

fully implemented IUTS program will protect personnel, assets, and critical infrastructure at both domestic and forward-deployed locations.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDT&E—Defense Wide

Amount: \$4,500,000

Project: Transformer Technology for Combat Submersibles

Requested by: STIDD Systems

This request will enable USSOCOM to conduct a formal technology design, development, documentation and demonstration of the TTCS. One prototype craft will be designed, fabricated, tested and evaluated for technology transition into either the USSOCOM SDV or SWCS programs of record.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDT&E—Army

Amount: \$1,500,000

Project: Minority Student Neuroscience Research Consortium

Requested by: St. Thomas University

The Department of Veterans Affairs spends over \$320 million annually on direct costs for SCI. Other related costs for medications and rehabilitation may run in the billions of dollars. The lifetime costs for an injured person can run up to more than 1.5 million dollars. The goal of this program is to develop treatments for SCI repair through axon regeneration and functional recovery for our injured veterans.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDT&E—Army

Amount: \$3,000,000

Project: Center for Ophthalmic Innovation

Requested by: University of Miami

Severe ocular injuries from combat encountered in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan represent a significant and frequent source of lifetime visual disability and is of immediate concern to the DOD. Approximately 10–17% of war casualties are due to eye trauma. The Center for Ophthalmic Innovation is successfully working to lessen the morbidity of traumatic ocular injuries in military operations, as well as to explore newer modalities to assist in the visual restoration of the injured personnel.

Pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the Congressional Record regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3170—Financial Services Appropriations, 2010.

Requested by Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3170

Account: Small Business Administration

Amount: \$100,000

Project: Institute for Community and Economic Development

Requested by: Barry University

The Barry University Institute for Community and Economic Development must continue to expand its reach and leverage its new Entrepreneurial Institute, dedicated to poverty elimination through the development of entrepreneurial skills in the community. The Institute delivers research-based education and training to minority and women-owned business enterprises and those providing leadership in the non-profit sector in South Florida. Expansion of the Institute will offer more small businesses, family businesses and community-based/non-profit organizations to meet the challenges related to the present economic downturn.

Requested by Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3170

Account: Small Business Administration

Amount: \$300,000

Project: Institute for Intermodal Transportation

Requested by: Miami-Dade College

The Intermodal Transportation Training Center allows MDC to effectively meet the training requirements of all forms of transportation, and transportation related activities. The planned location of the Intermodal Transportation Center is at the Miami International Airport (MIA), which would situate the School in close proximity to the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) currently under construction. This location would serve as a benefit to both the MIC and the school as a trained and skilled workforce is developed by the School to meet the ongoing employment needs at the MIC. Courses at MIA are set to begin January 2010.

Miami Dade College is uniquely positioned to provide this training through an Institute for Intermodal Transportation (IIT). MDC has a foundation for the coursework and training through its various departments and schools. A number of the educational programs are in aviation under its Eig-Watson School of Aviation. Additional related programs which would support the IIT are Miami Dade College currently offers 3 baccalaureate programs with numerous tracks. Over 200 associate degrees and career training certificates are available and could have application to the Intermodal Institute.

Pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the Congressional Record regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3288—Transportation Appropriations, 2010.

Requested by Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3288

Account: DOT, Bus and Bus Facilities

Amount: \$1,000,000

Project: Transit Facility and Bus Passenger Access Lane Construction along US 1

Requested by: City of Key West, FL

Key West needs to construct a new full scale transit facility to house their buses and bus equipment. The city also needs to construct bus apron access to as many as 44 bus stops along US 1, which have been part of the JARC shuttle services in operation since August 2005.

Requested by Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3288

Account: DOT, Bus and Bus Facilities

Amount: \$250,000

Project: Bus Shelter Replacement

Requested by: Bal Harbour, FL

Many elderly and working age citizens utilize public transit to travel to and/or from Bal Harbour Village. The bus shelters currently in place are deteriorating and do not provide adequate shelter from the elements. As the economy declines, more people depend upon public transportation. Replacing the current shelters/benches will provide more adequate facilities for those waiting for public transportation in the hot sun, wind and rain.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 699 H. Res. 744—Privileged resolution regarding Congressman JOE WILSON.

Had I been present, I would have voted “nay”.

**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE FROM THE TEXAS AGRILIFE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER AT LUBBOCK**

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the 100 years of work and dedication of scientists at the AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Lubbock. In 1909, The Lubbock Agriculture Experiment Station #8, now known as Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Lubbock, was established by the Texas Legislature in response to the passage of the Hatch Act by Congress in 1887 to create agriculture experiment stations. Since its inception, researchers and staff at the Center have worked to address the High Plain's most pressing agricultural issues of the day including improvement of crops with emphasis on seed development, crop pest and disease management, cropping and efficient water systems, and harvest methods.

During its 100 years of service, the Center has provided the region's producers and economy with significant contributions that include the following: the first hybrid grain sorghum in cooperation with the Chillicothe Station, greenbug resistant grain sorghum, improved cotton cultivars, improved cotton harvest equipment, improved boll weevil control techniques, methods and equipment for increasing irrigation efficiency, drought tolerant variety development, conservation tillage strategies, farming systems, precision agriculture methodology and risk management strategies.

The Lubbock Extension Center is one of the largest off-campus centers in the Texas A&M University System. It serves as headquarters for agents in the 20-county South Plains Extension District 2 and includes offices for 22 Research Scientists. The Center is composed of a research farm at the Lubbock site, two research farms in the northern part of the South Plains near Halfway, Texas; one substation at Pecos, Texas; a cotton research farm in Dawson County in cooperation with Lamesa Cotton Growers and a peanut research farm in Terry County in cooperation with Texas Peanut Board.

