

along with other state-owned companies, are majority stakeholders in CNOOC. This connection would require Mr. Freeman to recuse himself from certain matters involving China.

The 2007 United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission's Classified Report to the Congress addresses Chinese activities in the areas of espionage, cyber warfare, and arms proliferation. In 2006 four of the computers in my Capitol Hill office were hacked. It was confirmed by the FBI that these attacks originated in the People's Republic of China. The economic stimulus plan recently rolled out by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao includes a 14.9 percent increase in military spending. It is evident that China poses an increasing national security threat to the United States. How is national security policy enhanced by having a chairman of the NIC who must recuse himself from matters involving a regime which poses one of the most serious national security risks to the United States?

In an April 25 speech given by Mr. Freeman at the National War College Alumni Association, he described the March 2008 protests in Tibet as "a race riot." The Tibetan people have suffered for decades at the hands of the authoritarian Chinese government, and such a characterization of the March uprising is deeply insulting. I traveled to Tibet in 1997 where I heard endless accounts of violent oppression by the Chinese government. I spoke to Buddhist monks and nuns who recounted their experiences of torture and imprisonment in Tibet's notorious Drapchi Prison. Just last week, the Associated Press reported that a Tibetan monk was shot three times by Chinese security forces after he set himself on fire.

Additionally, CNOOC's substantial investment in Sudan's oil sector has served as the lifeline to the regime of President Omar al Bashir, recently indicted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Senator Sam Brownback and I traveled to Darfur in 2004, where we saw first hand the suffering and destruction that has taken place under the Bashir regime. We heard first hand accounts of women who were brutally abused at the hands of the janjaweed forces. During our visit we captured the haunting images of the terror and destruction, and we will share those photographs with your administration at your request. Mr. Freeman's appointment to this high level post undermines the policy of U.S. divestment from the genocidal regime of Sudan.

Most recently, Mr. Freeman served as president of the Middle East Policy Council, a think-tank funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On September 20, 2006, in an interview with the Saudi-US Relations Information Service, Mr. Freeman said that "thanks to the generosity of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia we have managed to accumulate an endowment" for the Middle East Policy Council. According to filings with the Internal Revenue Service, Mr. Freeman drew an annual salary from the Middle East Policy Council. However, the foundation has never publicly released its list of contributors.

In his Pulitzer Prize winning book, *The Looming Tower*, Lawrence Wright states on page 170 that "Saudi Arabia, which constitutes only 1 percent of the world's Muslim population . . . supports 90 percent of the expenses of the entire faith," including "thousands of religious schools around the globe, staffed with Wahhabi imams and teachers." I have enclosed a copy of this book and strongly encourage you to read it. Wahhabi teachings exported by the Saudis have inspired a generation of young radicals that have proven themselves ready to take up arms in the

name of faith. Many experts believe that the notorious Taliban leader Mullah Omar was educated in a Saudi-funded radical madrassah. How can Mr. Freeman possibly be expected to confront this challenge head on after taking home years of paychecks from the Saudis?

The reprehensible regimes with which CNOOC does business does not end there. The company rebuffed public calls to withdraw from Burma in October 2007 after the ruling military junta opened fire on peaceful protesters in a movement known as the Saffron Revolution. CNOOC also has invested in Iran, a country which is actively seeking to build nuclear weapons and has vowed to "wipe Israel off the map." Such activities starkly contrast with the national security interests of the United States.

The evidence strongly suggests that Mr. Freeman is not the right person for this job and for the good of our country I urge you to reconsider your choice.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAPLE TAPPING ACCESS PROGRAM ACT

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Maple Tapping Access Program (TAP) Act, which is designed to increase maple syrup production in the United States. It would also further economic development in rural areas like Northern and Central New York, which I am honored to represent.

The United States has the potential to greatly increase its maple syrup production. In fact, there are nearly two billion potential taps dispersed across 20 states. However, despite this wealth of resources, the United States currently imports four times as much maple syrup as is produced domestically. In fact, we only tap 7.5 million or one in every 250 maple trees. According to Cornell University, if the United States' maple industry increased its rate to just 2.1%, 42 million more trees could be tapped. This increased production would have an annual economic impact in excess of \$300 million.

