

SUPPORT FOR NORTH AMERICAN INCLUSION MONTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Representative Towns on H.R. 1014 which recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of North American Inclusion Month. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution which demonstrates Congress' support for ensuring that all individuals are included in communities across the Nation. I would also like to commend Yachad and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America for their continued support of disabled Americans.

I recently introduced two bills that support the ideals and goals of North American Inclusion Month, H.R. 4533, the Technology Bill of Rights and H.R. 1408, the Inclusive Home Design Act.

The Technology Bill of Rights would allow the blind and visually impaired equal access to rapidly advancing electronics, which millions of Americans use every day. Because the blind are currently not able to interact with many new technologies, they must overcome barriers of which other Americans may not even be aware.

The visually impaired are not able to use touch screens and visual displays, which have replaced knobs and buttons on many appliances. They face challenges in choosing new stoves, microwaves, fax machines, and cell phones. These technologies have become essential for many Americans, and inaccessibility has challenged the independence of and work opportunities of the blind. Even in good economic times, the blind face enormous barriers in their attempts to join the workforce, because of the inability to use many office technologies that require visual interaction. The recent economic downturn has amplified these hurdles to employment.

H.R. 4533 would ensure blind and visually impaired Americans equal access to these new technologies. The bill would mandate that consumer electronics, home appliances, kiosks, and electronic office technology are designed with nonvisual access components so that they are usable by all people. There are already inexpensive mechanisms that have been created which manufacturers can use to ensure equal access. This includes text-to-speech technology that has unfortunately not seen widespread implementation. This bill would increase the implementation of existing technologies and create new jobs as new technologies are developed to ensure that products are accessible for the visually impaired.

The Inclusive Home Design Act would mandate that all new homes built with the assistance of Federal funds would be accessible for the disabled. This legislation is based on the principle of integrating basic accessibility, establishing "visibility" standards, and allowing elderly Americans to "age in place" rather than being forced to move, be institutionalized, or spend thousands of dollars on home renovations. This is a sustainable, affordable, and inclusive design approach. It would require the new homes to meet four accessibility standards. First, it would require at minimum one

accessible entrance into the home. Second, doorways on the first floor must be large enough to accommodate wheelchairs. Third, at least one bathroom must be wheelchair accessible. Finally, the light switch and thermostats are required to be at a reachable height for those in a wheelchair. I am proud to have the support of Access Living and the Paralyzed Veterans of America in passing this legislation.

I encourage my colleagues to support the resolution recognizing North American Inclusion Month, and I look forward to continuing to work with them to ensure equal access for all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD "DICK" SPOTO, FORMER PRINCIPAL AND HEADMASTER

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and contributions of Richard "Dick" Spoto—and to acknowledge his dedication to the teachers, students and his neighbors in the Tampa Bay Area.

Mr. Spoto was born in Tampa, Florida in 1917. He was the youngest of 13 children born to Guisepina and Pietro Spoto. He started his 41-year career in education as the assistant football coach at Hillsborough High and then the head coach at Jefferson High until he became the county's first director of health and physical education in 1949. Shortly after, Mr. Spoto returned to school and received his master's degree in administration from the University of Florida in 1952.

Mr. Spoto realized soon after receiving his masters that his true calling resided in the school system. So he returned to become principal of Tampa Bay Boulevard Elementary from 1953–1961, then Sligh Junior High from 1961–1966 and finally Hillsborough High from 1966–1970. After leaving the school district, he went to work as headmaster at Saint Mary's Episcopal Day School before retiring in 1980.

For 41 years, Mr. Spoto was dedicated to enriching the lives of his students and colleagues. His mentor and friend Richard "Norm" Pettigrew, with whom he created the group Athletes from the Past, described him as "a friend to everyone—an inspiration really . . . he would instill good habits and kept you on track."

While Mr. Spoto may be gone his lifelong commitment to athletics and education has been celebrated with many honors, culminating in 2005 with the dedication of Richard C. Spoto High School.

Mr. Spoto is survived by his two daughters, Susan Spoto Shobe, Elizabeth "B.J." Spoto-Russell along with his four grandchildren, Ashley Shobe Gilkison, David C. Shobe Jr., Kathleen Elizabeth Johns, and Allison Elayne Russell and his two great-grandchildren, Richard "Bo" Gilkison and Elizabeth Marie Johns. The Tampa community honors the life of Mr. Spoto for his outstanding contributions as an educator.

