

are being discussed deal with bailing out people's mistakes or using taxpayers' dollars for public works projects and more government programs. Some also talk about the government creating "new jobs" but they don't understand that there are still jobs in existence and all they lack is orders from consumers.

We need something easy to understand that is considerably less expensive for the taxpayer than current proposals. We need a proposal that will begin to restore our economy immediately by providing a significant incentive to purchase the second largest purchase a typical consumer will make in their lifetime (after housing) in order to help jump-start the economy.

First, in 2007, about 17 million new vehicles were sold in America. A year later, only 10 million cars were sold. This represents a net loss of 7 million cars. At an average price of \$25,000, this loss of new car sales translated into \$175 billion that was directly removed from the economy in 2008. If we can get back to selling 15 million cars, that would add about \$125 billion directly into the economy. Multiplier effects of between 3 to 7 percent could increase the U.S. economic benefit of selling 5 million more cars up to \$900 billion.

Second, when cars and trucks start selling, it moves inventory from factory lots and dealers showrooms. It pays salaries of all the vehicle assembly workers, dealers, and employees. It replenishes local and state sales tax receipts. It restarts manufacturing and supply chains and the economy begins to boom again because vehicles are the second biggest consumer item (after housing).

Third, by offering a tax credit of \$5,000 for the purchase of a new car or truck, an individual could buy, for example, a new Chrysler Jeep Patriot (assembled in Belvidere, Illinois, which I am proud to represent) for less than \$15,000 or around \$200 a month for 5 years. This incentive is large enough to encourage consumers on the fence to make the decision this year to buy a car.

Fourth, we need to implement this tax incentive immediately while people who still have jobs are able to buy a new car.

We will continue to lose jobs until items are again purchased. Common sense and sound economics have given way to "I want my fair share of the stimulus" mentality. No one is thinking about the massive inflation and the higher taxes that will eventually be necessary to pay for the current stimulus and bailout proposals. Many are unfortunately focused on the pre-eminence of "the government is the only answer" doctrine. There is little regard for restarting our economy from the bottom up.

While government cannot be the answer, it can be part of the solution. We can do things now that will drastically alter the negative course we are on. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join Rep. UPTON and me in co-sponsoring the Get America Moving Again Act of 2009.

IN HONOR OF THE 2008 LAWRENCE
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL MARCH-
ING BAND

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Lawrence Central

High School Marching Band, whose 2008 success catapulted them forward as one of our nation's top high school marching bands.

With hours of dedicated practice, the band developed a musical expertise and performance ability that led them to their first Indiana State Championship since 2000. Following this victory, they were invited to participate in the Bands of America Grand Nationals where they placed third.

Lawrence Central's amazing season culminated with an invitation to the prestigious Annual Fiesta Bowl and Blue Cross/Blue Shield National Band Competition. Competing against the nation's best bands, Lawrence Central was crowned Grand Master Champion, the highest award available.

The band's achievements would not have been possible without the highest quality band staff. Directors of Bands Randy Greenwell and Matthew James and their staff all served as excellent teachers and mentors to their band members. Additionally, all the Lawrence Central fans, and in particular the spirited student body, should be recognized for their enthusiastic support.

I offer my sincere congratulations to the Lawrence Central Marching Band, their band staff, classmates and parents on their incredible success in 2008.

A TRIBUTE TO GWEN REGALIA,
MAYOR OF WALNUT CREEK

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honoring Gwen Regalia for her many accomplishments and contributions to the city of Walnut Creek.

Gwen Regalia has provided remarkable leadership as a member of the Walnut Creek City Council since 1987. As Mayor of Walnut Creek, Gwen served for an unprecedented five terms and my congressional district has been greatly enhanced by over two decades of her service. Now, as Gwen retires from public office it is my great privilege to pay tribute to her work in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Gwen's career began upon her graduation from the University of California at Berkeley. She began teaching elementary school when she moved to Walnut Creek in 1958 and now holds a Life Credential in Elementary Education. Gwen's political career began in 1978 when she ran for the Walnut Creek School District board and served for almost ten years; she also served as president for two of those years.

In 1987 Gwen was elected to the City Council, but her duties did not stop at the Walnut Creek boarder. While in office she also served as President of the Kennedy-King Memorial College Scholarship Fund, she was president and former director of the Diablo Valley Foundation for the environment, she is a forty-year member of the American Association of University Women, member of the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, Diablo Regional Arts Association member, as well as other local cultural organizations.

