

remain deeply disappointed that this idea was not embraced by Secretary Paulson. I hope that the Obama administration will understand the urgency for bipartisan action to address this nation's long-term budget challenges, especially as we deal with the current financial crisis, for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 12, 2007.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Secretary, Department of the Treasury,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: As you know, Senator VOINOVICH and I reintroduced the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act in January. I wanted to follow up with you and share the enclosed letter I wrote to the president asking that the administration embrace this idea.

I think about our children and grandchildren and it is disheartening that critical issues are falling by the wayside because Congress today is so polarized. I believe that a bipartisan commission operating outside the halls of Congress that would mandate action is the answer to getting our fiscal house in order and diverting financial crisis in this country.

The SAFE Commission bill has 32 cosponsors to date. I am committed to continue working with my colleagues to enact this legislation on a matter of such importance to our nation's future.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 3, 2007.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: I read your recent comments about reaching the statutory debt limit as early as October. I have always voted for the limit increase but am seriously considering voting against it this year because of the lack of leadership by the administration in taking steps to change the country's current financial path. I truly believe that this administration has the ability to change our course.

I am not writing to you today as a Republican or a Democrat, but as a father and grandfather. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle understand the enormity of this issue and the impact that will be felt for generations to come. It's disheartening that the partisan political divide in Congress is so consuming that issues with such high stakes continue to languish.

That's why I have introduced the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act, which would establish a bipartisan commission and put everything—entitlement, tax policy, and other federal spending—on the table for review.

This administration can offer hope and start to remedy our fiscal prognosis, brightening the horizon for our children and their children. It is critical that they have all the opportunities the Greatest Generation made possible for you and me. Our grandchildren should set ambitious goals, and believe that hard work will be met by opportunity.

We have a moral obligation to address the long-term fiscal challenges ahead.

I know you are a good person and want what is best for America. With your leadership and vision, progress can be made.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 22, 2007.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: Just wanted to update you on the SAFE Commission legislation since I reintroduced the bill with Jim Cooper three weeks ago.

The measure has gained bipartisan support with over 40 cosponsors—split evenly between Democrats and Republicans from members of the Republican Study Committee to three of the four Blue Dog Coalition co-chairs I believe that support for this measure will continue to grow.

You may have read that the first baby boomer signed up for promised Social Security benefits last week. Our nation's "long term" deficit problem has arrived.

We should be concerned that last Monday the U.S. dollar hit an all-time low in the wake of a major housing recession and enormous trade deficits. We should care that the value of the dollar has been dropping against the Canadian dollar, the Euro and the Japanese yen.

What will it take for us to address these issues?

The SAFE Commission fits into what this administration claims to stand for and will ensure sound financial footing for generations to come. I have enclosed information on the bill since its reintroduction including a list of current cosponsors.

Please give serious consideration to the SAFE Commission Act.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 25, 2007.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Secretary, Department of the Treasury,
Washington DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: As meritorious as the Administration's argument is with regard to the \$21 billion in discretionary spending it is relatively insignificant compared to the massive entitlement spending problem. It is like comparing a mouse to an elephant.

Our SAFE Commission bill represents all that the Administration says it cares about, including more than 50 bipartisan cosponsors (see list).

Failing to address this issue is like driving a car toward the edge of a cliff with no brake pedal.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 1, 2007.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: I am deeply troubled that this Administration is missing an opportunity to do something so powerful for our children and grandchildren.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2007.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: As a follow up to our conversation last week about the SAFE Commission. I want you to know that Roy Blunt has also signed onto the bill.

The Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission has over 50 bipartisan cosponsors including Republican leadership in the House (see enclosed).

We are waiting for the Administration to support this effort to rein in entitlement spending.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2007.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: Enclosed is a letter I recently received from Ben Bernanke about our nation's fiscal imbalance, reiterating: "... if early and meaningful action is not taken, the U.S. economy could be seriously weakened, with future generations bearing much of the cost."

Your administration deserves credit for its work in the past to address the entitlement reform issue. Our parents told us that if at first you don't succeed, try, try again. I am asking that the SAFE Commission be that second try.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 17, 2008.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: Between July 19 and December 10, 2007, I wrote to you nine different times about the unsustainable financial path our country is on, and the bipartisan SAFE Commission as a potential way forward to rein in entitlement spending. I have respectfully asked for the administration's support because of the critical importance of taking action now.

I am disappointed that the administration is missing this opportunity to bring about a renaissance in America, giving hope to future generations and ensuring that our children and grandchildren can live in a world where hard work will be met by opportunity.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

SGI PRESIDENT DAISAKU IKEDA

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, Whereas, SGI President Dr. Daisaku Ikeda visited Chicago in 1960, witnessed the discriminatory mistreatment of an African-American boy in Lincoln Park, and made a vow in his heart, "I promise you that I will build a society truly worthy of your love and pride!"; and

Whereas, this year marks 49 years of Dr. Ikeda's dedication to the peace and happiness of all humanity through peace, culture and education; and pledge to construct a peaceful world where individuals from all walks of life feel safe and secure while developing their fullest potential for the sake of their families and the greater good of society; and

Whereas, on January 19th we honor and celebrate a noble and heroic life of Martin Luther King Jr., whose legacy was to secure not

only civil rights but human moral rights for all people as expressed in his own words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"

Whereas, 40 years after the passing of Dr. King, we witness on this day the inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama as 44th President of the United States, filled with confidence in the dream of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the prayers and efforts of countless ordinary heroes who believed that this day would one day be possible, expressed in President Obama's words, "This is your victory!"

