

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF JEAN BOOTH  
MITCHELL

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 2, 2009*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Jean Booth Mitchell of Carmel, California. Jean was a remarkable woman who enlivened everybody and everything she touched. Jean passed away on January 19, 2009 at age 91, leaving the world a brighter and better place.

Jean was born in 1917 in Oakland, California, and was raised in nearby Piedmont. She received her education at the prestigious UC Berkeley, where she was a member of the sorority Delta Gamma. The university is also where she met William F. Mitchell, who she married in the Piedmont Community Church garden in 1940.

Jean had the greenest of green-thumbs. She was a member of the Piedmont Garden Club, Piedmont Beautification Foundation, and Garden Club of America. Jean was also a founder of the Carmel-by-the-Sea Garden Club and its first president. She found great fulfillment in the Club's campaign to "save" Carmel's Piccadilly Park, home to a host of rare and unique plant species. Jean's personal garden was also one of the earliest featured on the Garden Club of America website at the Smithsonian.

Though gardening was her passion, Jean also involved herself in high-end real estate. She and her family established a real-estate firm in Carmel known as The Mitchell Group. In real estate sales, Jean was described as "dynamic, convincing, and indefatigable." Before being sold to Sotheby's International Realty in 2005, the company had expanded to five offices and 140 agents.

Madam Speaker, Jean Booth Mitchell planted seeds not only in soil, but in the hearts of everybody who had the good fortune of knowing her. I am certain that I speak for the entire House in extending our heartfelt sympathies towards Jean's three children, three granddaughters, and six great grandchildren, including Bill and Vicki Mitchell of Pebble Beach, Sheri Mitchell of San Francisco, Shelly and Dan Lynch of Carmel, John and Karen Mitchell of St. Helena, Sarah and Chris Hansen of Napa, and Hallie Mitchell Dow and Brad Dow of Carmel.

TARP REFORM AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 384) to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure accountability under such Program, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to reiterate my support for H.R. 384, The TARP Reform and Accountability Act of 2009. President Obama supported the release the second \$350 billion in funds authorized by the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (Public Law 110-343), and it is incumbent upon us both to provide him with the same level of resources the outgoing Administration had to tackle this economic crisis, and to improve and strengthen the terms under which those resources will be deployed as compared to the terms under which the previous Administration was operating.

The legislation we approved would make many important improvements to the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, EESA, and the Troubled Asset Relief Program, TARP. For example, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act focuses on the mortgage foreclosure crisis, which is central to the broader economic crisis, by requiring the Treasury immediately to commit no less than \$40 billion and as much as \$100 billion on foreclosure mitigation efforts. The bill would mandate that at least \$20 billion be applied directly to a systematic program to guarantee loan modifications for families in danger of losing their homes, and requires that a foreclosure mitigation plan be developed and implemented quickly.

In addition, it would increase the availability of credit to consumers, municipalities and businesses. It would clarify that TARP authority includes authority to support the availability of consumer loans, including auto loans and student loans, and authority to support state and local governments through the purchase of or provision of credit enhancement for municipal securities. It would also provide additional assistance to auto manufacturers under the TARP as an extension of the emergency assistance provided by the outgoing Administration. Finally, it would add restrictions on executive compensation for institutions receiving TARP funding, and strengthen and expand accountability and oversight by requiring assisted organizations to report to Congress on a quarterly basis on their use of TARP funding, and requiring FDIC-insured depository institutions to report on changes in lending activity related to TARP funding.

For these reasons, I supported H.R. 384, which passed overwhelmingly in the House on January 21. I proposed a number of amendments to the bill, simply to strengthen it even further, and I was very pleased that one of those amendments was included in the Manager's Amendment before the bill went to the floor. My amendment went to the heart of the TARP program—the troubled assets—defined by the TARP as "residential or commercial mortgages and any securities, obligations, or other instruments that are based on or related to such mortgages" issued on or before March 14, 2008. These troubled assets are hard to value. An auction is one way to value them.

