

support this bill and I urge my colleagues to support this bill as it provides needed rehabilitation treatment to those who have been impacted by the effects of torture.

H.R. 1511, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2009, authorizes appropriations for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide grants to programs in the United States to cover the costs of services provided by domestic treatment centers in the rehabilitation of victims of torture (including treatment of the physical and psychological effects of torture). It will also allow the centers to provide social and legal services as well as research and training of health care providers outside of treatment centers or programs to enable them to provide such services. It authorizes the President to provide grants to treatment centers and programs in foreign countries that carry out projects and activities specifically designed to treat victims of torture for the physical and psychological effects of torture. In addition, it provides grants to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

This bill is not only important, it is necessary. The Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal and the myriad of consequential allegations of prisoner abuse across both Iraq and Afghanistan have cast a heavy shadow over our role in Iraq and our country as a whole. Under the Bush Administration, evidence indicates that torture was conducted on prisoners which included methods such as: waterboarding, weeklong sleep deprivation, forced nudity, use of painful positions, belly-slap and the exploitation of prisoners' fears of animals or insects. President Obama has since denounced these inhumane integration practices and has vowed that the United States does not condone torture. H.R. 1511 supports the President's vow by providing treatment to victims which is designed to enable the victim to step back from the trauma, learn to identify and accept it and gradually become reintegrated into society and/or the working world. This treatment will also serve a social purpose in that it will enable the victim to restore ties that were severed by an array of clinical symptoms caused by being tortured.

In the wake of the Abu Ghraib scandal, the U.S. has gone to great pains to persuade the world that U.S. policy does not condone torture. If Congress enacts this legislation, it would reaffirm America's commitment to a world without torture and show the rest of the world that the U.S. is committed to rehabilitating those who have suffered at the hands of torture.

We as a nation must set a clear example that we do not support torture, nor do we condone such practices. For the benefit of our troops, for the good of Iraq, for the good of America, and for the safety of the World, we must heal the wounds caused by torture to those victims domestic and foreign. A strong bipartisan message of support needs to be displayed by this body to right the wrongs and send a message to the world that America is committed to ending what President Obama called a "dark and painful chapter in our history," by providing treatment to the victims of torture. I invite my colleagues to stand with me today and support this important legislation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE BUYER

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Brookston Wind Turbines Study, Brookston, IN

Address of Requesting Entity: Town of Brookston and Chalmers, Indiana, 205 East 3rd Street, Brookston, IN 47923

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$75,000 in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy money to conduct a study to determine where wind turbines may be placed to generate 6 megawatts of power to replace what they currently use from coal fired power plants. The study will include not only technical requirements, but also regulatory and administrative requirements and needed backup power to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the municipalities.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE BUYER

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Purdue Solar Energy Utilization Laboratory, West Lafayette, IN

Address of Requesting Entity: Purdue University, Indiana, Hovde Hall, Room 233, Purdue Mall, West Lafayette, IN 49707

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$475,000 in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy money to facilitate the development of conversion devices to reduce the cost and scale of solar equipment and devices to use concentrated sunlight on smaller devices and solutions to other disruptive solar energy issues in Indiana.

MOURNING LOSS OF KELLY MURRAY

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I come before you today to mourn the loss of a remarkable individual in our community. Kelly Murray grew up in my district in the City of Visalia, CA, and destiny led her away from her place of provenance, touching the lives of so many whom she met along the way. A former Navy officer with an exceptional career, she had just received tenure at the Loyola College Graduate Center in Columbia, Maryland, when she became the victim of a tragic accident that claimed her life as well as that of her 7-year-old daughter, Sloane Murray, late last month.

Kelly Murray, PhD., graduated from Exeter High School and studied at Occidental College. She eventually went on to earn a Master's degree and a Doctorate degree from the California School of Professional Psychology.