Whereas, in my capacity as a member of the United States Congress, I would like to acknowledge these behind the scenes efforts of one such extra-ordinary hero by recognizing, SGI President Daisaku Ikeda, as an Emissary of Peace and Justice.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT
BENJAMIN KRAMER

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee will soon bid farewell to our Congressional Fellow, Benjamin Kramer, as he begins his next assignment as Special Agent for the U.S. Secret Service. Special Agent Kramer has proven himself to be an energetic and thoughtful contributor to the work of this Subcommittee, bringing with him the experience he has gained with the Secret Service and before that as a criminal investigator with the D.C. Inspector General.

Working as a member of my subcommittee staff, Ben helped the Subcommittee navigate what was often a frenetic path as we crafted our 2009 appropriations bill, and assisted in our work in overseeing the agencies and programs under our jurisdiction. In particular, Ben had lead staff responsibility for oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General.

Ben's unqualified professionalism, great sense of humor and cool head have helped our Subcommittee and the Congress address a wide range of policy and budgetary challenges. During his time with the Subcommittee, Ben researched issues for various programs, coordinated committee travel, and compiled materials on amendments. Ben also assisted in managing the database of requests to the Committee from Members of Congress, and in preparing for hearings and briefings. I am grateful for his hard work.

Special Agent Kramer has served me, this Subcommittee, and the House well. While we are sorry to see him leave, each of us on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee wishes Ben all the best as he resumes his Secret Service career, and expect to continue to see great things from him.

CONGRATULATING THE PINK
HEALS TOUR FOR BREAST CAN-
CER RESEARCH AND FOUNDER
DAVID GRAYBILL

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pink Heals Tour, which covered over 10,000 miles in 2008, to support the fight against breast cancer.

Breast cancer occurs in one out of every eight women in our country, and this cross-country tour in a decorated pink fire truck aimed to increase awareness of this disease and to raise funding for cancer research. In particular, this journey reached out to typically male-dominated organizations, such as police and fire departments, to encourage them to wear pink clothing in support of this cause. A second tour is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2009. The upcoming Pink Heals Tour will cross the United States in three pink fire trucks throughout September and October.

I am particularly proud, Madam Speaker, to recognize David Graybill, who founded the Pink Heals Tour to inspire citizens and community leaders to join in local breast cancer fundraising organizations and events. When I taught high school back home in Arizona, David was one of my students. So far, his efforts have had an enormous impact on his community and on millions of people across 21 states and 40 different cities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Pink Heals Tour and its founder, David Graybill, for their selfless work to raise awareness and support the fight against breast cancer.

HONORING THE FIRST PARISH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF SCITUATE, MA

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in recognizing the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Scituate, MA on its 375th Anniversary.

The rich spiritual tradition of the First Parish Church dates all the way back to seventeenth-century London, when the Puritan separatist, the Rev. Henry Jacob, joined with others to establish the first non-Anglican church in England. In 1624, Jacob was succeeded by the Rev. John Lothrop, who led a small congregation in worshipping secretly in taverns, homes and fields. When the Bishop of London learned of their activities, Rev. Lothrop and his followers were arrested and imprisoned in the notorious jail, the Clink.

Upon his release two years later in 1634, Rev. Lothrop and a number of his congregation left England bound for Boston, thirsting for the freedom to worship that the New World promised. On January 8, 1634, Lothrop came together with 11 other men and women to officially form the First Church of Scituate. Rev. Lothrop's distinguished lineage has included

U.S. Presidents, Supreme Court justices, diplomats and prominent businessmen and women.

It is fitting that the anniversary of the Church's founding falls so close to the day we honor Martin Luther King, Jr., the greatest champion of civil rights and equality our Nation has known. Under strong ministerial and lay leadership, the Church has maintained a steadfast commitment to worship, provided spiritual guidance to parishioners, and sounded a clarion call for justice and human dignity.

In colonial times, the Church's ministers and laity fought for religious tolerance on behalf of Quakers and Baptists. They spoke out against the shackles of slavery, and provided care for Union soldiers during the Civil War. During the 19th century, Church leaders advocated vociferously for the economic rights of workers. As an integral part of our community and the global public square, the First Parish Church of Scituate has left an indelible mark for generations to come.

On this momentous occasion, I congratulate the Church's current leader, Rev. Richard M. Stower, and its entire congregation. I wish them all the best for continued success in the years ahead.

EGMONT KEY CELEBRATING 150
YEARS OF "LIGHTING THE WAY"
INTO TAMPA BAY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, the Tampa Bay community I represent celebrated the 150th anniversary of one of the key aids to navigation on all of Florida's west coast last November, the Egmont Key Lighthouse.

The Lighthouse has a rich history and includes being destroyed once by a major hurricane, being rebuilt and staffed by a long list of dedicated keepers, being at the center of civil war intrigue, and now being home to a national wildlife refuge. Throughout its storied history it has stood tall as the only lighthouse between Key West and the Florida Panhandle and marks the entrance to Tampa Bay, one of our Nation's busiest waterways.

Because its history is so interesting Madam Speaker, I will include, following my remarks a column from the Tampa Bay Soundings newspaper by Captain Richard Johnson, the past President of the Egmont Key Alliance. He and the members of the alliance have not only worked hard to share the history of Egmont Key and the Lighthouse, but also to preserve structures on the island. Also I will include with my remarks further information about the legacy of Egmont Key from the Web site LighthouseFriends.com.

Madam Speaker, we continue to protect Egmont Key and the lighthouse, which was added to the Register of National Historic Places in 1978, by providing Federal funds to renourish the shoreline surrounding the island and by studying a way to provide a long-term solution to protect the island's original buildings.

In the meantime, the Egmont Key Lighthouse will continue its mission to ensure the safe navigation along the Gulf of Mexico and