country.

Rising gas prices are forcing many Coloradans to dip into their savings just to make ends meet. This bill will help families reduce their fuel bills by providing $3,000 in tax credits toward the purchase of fuel-efficient, plug-in hybrid vehicles. It will also help address long-term fuel cost concerns by expanding production of homegrown fuels and incentives for the installation of E–85 pumps for consumers to fill up flex-fuel vehicles.

This bill also will support advances in energy efficiency and conservation in commercial and residential buildings, as well as energy efficient appliances.

And this bill will also help Colorado businesses stay competitive by extending the research and development tax credit for one year. While again I would like to see this key tax credit extended for more than one year, this is a step in the right direction.

To help with the hard economic times that Coloradans are facing, this bill includes several other key tax credits, including expanding the child tax credit for some of our neediest families, allowing teachers to take a deduction for purchasing classroom supplies out of their own pocket, and providing additional support for families paying for college education.

Although this bill includes several important provisions and I will vote for it, I am disappointed that it does not include provisions that passed in the Senate and in previous House bills—particularly those related to clean renewable energy bonds, CREBS, and the Secure Rural Schools program.

CREBs provide a critical tool for public power providers and electric cooperatives to invest in renewable energy. This is a unique tool for Colorado's rural coops and municipal utilities and I hope to see us address this issue before the session ends. CREBS provisions were in the version of the bill originally passed by the House, but in the Senate they were revised. My understanding is that is the reason they have been omitted entirely from the bill now before us. My hope is that further discussions between the House and Senate will resolve this impasse.

The ''Secure Rural Schools'' program, originally authorized in 2000, was designed to establish stability to certain annual payments made to States and counties containing National Forest System lands and certain public domain lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Since 1908, 25 percent of Forest Service revenues, such as those from timber sales, mineral resources and grazing fees, have been returned to the States in which national forest lands are located. Because receipts from timber sales have fluctuated over time, the 106th Congress in 2000 enacted the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, Public Law 106–393, to address this instability by providing funding for a period of seven years, but requiring reauthorization after that time.

While Colorado is not among the States receiving the largest payments, the program has helped some of our rural counties meet urgent needs. In fact, last year payments under the program to Colorado counties amounted to more than $6.4 million, helping to offset the costs of public schools, roads, and other needs of Colorado residents.

That is why I cosponsored legislation, H.R. 3058, to renew the program's authorization, and why I voted for that legislation when the House considered it on June 5 of this year. Unfortunately, while 218 of us voted for the bill, the final total included 193 against and thus, because it was considered under a procedure requiring two-thirds approval, the bill did not pass.

In its version of this legislation the Senate included funding for both the Secure Rural Schools program and for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes, PILT, program, which makes payments to counties across the country where certain categories of Federal lands are located. PILT is also very important to Colorado, and I strongly support funding for it—and I would have preferred to have both its funding and that for the Secure Rural Schools program included in the bill now before us.

Nonetheless, despite the lack of these provisions, this is a good bill. I hope we can move it forward and promote positive change that will benefit our families and rural communities, save consumers money, reduce air pollution, and increase reliability and energy security.

I encourage my colleagues in the House to vote for this needed legislation, and also encourage quick action in the Senate so that we may move it to President's desk.

NELSON OSTIGUY IS SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, one of the most important organizations in the district I represent in terms of providing needed service to people who deserve our help is the Southeastern Massachusetts Veterans Housing Program, Inc. This group of dedicated and compassionate individuals maintains the Veterans Transition House and the Women's Veteran Transition House. One of the things they do annually as part of their overall program is to present a Southeastern Massachusetts Veteran of the Year Award. On November 6 of this year, that award will be presented to an extremely deserving individual—Nelson Ostiguy. Mr. Ostiguy is now the Senior Executive Aide to the very able Mayor of New Bedford, Scott Lang. The leaders of the veterans program correctly describe Mr. Ostiguy as a ''behind the scenes type of person who is always there helping out but never seeking the recognition or limelight.''

I am glad that his friends, admirers and the beneficiaries of his many good works have decided to give him a little limelight whether he likes it or not. And I am especially pleased to be able to add this tribute to him so that all of my colleagues can read about him because he is a very fitting model for others to emulate.

Nelson Ostiguy joined the Marines when he was 18, and served for 4 years, including combat service in Vietnam. He was the recipient of a number of medals in recognition of his courage. After a job in the private sector, he joined the Massachusetts State Police in May 1969, and served there for 27 years, and, as in his Marine service, he received frequent decorations for his bravery and good works. Since his retirement as Lt. Colonel/Assistant Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police, he was the Associate Director of the Harvard University Police Department, put his dedication to young people to work as a substitute teacher in the school systems of New Bedford, and, again, is now an important aide to Mayor Lang.

The list of Mr. Ostiguy's affiliations is impressive, but even his resume does not convey the benefit those who know him derive from being his friends and associates. Nelson Ostiguy is an outstanding citizen who very well deserves the title of Veteran of the Year that has been bestowed upon him by his fellow veterans—which I know makes the honor particularly meaningful to him.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in celebrating the life and work of Nelson Ostiguy on this occasion of his being honored.