Her career in the Navy was notable and distinguished. She held several postings across the country, including that of Psychologist at the Naval Hospital and at the Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, California; Staff Psychologist at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland; and Instructor of Psychology and Leadership at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Kelly's shining career also included an invitation to work at the White House counseling federal employees soon after September 11, 2001.

Kelly Murray was a practicing psychologist who, with her husband Sean, was raising 6 children. She coached multiple youth soccer teams and organized an annual summer camp to bolster girls' self-esteem.

Kelly was a positive force in her community; she will be dearly missed by her family, friends, and all those who knew her. I offer my heartfelt condolences to her family, and wish great strength upon them all that they may cope with this extraordinary loss.

Kelly is survived by her husband, Sean Murray, and their 5 other daughters, Jillian, Meghan, Maeve, Catherine Quinn, and Kieran. She is also survived by her parents, James and JoAnn Welter of Exeter, California, and sister, Tammy Tuttle of Powell Butte, Oregon.

TARP PROGRAM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, information is necessary for the proper functioning of our economy, as well as our political system. Investors, consumers and voters need quality information to make informed choices. Capitalism and democracy require full information for the most ideal outcomes, namely, efficiency and representativeness.

But anyone looking at this past year in American business and government would have to conclude we are a long way from achieving the ideal. On the contrary, we are embroiled, in significant part, in the consequences of a profound lack of transparency. Our economic and political systems suffer an information deficit, and the lack of transparency is costing dollars as well as public trust.

As chairman of an investigative subcommittee in the House of Representatives, my own work has largely been devoted to identifying and remedying that fundamental flaw.

A couple relevant examples:

My subcommittee held a hearing this past March on the questions, What does Treasury know about what TARP recipient banks are doing with the funds they've received? My staff identified a couple billion dollar examples. One bank arranged financing worth \$8 billion for governmental entities in Dubai; another made a \$7 billion investment in a Chinese Construction Bank, and a third made a \$1 billion investment in its operations in India. None

of these are illegal, of course. They may even represent sound business judgment. But at the time those decisions were announced, those banks had received many billions of taxpayer dollars to help cure a liquidity crisis in the United States. Is that what Congress really had in mind when it created TARP? I think the answer is obvious.

What we learned was that Treasury was making no significant effort to find out what federally-supported banks were doing. TARP program makes no demands on TARP recipients for detailed information about their spending. Even though the statute obligates Treasury to be able to prevent waste and abuse of TARP monies, Mr. Paulson's Treasury Department did not even bother to set standards for waste and abuse of TARP funds. "We trust them" was essentially what passed for oversight of the Capital Purchase Plan. Treasury has no concrete idea of how TARP monies are being used. They did not ask questions of TARP recipients about their use of funds, and did not gather sufficiently detailed information from TARP recipients to know what to ask about.

It was even the opinion of Treasury that an answer to the question is nearly meaningless, because money is fungible.

Of course money is fungible. So is gravel. But if you want to know where the gravel is, you look for roads. So to this end, one of our witnesses provided a detailed examination of lending practices by several top TARP recipients and found, as we have all since learned, that net new lending was nearly zero. By integrating not only new loans but also contraction in credit, in the form of foreclosures, shortened credit lines and so on, this witness was able to independently estimate actual new lending—one of the key purposes of the TARP capital infusions—something Treasury had been completely dependent on the TARP recipient companies for producing.

I understand that Treasury has made some improvement in other TARP programs created since our hearing.

Then more recently, my subcommittee has been engaged in an investigation of the circumstances around a merger that received considerable emergency assistance from Treasury and the Federal Reserve. Here too the transparency issue arose. One of the main problems the systemic regulators were trying to deal with was predictable investor surprise around the unexpectedly huge losses the merger was suffering. Our investigation found that unmistakable warning signs of those losses were known to the acquiring company before their shareholders were asked to ratify the merger, but the company did not share the information with its shareholders. Furthermore, our investigation showed that the Fed was completely aware of the possible securities fraud even as it was orchestrating a bailout to deal with the consequences of a misinformed investor community.