My amendment would help us finally establish values for the troubled assets, liquidate them, and free up the credit markets, without using taxpayer dollars.

Indeed, even two weeks ago, the Treasury Department had little positive to say about lending activity. In his statement of January 13, 2009, Interim Assistant Secretary for Financial Stability Neel Kashkari noted that "we are still at a point of low confidence—both due to the financial crisis and the economic downturn. As long as confidence remains low, banks will remain cautious about extending credit . . . we should not be surprised that lending and borrowing will be lower during this current economic downturn [but we] absolutely need our banks to continue to make credit available."

My amendment would require the Treasury Secretary to facilitate an auction of troubled assets, not using TARP funds for the purchase, but by soliciting bids from institutions that volunteer to participate. If the auction does not take place within three months of the enactment of the TARP Reform and Accountability Act, the Treasury Secretary is required to report to Congress with an explanation as to why, and a description of the mechanism by which the Secretary feels the troubled assets could most expeditiously be valued and liquidated. My amendment protects taxpayer dollars because while the auction of troubled assets is required, no TARP funds would be used for the purchase. Further my amendment will give Treasury and Congress much needed information to help develop better-informed plans for addressing the issue going forward.

I would like to thank Chairman Frank, again, for including this simple but important measure in the TARP Reform and Accountability Act. I would also like to thank Chairman FRANK for promising to work with me to implement another reform, which we both agree is needed to ensure fairness in the allocation of TARP funds. That measure would provide that an institution that has applied for but been denied TARP funding could appeal the denial to the Financial Stability Oversight Board. Such a measure would be valuable to banks such as the National City Bank of Cleveland, which had applied for TARP funds, had not received them, and was then taken over by another bank which had received TARP funds. The public is outraged that takeovers of that nature can occur on the government's dime. I thank Chairman FRANK for agreeing to work with me to provide additional protections for viable banks which applied for but have been denied TARP funds.

I supported the TARP Reform and Accountability Act, and if the Senate does not promptly take up and complete the measure, I will be eager to work with President Obama to address our economic crisis under terms and conditions that provide much better taxpayer protections than those that had been in operation under the outgoing Administration.

• 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.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GEORGES  
BANK PRESERVATION ACT**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 2, 2009*

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Georges Bank Preservation Act in the 111th Congress because Georges Bank, America's most valuable fishery and one of our nation's most important marine areas, remains in the crosshairs of the oil and gas industry. Last year, as a result of opposition from the Bush Administration, the long-standing protections against drilling off the east and west coasts expired. As a result, the American people could now begin to see drill rigs as close as three miles to our beaches and in fragile ecosystems like Georges Bank. Allowing oil and gas drilling in Georges Bank would forever destroy this fragile ecosystem and our nation's most important fishery.

In its final days in office, the Bush Administration issued a draft proposal to conduct offshore oil and gas leasing in the entire North Atlantic Planning area in 2013. This area comprises all federal waters off the coast of New England, including Georges Bank. We know that Georges Bank remains a top target of the oil industry and that is why we must take action to restore the longstanding protections for this special place.

The Georges Bank Preservation Act would prohibit the federal government from allowing exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas in Georges Bank. Protecting Georges Bank from drilling would affect less than 2 percent of federal land on the outer Continental Shelf. The legislation would also protect any areas designated as marine national monuments or national marine sanctuaries, such as the Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Massachusetts. The language in the Georges Bank Preservation Act has already passed the House last year in an overwhelming, bipartisan vote of 236–189 as part of H.R. 6899.

Georges Bank is the heart of the New England fishery and a key economic engine for the region. The Northeast fishery landings are valued at approximately \$800 million annually and Georges Bank is the key to the region. New Bedford, Massachusetts is by far the most productive fishing port in the United States, in terms of value of catch, and has held that distinction for the last eight years. Its \$268 million catch in 2007 was almost as much as catches from the second and third most valuable ports combined. New Bedford has been the number one fishing port for eight straight years.