In an effort to enhance U.S. maple syrup production, the Maple Tapping Access Program Act would direct the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to establish a public access program, for which \$20 million would be authorized annually. Through this program, State and tribal governments could apply for competitive grants to design and implement programs to encourage landowners to provide access to their land for maple tapping activities.

My friend, Mr. SCHUMER, is introducing the companion measure in the Senate. It is important to note that my legislation differs slightly. Specifically, my bill clarifies that participating landowners may provide access to their land for maple tapping purposes voluntarily or by lease or other means. Additionally, my version of this measure would allow states and tribes to use grant funds to encourage landowners to initiate or expand maple tapping activities on their land.

The Maple Tapping Access Program Act would provide the impetus necessary to stimu-

late an underdeveloped American maple industry and foster much-needed rural economic development. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me to enact this important measure.

HONORING ROBERT JONES ALLEN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 09, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Jones Allen in celebration of his recent 86th birthday. He is a remarkable man who, with passion and dedication, has worked tirelessly throughout his career to advance our knowledge of Antarctica and cartography.

Mr. Allen devoted his professional life to studying and learning about Antarctica while performing his cartographic tasks of studying, handling and compiling photographic materials and maps concerning Antarctica. Allen Peak, which sits on the northern edge of the Sentinel Range's main ridge, is named in his honor. Dr. Robert Bindshadler, one of our nation's foremost experts of the continent and a friend of Mr. Allen's, stated that "there is no one else that holds such broad and deep historical knowledge of Antarctic movements" and refers to Mr. Allen as his "Antarctic Encyclopedia." His words shed light on Robert Allen's importance to the scientific community.

Bob Allen's contributions to Antarctic science put him in a class all his own. There is no one else that holds such broad and deep historical knowledge of Antarctic measurements. He remembers who did what, when, where, what they saw and (most importantly) where to get the information. His recollections start with the first scientific expeditions to Antarctica in the 1940's and continue to the present day. Much of what he knows was never written down, making his anecdotal record absolutely unique. Often Bob is able to show us what we thought was "new" had been noted previously. That kind of expertise and knowledge is priceless.

Robert Allen began his career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Aerial Photo Lab. He served his country in the military's 656th Engineering Topography Battalion and later in the 11th Airborne Division. For over 50 years he worked at the U.S. Geological Survey.

His work on the mapping of the Antarctic region has proved invaluable to the scientific community. He has a long-time, intimate relationship with most of the over 1/2 million photographs as well as negatives in the U.S. Antarctic Mapping Photography collection. The Antarctic scientific community would, therefore, consult with him not only to help their expeditions avoid potentially dangerous areas, but also to pinpoint locations that would be conducive for their studies. In a time when satellites and computers were rudimentary instruments, Mr. Allen became the first to determine the speed of the Thwaites Glacier, the fastest moving ice stream in west Antarctica. His vast experience has led numerous explorers and scientists to call on him for answers and advice.

Mr. Allen's expertise is not limited to Antarctica. In the 1960's he helped create a map of Mars via satellite images. He also used photographs from the Apollo 6 mission to create

mosaic maps of the United States. He compiled maps of China and the Red Sea using satellite data.

Today Mr. Allen spends his time at the United States Antarctic Resource Center where he still amazes his co-workers with his ability to retrieve information from the early days of U.S. studies of Antarctica and then apply it to current studies. His devotion to studying this extraordinary region of our planet merits our praise and gratitude.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Allen for his 60 years of public service, for his accomplishments, and for all he has done to advance scientific understanding.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, due to illness, I unfortunately was unable to be present and to vote on legislation considered by the House on March 3, 4, 5, and 6, 2009.

On rollcall numbers 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 98, 99, 106, 108, and 109, had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

On rollcall numbers 97, 105, and 107, had I been present, I would have voted "no".

On rollcall number 104, had I been present, I would have voted "no". Though the Helping Families Save Act of 2009 (H.R. 1106) included some good provisions, the bill also included troubling bankruptcy provisions. On the amendments considered, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcalls 101 and 102 and "no" on rollcall 100. Also, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions (rollcall 103).

