

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LETTER FROM INDIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL GREG ZOELLER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I submit the following letter.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEVIN AND RANKING MEMBER CAMP: I write to express my serious concerns about H.R. 4976, the “Internet Gambling Regulation and Tax Enforcement Act of 2010,” and the legislation it implements, H.R. 2267, the “Internet Gambling Regulation, Consumer Protection, and Enforcement Act.” The “optimum” revenue effects of these bills can be achieved only by massive and unprecedented expansion of gambling and by preempting the powers of the States to regulate gambling within their borders.

Gambling regulation has traditionally been conducted by the States and Indian tribes. H.R. 2267, the substantive proposal that underlies the revenue provisions of H.R. 4976, creates an Internet gambling licensing system that vests regulatory authority in the United States Treasury Department. While H.R. 2267 allows the Treasury to partner with States to carry out regulatory and enforcement activities, the bill also provides all Federal licensees with a “complete defense against any prosecution or enforcement action under any Federal or State law.” This “safe harbor” provision effectively nullifies existing State laws by placing all Federal license-holders outside the scope of the States’ own gambling enforcement powers.

H.R. 2267 also preempts current Federal laws that are vital to State gambling and regulatory frameworks. State laws are reinforced by Federal statutes that either rely on substantive State provisions or prevent interstate incursions on State-level public policies. The Federal Wire Act of 1961, for instance, supplements State gambling controls by barring interstate wagers. The Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 is structured, in part, around State gambling laws. By exempting licensees from laws such as the Wire Act or UIGEA, H.R. 2267 severely impairs this long-standing, complimentary relationship between Federal and State regulatory systems.

Importantly, the revenue-generating power of H.R. 4976 depends almost entirely on the Federal preemption made possible by H.R. 2267. H.R. 2267 does provide a restrictive opt-out mechanism through which the States may decline to participate in the Federal licensing system. However, the Joint Committee on Taxation’s most expansive of four different estimates—\$42 billion—is based on discarding even these State opt-out rights in favor of complete Federal preemption. In that estimate, the Joint Committee explicitly assumed that “no State or tribal government will be permitted to limit federally licensed Internet gambling operators from providing online gambling services in their jurisdictions.” In other words, H.R. 4976 will generate \$42 billion only if H.R. 2267’s opt-out procedure—its principal State-protective provision—is eviscerated.

The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that is most clearly based on the texts

of H.R. 2267 and H.R. 4976 indicates that the bills will generate approximately \$10 billion in Federal revenue. This much more modest estimate appears to assume that many States will choose to opt-out in order to prevent the expansion of gambling on the Internet. While we realize that H.R. 4976 provides license fee revenue and grants to the States, these incentives do not assuage my concerns.

Thank you for considering my view.

Sincerely,

GREGORY F. ZOELLER,
Indiana Attorney General.

CONGRATULATING MVP DIANA TAURASI

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Diana Taurasi on being voted the 2009 Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) Most Valuable Player, the 2009 WNBA Finals Most Valuable Player, and the recipient of the 2010 ESPY Award for Best WNBA Player.

During Ms. Taurasi’s 2009 MVP campaign, she ranked among the WNBA’s top ten leaders in nearly every statistical category, including points per game, three point field goals made, three-point field goals attempted, three-point field goal percentage, free throws made, free throws attempted, free throw percentage, field goals made, field goals attempted, blocks per game and defensive rebounds per game.

In 2009, Ms. Taurasi became the fastest WNBA player to reach 4,000 career points, while leading the WNBA with 20.4 points per game. Ms. Taurasi also ranks 13th in WNBA history for points scored and third in all-time points per game. Ms. Taurasi is one of two players in WNBA history to win an MVP Award, a WNBA championship and the finals MVP in the same season.