His service to the Tampa Bay community has made a lasting mark that will not soon be forgotten.

THE RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPANSION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the impacts of a changing climate are far-reaching, representing a threat not only to our natural ecosystems but to our national security as well. To help avoid the worst effects of carbon pollution, consumers must have a dependable supply of energy that is clean, renewable, and American. The right combination of tax incentives, regulatory changes, and investment in research and development for cleaner energy can expand the renewable energy market, put renewable energy on an equal footing with traditional fossil fuels, and create good domestic jobs in the clean energy industry.

During the economic crisis, renewable energy investors were unable to take advantage of tax credits offered by the federal government to spur renewable energy investment and production. For example, many industry analysts anticipated that in 2009 wind power development would drop by as much as 50% from 2008 levels, with equivalent job losses.

To avoid this outcome, the federal government shifted its tax credit contribution to these projects into cash grants for qualifying projects. This program was extremely successful: in 2009, as a result of these policies, the U.S. wind industry broke all previous records by installing nearly 10,000 megawatts of new generating capacity in 2009. Other renewable energy providers reported similar gains.

This grant program expires on December 31, 2010. The legislation that I am introducing today, the Renewable Energy Expansion Act, will ensure that these benefits are not lost and will ensure that consumers continue to gain better access to sources of clean, renewable energy.

The Renewable Energy Expansion Act allows taxpayers to elect to receive a tax credit that functions as a direct payment for investing in or producing renewable energy. The amount of the payment is tailored to equal the subsidy provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's energy grant program. The legislation provides taxpayers the option to receive this new credit or to use the ARRA-created grant program, depending on which program best matches their needs. The legislation also ensures the smooth continuation of our underlying commitment to clean, renewable energy by carrying forward existing guidance and making technical changes to improve the underlying program. Finally, the legislation extends the credit until January 1, 2013.

The legislation makes several technical improvements to the underlying grant program. First, it eliminates an unintended consequence of the normalization rules that limited the ability of regulated utilities to develop renewable power facilities, even if the project otherwise met the prudence tests required by their public utilities commissions. I look forward to seeing added renewable power capacity in my state as a result.

Second, the legislation also improves the investment climate for renewable projects by streamlining access to these investments by

investment funds with tax-exempt investors. The proportional disallowance rules that are part of the legislation provide an important balance between protecting federal investments while opening up increased sources of development capital for renewable power developers. In that same vein, this legislation adopts changes that will increase the ability for real estate investment trusts to access these investments and I look forward to an expanding pool of investment capital for these projects in the future.

Finally, it is important to emphasize that the regulatory guidance that has been developed under the American Revitalization and Recovery Act's section 1603 grant program will be adopted by this legislation. It is important for the renewable energy industry—and for the investment community that supports it—to have certainty in the nature of the federal commitment. Having built a smoothly functioning guidance structure under the 1603 program, it provides no benefit to unsettle that understanding. It is my expectation that within 60 days of the enactment of this legislation the Treasury Department will issue guidance integrating the existing guidance into this new framework.

This legislation will help transition America to a clean energy economy. I look forward to working with my colleagues to realize that goal.

HONORING KATHERINE O. HENDERSON, RECIPIENT OF THE 2009 MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katherine O. Henderson for receiving the 2009 Milken Education Family Foundation National Educator Award.

Ms. Henderson, a teacher at West Ashley High School in Charleston, joins a prestigious group of Milken Educator Award recipients, and I am proud to have one of my constituents recognized as one of these talented educators. She has made a remarkable impact on the youth of South Carolina through her innovative teaching strategies and inspirational teaching quality. Not only has she provided models of excellence for the profession, but has motivated students, colleagues and members throughout her community.

The Milken Educator Awards motto states, "The future belongs to the educated." With that said, thank you, Katherine O. Henderson, for your outstanding commitment and influence on the future generations of South Carolina's First District.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Republican Conference standards regarding Member initiatives, I am

submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding projects received as part of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (Alabama)

Bill Number: H.R. 3326, Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010 Account: RDT&E, Army

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Auburn University/Frontier Technology, Inc.