I regret that I did not have the opportunity to vote on these important measures.

HONORING MATTHEW C. GARCIA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew C. Garcia a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew C. Garcia for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DENTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Denton Chamber of Commerce, which will celebrate its 100th Anniversary on April 21, 2009.

The Denton Chamber of Commerce is an alliance of businesses, professionals, and organizations working to support and promote the principles for a prosperous economic environment.

Established April 21, 1909, the Chamber has grown to involve over 860 members. In its 100 years of operation, the Chamber has a record of promoting, supporting and expanding the Denton business community. Small businesses have long benefited from the efforts of the Denton Chamber of Commerce and have also found it an avenue to give back to their community. Many members are not only successful in business, but also volunteer and serve on boards of local charity and community groups.

The Chamber has played a significant role in the community's economic health, establishing an Economic Development Partnership with the City of Denton focused on helping create new jobs, supporting existing career opportunities and expanding the property tax base. A prime example of this success was the partnership's work to attract the largest local employer, the Peterbilt Motors plant, and later, Peterbilt's division headquarters.

Helping in the efforts to secure the sites for the Denton State School, and the sites for FEMA's underground center and National Teleregistration facility, the Denton Chamber of Commerce's contributions have gone beyond just helping the business community.

With programs such as Leadership Denton, Chamber members have learned the inner workings of policy. It has worked to supplement communications with state and federal officials with the initiation of county wide events such as Denton County Day in Austin and the Washington Fly-In. A tribute to their role in community service and leadership development is evidenced by the dozens of members that have served on local city councils, school boards and in other elected positions.

It is with great pride that I stand here today to join others in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Denton Chamber of Commerce. I wish the membership, staff and board all the best and I am proud to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives.

SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY, RECIPIENT OF THE "SCHOLAR-PATRIOT AWARD"

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Senior Senator from Massachusetts, EDWARD M. KENNEDY, and to the Amer-

ican Academy of Arts and Sciences which has just honored Senator KENNEDY with its "Scholar-Patriot Award."

Nearly 230 years ago in Cambridge, in what would become the Eighth Congressional District of Massachusetts, John Adams, James Bowdoin, John Hancock, and other "scholar-patriots" established the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The Academy was created, during the American Revolution, to provide a forum for leaders from science, scholarship, business, public affairs, and the arts, to work together as citizens in support of a democratic republic. In the words of the Academy's charter, enacted in 1780, the "end and design of the institution is . . . to cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honor, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent, and virtuous people."

Today, the Academy, still in Cambridge, flourishes as an independent policy research center. Its members remain true to the original mission, conducting multidisciplinary studies of complex and emerging problems. Current Academy research focuses on science and global security; social policy; the humanities and culture; and education.

On March 9, 2009, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences convened a meeting in Washington, D.C. on the topic of The Humanities in a Civil Society. As part of the program, the Academy announced the presentation of its Scholar-Patriot Award to the dean of our state's congressional delegation, Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY. Throughout his career, Sen. KENNEDY has been a stalwart champion of the humanities. I am proud to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the citation from the Academy, and I congratulate my friend and colleague for this well-deserved recognition. "The American Academy bestows its Scholar-Patriot Award on EDWARD M. KENNEDY for his extraordinary service to the Academy, the community, and the nation.

"For four decades you have been a fierce defender of the ideals of opportunity, equity, and justice. Master of quiet collaboration and inspired oratory, you have achieved an unparalleled legislative record. Your efforts to insure quality education and health care for all Americans, including your leadership on the Americans with Disabilities Act, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, have earned you the respect of men and women across the political spectrum. From your first major bill on immigration reform to your recent call for a renewed commitment to community service, you have championed an open and inclusive society. To your family and the nation, you are a profile of courageous leadership, the guardian of a dream that lives on.

"The founding members of the American Academy were pragmatic visionaries, anticipating the needs of a young republic for both wise governance and fresh ideas. You follow in their footsteps as a Scholar-Patriot for our time. Asserting that "our future does not belong to those who are content with today," you have fulfilled the Academy's historic mission, translating knowledge into action and celebrating the life of the mind in service to the community, the nation, and the world."