I am truly privileged to honor Ms. Taurasi for her accomplishments. Her commitment to excellence should serve as an inspiration for all.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Diana Taurasi as she is honored as being the 2009 WNBA Most Valuable Player, the 2009 WNBA Finals Most Valuable Player and the 2010 ESPY Best WNBA Player.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM PRIORITIES ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5114) to extend the authorization for the National Flood Insurance Program, to identify priorities es-

sential to reform and ongoing stable functioning of the program, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this bill.

This issue of great importance to my constituents, as multiple counties in New Jersey—including several in my district—have frequently been declared Federal disaster areas over the last decade because of severe, frequent floods. From Kingwood to Trenton to South River, thousands of central New Jersey residents have seen their homes and businesses ruined by these floods, which are undoubtedly being driven in part by global climate change that is producing more frequent and severe weather across our country.

The bill before us would ensure that the National Flood Insurance Program is reauthorized through 2015, and it includes many homeowner-friendly provisions. For the first time since 1994, raises the maximum coverage limits for flood insurance policies for residences from \$250,000 to \$335,000. The bill also delays for five years requirement mandating the purchase of flood insurance for homeowners in a neighborhood newly classified as a flood zone—so that these homeowners are not suddenly burdened with unexpected insurance costs. I regret that the House Committee on Rules refused to make in order an amendment I offered that would have frozen annual premium rate increases to no more than 10 percent annually, but I will continue to argue for such a freeze during conference negotiations on this bill.

More broadly, Congress needs to take further steps to help communities mitigate potential flood damage.

Last year, I secured \$314,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers to continue Flood Mitigation in the Raritan River Basin. The funding supports the work of the Army Corps of Engineers to protect the region from flooding. As a result of the 2007 Water Resources Development Act, the Army Corps has begun preconstruction on flood mitigation projects that were recommended in the Corps feasibility report completed in September 2002. The project includes the construction of a storm surge barrier, floodwalls and levees, interior drainage facilities, and ecosystem restoration. The project benefits the communities of East Brunswick, Old Bridge and South River. Additionally, I secured \$300,000 for the City of Trenton to implement measures to protect its water filtration plant from flood events. Flood damage to the plant could cause devastating service interruptions and have an adverse impact on the drinking water supply. I will continue to support such preventive measures, even as I work to enact policies that will halt the kind of harmful climatic changes that are at least in part fueling the storms and flooding that perennially threaten our communities.

● 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.

WHAT IS WRIGHT—A TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN HERO, LANCE CORPORAL RANDAL WRIGHT, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. WALT MINNICK

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. MINNICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American Hero from my state of Idaho, Lance Corporal Randal Wright of Cottonwood, Idaho, of the 1-2 Marine Division. On May 23, 2010, Corporal Wright almost lost his life in an I.A.D. explosion that took his two fine legs and arm. Against all odds he survived, and now courageously goes forward with his new battle to rebuild his life. His faith and his courage is a lesson to us all, about to what heights a heart can soar. In less than three months, Randal has come so far, so fast in his recovery. On Friday July 23, Randal plans to marry the love of his life, Vanessa Hylton. In honor of his courage, and selfless sacrifice, and his family and the upcoming wedding on this Friday, I submit this poem penned in honor of them by Albert Carey Caswell for the RECORD. And may they have a wonderful life together.

WHAT IS WRIGHT

What Is Wright?
What is bold? What is bright?
To fight the darkness, for hearts to hold . . .
to bring the light!
Who evil must fight!
And what is true, to make all hearts believe
in . . . ignite!
Is but a man who will go off to war, all for
his country such burdens bore . . .
Who'll walk through the valley of death, all
for our nation to so bless . . .
A man who wears the uniform, of a United
States Marine so very warm . . .
What Is Wright?
Are all of these magnificent's, who evil must
fight!
Is but a heart, that will bring its light!
For in that moment Randal, when you
looked down. . . .
And saw, all of what you had lost . . . that
you had found!
How easily you could have given up, let
down!
As the tears, broke upon your fine face so
now . . .
As when Marine, your fine heart began to
pound!
And told you, that you have to cover some
ground. . . .
For you have a life to live!
So much more to give!
To Beseech Us! To So Teach Us! To So Reach
Us!
As you Marine, do so now!
For all in this world of darkness,
and wrong. . . .
Your fine life Randal, is but a bright light
. . . a song!
Of what is Wright, to take with us into those
darkest of all nights . . . so now!
To lead the way, but with your light!
Of, all on God's green earth . . . of what is
Wright!
And if ever I but have a son. . . .
May he shine Randal, as bright as you fine
one!
Of What Is Wright!
Thy will be done!