The research is used by Extension Specialists and the Extension Agents to educate producers on the methodologies of the most recent and innovative production techniques. The benefits of this program can be seen across the spectrum for agriculture on the South Plains ranging from reduced industry impact on the environment to the profitability producers enjoy from their trade. This model

of cooperative research and development is one of the major reasons American agriculture has been so productive.

Agricultural producers of the Texas South Plains contribute substantially to the agricultural economy of Texas and the nation. The success is supported by a strong foundation of knowledge and technology generated by the research and technology transfer of scientists, specialists and agents in cooperation with USDA-ARS, Texas Tech University and agribusinesses and commodity organization collaborators. This cooperative effort to address the many complex issues facing the South Plains agricultural industry will no doubt continue to benefit producers and enhance the region's agriculture-based economy for the next 100 years.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 700 H. Res. 317—Recognizing the region from Manhattan, Kansas, to Columbia, Missouri, as the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, and for other purposes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

#### WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today I am re-introducing legislation that would close a loophole in the Department of Defense's whistleblowers' protection statute (10 U.S.C. Sec. 2409) and expand this safeguard to include the men and women of the DOD contracting business who report abuses to their superiors.

Under current law, an individual is only protected—and therefore eligible for remedies—if he or she reports workplace security concerns to "a Member of Congress or an authorized official of an agency or the Department of Justice." While I understand the importance of encouraging individuals to take their concerns to certain authorities, I believe it is imperative that we include in this authority an employee's superiors.

It seems only natural, that once someone recognizes a problem within their work environment, they report it to their superiors. This is part of a normal progression of attempting to resolve issues and challenging tasks on the job. Few people initially contact their Congressman or the Department of Justice when they first observe an irregularity on the job.

It is also important to note that many former military members migrate to the security contracting industry. Many of these men and women have years of previous service to our nation, have grown to respect their chain of command and understand the benefit it can provide in the workplace. When they have come to the conclusion that additional steps must be taken or when they have identified a significant problem in the work environment,

these professionals are trained and encouraged to report their concerns to their superiors to enable them to assess the situation and foster a solution.

Similarly, many in the federal security contracting industry come from a law enforcement background with a comparable command structure and respect for their superiors.

The current loophole was brought to my attention by a New Jersey resident who worked for a private security firm that guards military installations in my district and throughout the country. This individual witnessed and documented a number of events that raised serious concerns regarding the contractor's ability to ensure the safety and security of the base and the surrounding community.

At my request, the DOD IG performed an audit of the contract (Report No. D-2009-045) and verified many of the claims that this individual brought to my attention. The report found that the Navy was not able to provide documentation showing all contractor security guards had completed a basic background check—raising questions as to whether or not the required security checks were performed or completed for all security personnel guarding the munitions depot. There was also a problem with training, and an inability to determine whether or not the training was adequate. There was nothing in the files to find out whether a guard has had the training that is required by Federal law and Federal regulations.

The individual who brought this loophole to my attention reported to his employer what he believed—and what the IG report verified—were unfulfilled contract requirements that resulted in questions regarding the firm's ability to provide adequate security. After his boss dismissed his concerns, he then scheduled a meeting with the base security personnel to discuss the matter. Before this meeting could occur, the individual was fired by the firm and barred from the base. At that time, he brought these concerns to me. However, since the law requires that a potential whistleblower be a current employee at the time he/she discloses pertinent information to a federal official, it was too late for him to be eligible for protections and/or remedies.

Specifically, my legislation would expand the universe of those to whom an individual can properly report concerns to include the individual's chain of command, before and after any retribution, so that the individual will be protected and have the right to be reinstated if an investigation shows that the individual was punished for bringing the matter to the attention of proper authorities.

The legislation I re-introduced today will ensure that those who identify problems within firms subcontracted by DOD are still afforded standard whistleblower protections even if they notify their employer about possible violations before they notify an agent of the federal government. The legislation does not require employees to notify their employer first and it does not preclude them from contacting federal officials, it simply protects employees who point out potential violations to their employer, the federal government or both. If an employee is dismissed prior to his/her notifying the government, but after notifying their employer, they will receive the necessary protections as well.

Base security is not an issue to be taken lightly—anywhere and including in my state of

New Jersey. As we all recall, the New Jersey U.S. Attorney's office arrested five men who were planning to attack another New Jersey installation, Fort Dix. After a thorough and aggressive law enforcement effort this attempted terror attack was thwarted and the men were found guilty on charges of conspiracy to harm U.S. military personnel. Still, the vulnerabilities at our military bases exposed by this incident cannot be minimized or dismissed.

As we are all aware, in recent years the Department of Defense has looked increasingly to private security contractors to guard and police our military installations across the country. The men and women filling these positions deserve to be protected when they report violations and concerns to their superiors and especially if they are subsequently punished in an attempt by their employer to downplay or even cover up a violation. It is imperative that we amend the law to ensure that these employees are eligible for the same remedies as other whistleblowers.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 701—H.R. 22—United States Postal Service Financial Relief Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on September 15, 2009 I missed rollcall vote 701. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### U.N. REPORT ON ISRAEL'S SELF-DEFENSE ACTION IN GAZA HIGHLY FLAWED

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to urge the Obama Administration to categorically and completely reject the Goldstone report recently issued by the despot-controlled United Nations Human Rights Council that accused Israel of "war crimes, as well as possibly crimes against humanity" during Israel's defensive operations in Gaza this past winter.

The United Nations has a long and well documented history of anti-U.S., anti-Israel, and anti-freedom activism, and the Goldstone report rubber-stamps the U.N. Human Rights Councils predetermined conclusion that Israel committed war crimes and possibly crimes against humanity. From the beginning, the Council instructed the Goldstone Commission