Under Gwen's leadership in the City Council several capital projects were completed, in-

cluding the Leshner Center for the Arts, the Shadelands Art Center, the Iron Horse Trail Bridge, two gyms, five parks and seven ball fields, as well as the acquisition of 305 acres of open space.

Gwen Regalia's twenty-one years of public service is an example to us all, and we are lucky to have her vision and her commitment to the citizens of Walnut Creek. It is my honor to recognize Gwen Regalia as she retires from public service and I wish her success and happiness in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF SECRETARY
VALERIE A. WOODRUFF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Valerie Woodruff, Delaware's Secretary of Education. Val will retire this year after a 44 year career in public education and serving the state of Delaware for over 30 years.

During her term as Secretary, Val led the implementation of Delaware's accountability system and worked with Congress and the U.S. Department of Education to implement the federal No Child Left Behind Act in Delaware.

Although Val's work in public education began long before her service in Delaware, Val has had a huge positive impact on Delaware's education system. Val led the development of the first school-based Wellness Center in Delaware that has served as a model for additional Delaware schools. Val served as a Thomson Fellow for the Coalition of Essential States, where she participated in, and conducted workshops in her capacity and was selected as Delaware's Principal of the Year in 1990. Val also serves as a member of several boards including the Delaware Workforce Investment Board and its Youth Council and the State Chamber of Commerce Partnership.

Additionally, Val represents Delaware on the Southern Regional Education Board, serves on the Executive Committee of the Southern Regional Education Board, and is the first K-12 educator to serve as Vice Chair. She also served as President of the Council of Chief State School Officers from November 2005 to November 2006.

Val was born in Steubenville, Ohio and grew up in West Virginia. She attended Alderson Broaddus College in Philippi, West Virginia and graduated in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education in English and Social Studies. In 1971, Val began her work in Delaware and received her Master of Education degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware.

I would like to thank Val for her many years of service and her focus on developing quality teachers and school leaders, as well as the importance of providing an excellent educational experience to all children in Delaware. Val's work has resulted in improved student achievement and positive recognition of Delaware public education.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 553: THE
REDUCING OVER-CLASSIFICA-
TION ACT OF 2009

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, America's first preventers will face an enormous challenge next Tuesday. They must protect key members of this and the next Administration—especially the first families—and manage crowds of millions for the largest American Presidential Inauguration to date, working seamlessly with federal counterparts to do so.

Unprecedented efforts will be made to share information—especially information about threats. Information sharing was a huge problem leading up to 9/11, and 7 years later, we still have work to do.

When the Inauguration is over, local law enforcement shouldn't have to return to business-as-usual—where it is still difficult to get accurate, actionable, and timely information about threats and tactics to police officers in the field.

Though hard to believe, sheriffs and police chiefs can't readily access the information they need to prevent or disrupt a potential terrorist attack because those at the federal level resist sharing information. Over-classification and pseudo-classification—stamping with any number of sensitive but unclassified markings—remain rampant.

Protecting sources and methods is the only valid reason to refuse to share information. It is no exaggeration that people die and our ability to monitor certain targets can be compromised, if sources and methods are revealed.

But classifying information for the wrong reasons—to protect turf or to avoid embarrassment—is wrong. During my 8 years on the House Intelligence Committee, I became incredibly frustrated with this practice—which the Bush Administration elevated to an art form.

And, sadly, the practice has spread to our newest federal agency: the Department of Homeland Security.

Madam Speaker, the next attack in the United States will not be stopped because a bureaucrat in Washington, DC found out about it in advance. It will be the cop on the beat who is familiar with the rhythms and nuances of his or her own neighborhood who will foil that attack.

H.R. 553, the Reducing Over-Classification Act, and which passed the House unanimously in the 110th Congress, is an attempt to establish a gold standard at DHS when it comes to classification practices.

It requires that all classified intelligence products created at the Department be simultaneously created in a standard unclassified format if such a product would help local law enforcement keep us safe. This is unprecedented.

Furthermore, the bill requires portion marking—the identification of paragraphs in a document that are classified—permitting the remainder of the document to remain unclassified.