Address of Receiving Entity: 102 Samford Hall, Auburn, AL 36849/1400 Commerce Blvd., #27, Anniston, AL 36207

Description of Request: Provide \$2,800,000 for the Enhanced Military Vehicle Maintenance System Demonstration Project. Auburn University and partner Frontier Technology, Inc. will partner and use these funding will go towards system analysis, development, integration, validation and training, as well as toward field installation, optimization and support. Additionally, these efforts should create new high tech jobs, and will continue to demonstrate that Auburn University is a premier research and development university. The Enhanced Military Vehicle Maintenance System identifies difficult to detect failure modes that must be serviced while the vehicle is undergoing maintenance. It models vehicle conditions to ensure that the vehicle is restored to an optimum state of operation prior to return to service. This technology can be modified for various military vehicles to detect problems not typically reported using threshold or trend systems. It detects problems before they happen, preventing breakdowns in battlefield environments. The system successfully verifies that vehicles repaired at the Depot have been restored to an optimum state of operation prior to redeployment. The system provides the cutting edge, cost effective technology that helps ensure more rapid and reliable deployment of critical military vehicles during this period when our equipment is under extreme and extended use. Auburn and FTI are now starting to implement the system at Anniston.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (Alabama)

Bill Number: H.R. 3326, Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010 Account: OM, Army

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Intergraph Corporation

Address of Receiving Entity: 170 Graphics Drive, Madison, AL 35758

Description of Request: Provide \$4,000,000 for the Fort Benning National Incident Management System (NIMS)—Compliant Installation Operations Center. Funding will be used to establish a NIMS-compliant installation operations center, hardware, software, services and training at Fort Benning, Georgia. This funding will go towards meeting the implementation of a NIMS-compliant installation operations center that will directly support Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5 by providing interoperability and cross-jurisdiction capabilities among local and multi-state response agencies. The request will allow Fort Benning to create a NIMS-compliant state-of-the-art operations center. This system will provide Fort Benning with the critically needed capability to track and protect new incidents and existing activities. The final solution will integrate first responder force protection and the fire fighting common operational picture into

one comprehensive command and control/decision support capability that will provide visibility to the commander to gain status and direct response, analyze the current anti-terrorism and force protection mission, and allow for appropriate reporting to other operations centers throughout the country.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (Alabama)

Bill Number: H.R. 3326, Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010 Account: RDT&E, Army

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: John C. Calhoun Community College

Address of Receiving Entity: P.O. Box 2216, Decatur, Alabama 35609

Description of Request: Provide \$3,360,000 for the ART-SAM (Adaptive Robotics Technology for Space, Air and Missiles). Funding will be used to establish a national robotics Research and Development center at the Robotics Technology Park, located at Calhoun Community College, to develop robotics capability for space, air, and missile defense missions for a variety of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) projects, programs, and core mission needs. This funding will go towards implementation of the infrastructure and development of robotic hardware and software. This includes evaluating initial concepts for implementation, establishing operational capability, and demonstrating initial operational capability. This is the first year funding will be needed; this project will be accomplished over a three year funding cycle. Alabama's 3rd District will be impacted indirectly, and the opportunities for job creation and workforce development across the state are considerable. Additionally, the strong military-oriented mission for ART-SAM should apply directly to military operations and associated personnel in District 3. The implications of the ART-SAM vision will be readily apparent to any District 3 constituent already involved in battlefield simulation and robotics.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (Alabama)

Bill Number: H.R. 3326, Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010 Account: RDT&E, Army

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: QinetiQ North America—Systems Engineering Group

Address of Receiving Entity: 890 Explorer Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35806

Description of Request: Provide \$3,360,000 for Scenario Generation for Integrated Air and Missile Defense Evaluation. This funding will be used for the Army Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, Software Engineering Directorate (SED) for development of ground test scenarios required to execute the Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battle Command System Milestone B Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP). Funding for this scenario development effort addresses a portion of a documented AMD UFR associated with System of Systems development and acquisition funding profile. Investment in this scenario development during FY10 will maintain the critical milestone schedule, including Milestone C and Initial Operational Capability (IOC).

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (Alabama)

Bill Number: H.R. 3326, Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010 Account: RDT&E, Army

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: PeopleTec, Inc.