Now the Fed is an interesting example of an institution that is statutorily protected from transparency. First a bit of background: As you know, Congress depends upon the Government Accountability Office to perform directed and statutorily required audits and reviews, which Congress uses as one important source of information and analysis for government oversight. But a little known statute called the Federal Banking Agency Audit Act of 1978 barred GAO from reviewing the Fed's

monetary functions. Along comes the financial crisis and the Fed engages in a number of extraordinary measures, spends over \$1 trillion dollars so far, invokes emergency powers to purchase and lend against assets it has never before held, and yet the Fed's interventions enjoy complete protection from GAO scrutiny of these crisis interventions because it calls them monetary policy. This is certainly debatable, and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee adopted unanimously my amendment to authorize GAO to conduct reviews of the special facilities created by the Fed to deal with the financial crisis. But we have a long and difficult road ahead before we see the Kucinich amendment become law, in spite of the fact that we are in a crisis due in significant part to the lack of transparency.

So I will leave you with these thoughts: Our economy and our political system and its institutions are in severe need of greater transparency. We are living with the consequences of a lack of transparency. And yet, it will be difficult to administer the medicine we will all benefit from. I look forward to working with you to see that we get the transparency we desperately need.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards, I am submitting the following information regarding projects I received funding for as part of H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Agency: Department of Energy

Account: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The City of Grand Rapids

Address of Requesting Entity: 300 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Description of Request: This bill provides \$250,000 for the City of Grand Rapids to purchase and install an estimated 400 solar panels on the roofs of several City buildings to demonstrate the benefits of onsite solar panels. This funding is a valuable use of taxpayer money because the panels will help reduce the city's energy consumption and dependency on the national grid by drawing from a localized energy source. Approximately three-quarters of the funding will be used to purchase the solar panels, and approximately one-quarter of the funding will be applied to the installation of the panels. This project is of national significance and a good use of taxpayer dollars because it will support local "green" jobs and promote more widespread commercial use of solar technology whose value is proven, but whose cost must become more competitive with conventional sources of energy.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Account: Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Engineer District, Chicago, 111 North Canal Street, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60606

Description of Request: This bill provides \$7,575,000 for the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barrier. This funding is a valuable use of taxpayer money because, historically, the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River were separated naturally by a landmass. However, since the completion of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, aquatic species can move freely between the two water systems. A temporary dispersal barrier (Barrier I) has been operating for nearly 7 years, and construction of a permanent barrier (Barrier IIA) will be completed this year.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Account: Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Engineer District, Chicago, 111 North Canal Street, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60606

Description of Request: This bill provides \$3,200,000 for the Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration program. The Great Lakes sustain a nationally and internationally significant fishery that has been degraded by habitat losses, contamination, and invasive species. This funding is a valuable use of taxpayer money because under this program, the Corps will coordinate with other Federal, State, and local agencies and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to plan, implement, and evaluate projects supporting the restoration of the fishery, ecosystem, and beneficial uses of the Great Lakes. A range of aquatic habitat restoration projects can be done under this program including riparian habitat and wetland restoration, dam removal to reestablish free flowing tributaries, fish passages, and erosion and sedimentation control. This program is an important component of the Great Lakes Strategy developed by the U.S. Policy Committee in 2000 as well as the 2005 Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERNON J. EHLERS

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Account: Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Engineer District, Chicago, 111 North Canal Street, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60606

Description of Request: This bill provides \$4,000,000 for technical assistance to Remedial Action Plans (RAP) Committees. This funding is a valuable use of taxpayer money because, under the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the United States and Canada agreed to develop remedial action plans for each of the 43 internationally recognized Areas of Concern (26 U.S. sites and 5 shared U.S. and Canadian sites). RAPs embody a comprehensive ecosystem approach to restoring and protecting beneficial uses and to identifying specific actions to resolve pollution problems. This Corps of Engineers program authorizes the Corps to provide technical support to states and local organizations in the development and implementation of RAPs.