The measure will promote accountability by requiring the DHS Inspector General to sample randomly classified intelligence products

and identify problems that exist in those samples.

It also directs the Secretary to develop a plan to track electronically how and where information classified by DHS is disseminated so that misuse can be prevented.

Finally, the legislation requires the Secretary to establish extensive annual training on the proper use of the classification regime, and penalties for staff who repeatedly fail to comply with applicable classification policies.

A key to homeland security is personal preparedness. A prepared public is not likely to be terrorized. Access to important non-classified information is essential to ensure preparedness, and this bill protects the public's right to know. It enjoys support by privacy and civil liberty groups.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of first preventers and first responders everywhere, I urge passage of this essential bipartisan legislation, and its prompt consideration in the Senate.

SCHOOL BUILDING ENHANCEMENT
ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the School Building Enhancement Act, legislation that would help schools implement energy saving measures to reduce their energy costs.

According to the Department of Energy, DOE schools spent over \$8 billion on energy in 2007—\$2 billion more than they spent just two years earlier. Sky-rocketing energy costs have forced schools to spend more annually on heating and electricity than they spend on textbooks and computers combined. Energy is the second-highest operating expenditure for schools after personnel costs. Schools across the country are already facing tight budgets; rising energy costs will only worsen their budget situation and could lead to the loss of important school programs.

Fortunately, there are ways for schools to offset the soaring price of energy. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, 30 percent of energy consumed in buildings is used unnecessarily or inefficiently. By understanding where energy is used unwisely and implementing simple changes in the operations and maintenance of school buildings, a school's operating costs can be reduced by 5 to 25 percent. Schools that are seeking even greater long-term savings can retrofit their buildings with more efficient systems and replace old appliances. The \$2 billion saved could be used for purchases that directly benefit our nation's students—such as hiring 30,000 new teachers or purchasing 40 million additional textbooks.

However, cash-strapped school systems often are unable to find the necessary financial resources to invest in these energy efficient upgrades. The School Building Enhancement Act would assist schools in making these improvements by providing grants to states and local educational agencies through the Department of Education for energy efficiency upgrades. These improvements would need to follow the guidelines of the EnergySmart

Schools Program of the Department of Energy or the Energy Star for K–12 School Districts program at the Environmental Protection Agency.

If enacted, the School Building Enhancement Act would provide the needed funding for schools in my home state of New Jersey, and throughout the country, to implement energy efficiency measures that would help schools save thousands of dollars annually.

Schools that already have implemented energy efficiency measures have succeeded in achieving significant savings. For example, the Summerfield Elementary School in my home state of New Jersey has implemented energy efficiency measures that have reduced their consumption by 32 percent, allowing Summerfield to save \$41,000 annually on energy costs. Summerfield is just one of many schools that are being built to use energy smarter and more efficiently. According to the EPA more than 800 schools have been Energy Star certified, saving an average of 40 cents per square foot in operating costs annually.

Twenty-five of my colleagues have joined me in introducing this important legislation to help cash-strapped schools achieve significant savings on their energy costs and protect the environment. I urge my colleagues to support the School Building Enhancement Act.

INTRODUCING THE SAVE OUR
CLIMATE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague JIM McDERMOTT to reintroduce the Save Our Climate Act, a bill to place a tax on carbon. A carbon tax is the most straightforward and efficient way to end our addiction to fossil fuels and confront global climate change.

While I have introduced this proposal in years past, I am more confident than ever that the time for action has arrived. We have a President-elect who consistently acknowledges that our planet is in peril. The upcoming economic recovery package will focus on creating "green jobs" and investing in clean energy.

The best solution is to place a tax on what we want to reduce—pollution; and to put that revenue into what we want to increase—work, income, and investment in new technology. A carbon tax is the best way to do that.

Under the Save Our Climate Act, carbon based fuels—coal, petroleum and natural gas—are taxed at a rate of \$10 per ton of carbon content. The tax will increase by \$10 per ton of carbon every year, making it less affordable to burn fossil fuels as time goes on. When the United States reaches the International Panel on Climate Change's standard of reducing CO₂ emissions by 80 percent, the tax will be frozen.

A tax provides certainty for businesses, as they will know what the level of tax will be from year to year and can make adjustments in their business plans. This legislation is also simple to administer and will require no new bureaucracy to implement. For these reasons, the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, concluded last year that a carbon tax is the most