CONGRESS SHOULD SUPPORT
ETHANOL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, Members of Congress are working to remedy the current economic imbalance, immense unemployment, job creation and both domestic and international energy based issues. As we look to the future; we must confront the many dimensions of these complex challenges to create solutions that will have a lasting positive benefit for America. I believe investing in renewable energy sources, including ethanol, is an efficient and effective economic stimulus. Ethanol serves as an aid to meet energy policy goals by promoting domestic production of renewable energy, reducing green house gas emissions and providing financial support for the agriculture sector.

Nationwide, ethanol has increased tax revenues for both State and local governments by over \$5 billion. Ethanol production and use today reduces green house gas emissions compared to gasoline by 59 percent. According to the Congressional Budget Office report as of this July, Argonne National Lab concluded corn based ethanol produced 20 percent less green house gas emissions in its life cycle compared to gasoline and petroleum diesel. Ethanol production contributed \$53.3 billion to the Nation's gross domestic product and created over 200,000 jobs in all sectors of the economy. The state of Illinois produces over 1.5 billion gallons of ethanol annually and is ranked third in ethanol production with 14 facilities. Just as ethanol has been a valuable tool for the state of Illinois, I strongly believe support for this renewable energy source can be a great benefit to the Nation.

Our current energy economy is not sustainable. It is imperative we restructure our energy infrastructure in a sustainable manner while simultaneously reducing our green house gas emissions. Investing in ethanol and other renewable energy sources are an important piece of our Nation's economic and energy future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 448, I was not present due to my flight being delayed. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues

in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the twentieth anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law on July 26, 1990. Twenty years ago, I proudly supported the passage of this landmark legislation in the House of Representatives along with 376 of my colleagues.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is often described as the most sweeping non-discrimination legislation since the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Act's purpose is to "provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities." It prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, public services, and public accommodations to enable millions of disabled Americans to fully function in society.

As a result of this Act, employers are no longer allowed to single out disabled individuals in hiring, firing or advancement practices. State and local governments must now follow specific design standards when constructing or altering new buildings to accommodate individuals restricted to wheelchairs, and restaurants and retail stores are required to make reasonable accommodations for disabled individuals. The Act also requires that telecommunication services be provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week for individuals with hearing or speech impairments.

Twenty years after its inception, Americans across the country continue to benefit from this legislation. Many of the everyday services and accommodations we now take for granted are a direct result of this ground-breaking law.

For example, mass transit systems are now equipped with voice messages to help the visually impaired independently navigate their daily routines, and new stadiums feature accessible seating for those in wheelchairs and their guests.

The Americans with Disabilities Act's footprint can be strongly felt throughout my district in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Whether it is access to handicapped parking spaces at the Steamtown Mall, or sidewalk ramps around the public square in Wilkes-Barre, my constituents continue to benefit everyday from this legislation.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the twentieth anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is my sincere hope that in the coming years we continue to remove barriers that prevent our fellow citizens from fully functioning in society.

CONGRATULATING THE PHOENIX MERCURY

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Phoenix Mercury for their championship victory during the 2009 Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) Finals.

On October 9, 2009, the Phoenix Mercury defeated the Indiana Fever in a best-of-five series. The Phoenix Mercury has won the