We must not let Big Oil claim one of New England's most important economic and environmental treasures. The Georges Bank Preservation Act will prevent the oil and gas industry from destroying this special habitat that is the heart of America's most precious fishery and a uniquely vital marine habitat.

CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS  
MONTH**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 2, 2009*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. According to the National Cancer Institute, approximately 11,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year in the U.S., resulting in nearly 3,900 deaths. At a time when proven prevention tools are available, it is especially tragic that any woman should die from this disease, yet cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women worldwide. Even for women who survive this disease, it often causes a significant emotional burden and can lead to early menopause and loss of fertility among women in their child-bearing years. And it affects women of all ages: While the majority of cervical cancers are detected in women between 35 and 64, more than 30 percent of cases are diagnosed in women younger than 34 and women over 65.

Despite these sobering statistics, we have made significant progress in this country in reducing the burden of cervical cancer. Since the mid-20th century, deaths from cervical cancer have declined by an estimated 70 percent, due to the Papanicolaou (Pap) screening test. In 1990, Congress created the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program to improve timely access to screening and diagnostic services for low-income, uninsured, and underserved women. According to the Centers for Disease Control, since 1991 NBCCEDP-funded programs have diagnosed 2,161 invasive cervical cancers and 114,390 precursor cervical lesions, of which 42 percent were high-grade. More recently, researchers have identified HPV as the main cause of cervical cancer, and an HPV vaccine and screening test have been developed.

The simple fact is that cervical cancer is almost completely preventable through vaccinations, Pap testing, and testing for the human papillomavirus (HPV). Yet, as with so many other diseases, cervical cancer often strikes those who are least able to take advantage of these tools: Those who have either never had a screening test (either a Pap test alone, or in combination with an HPV test), or have gone many years without one, are the most likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer. Unfortunately, in both the U.S. and around the world, this means that poor women, and those who face barriers to obtaining quality health care, are disproportionately affected by cervical cancer. And the disparities are huge: Hispanic women are twice as likely as white women to be diagnosed with cervical cancer, and African-American women are twice as likely as white women to die of the disease. Asian-Americans, Native Americans, and women in certain areas of the U.S. are also at increased risk. Cervical cancer is an even greater burden outside of this country, with about 500,000 women diagnosed with cervical cancer every year, more than half of whom will die from this preventable disease.

Let us redouble our commitment to ensuring that all women are educated about cervical cancer and have access to proven screening and diagnostic tools so that one January, we

can look back and say that we have won the fight against cervical cancer.

DTV DELAY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 27, 2009*

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, the question of whether to delay the transition to digital television is important and deserves thoughtful consideration. But today's debate misses a key point that will affect many Vermonters, many Americans, living in rural areas: once the transition to digital television is completed, even if every household in America has a DTV converter box, many TVs simply will not work.

Reception of a digital television signal is an "all-or-nothing" proposal: rural areas that currently receive a weak analog TV signal may receive no digital signal at all. For many people across Vermont and across the country, this transition does not represent a step forward, but a step backward. I am particularly concerned about the many elderly viewers living in rural areas; for them, television is a lifeline that provides information and entertainment.

We know that this problem is out there. In order to ensure that all our constituents have access to broadcast television, we need to do one or all of three things: increase digital television broadcast signal range; increase the ability of viewers to receive the signal through antennae; or increase access to low-cost cable or satellite television.

If there were an easy answer, this problem would most likely have already been solved. But the problem persists, and it must be addressed. I look forward to working with Chairman WAXMAN as well as you, Chairman BUCHER, to ensure that rural Americans maintain access to television broadcast over the public airwaves.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND  
REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 28, 2009*

The House in Committee of the whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of Nadler, DeFazio, Lipinski, McMahon, Ellison Amendment to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This amendment would increase the overall capital transit funding in H.R. 1 to \$12 billion by adding an additional \$1.5 billion to the Rail Modernization formula program and an additional \$1.5 billion to the transit New Starts program.

According to the American Public Transportation Association, the \$12 billion provided by