

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO EXPAND THE DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OF THE U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to expand the discretionary authority of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to take action under section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. Specifically, the legislation would allow USTR to investigate and impose sanctions on countries whose trade practices are found to be unfair to U.S. interests by failing to enforce foreign country environmental laws. Specifically, USTR will have discretionary authority to take action if it finds a persistent pattern of conduct that indicates a trading partner:

- (I) Fails to effectively enforce the environmental laws of a foreign country;
- (II) Waives or otherwise derogates from the environmental laws of a foreign country or weakens the protections afforded by such laws;
- (III) Fails to provide for judicial or administrative proceedings giving access to remedies for violations of the environmental laws of a foreign country; or
- (IV) Fails to provide appropriate and effective sanctions or remedies for violations of the environmental laws of a foreign country.

This authority is very similar to existing authority held by USTR to enforce labor rights around the world.

My support for international trade agreements has always been predicated on the notion that agreements establish a fair, rules-based trading regime. The economy of my state is heavily trade-dependent. Oregon's iconic brands would not exist without strong international trading relationships. Oregon's largest private employer, Intel, is a product of the international market for high-tech products. The Port of Portland's distribution centers alone create 17,000 jobs, \$810 million in wages and other personal income, and \$2.8 billion in business revenues. Ensuring a level playing field in U.S. trading relationships is vital to protecting these jobs and to ensuring public support for a forward-looking, optimistic approach to trade policy.

Allowing our trading partners to derogate from their environmental laws provides an unfair advantage to their businesses and allows those businesses to unfairly undercut U.S. companies, which operate under strong environmental protections. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that trade remains free and open, but, in incorporating environmental and labor protections, also meets basic expectations of fairness.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE VICTOR MICELI

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of my friend,

Judge Victor Miceli, who served as Superior Court Judge for Riverside County, California for 15 years and dedicated his life to bettering the community around him. On Thursday, September 16, 2010, Vic passed away at the age of 82 with his wife of 49 years, Bernice, by his side. Though Vic has passed on from this life, he leaves a lasting legacy in Riverside, the community he loved so dearly.

Vic graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Law School in 1952 and went on to serve in the Army as a judge advocate general and later practiced civil law in a private practice. Although he originally hailed from Meadville, Pennsylvania, Vic came to Riverside after having been appointed to the Superior Court bench in 1986 by former California Governor George Deukmejian.

When he retired from the bench in 2001, Vic's work in the community was far from over. Vic turned his focus and efforts to the restoration of downtown Riverside, including the \$24.7 million renovation of the 1903 beaux-arts Riverside Historic Courthouse, which was rededicated in 1998 and complied with new earthquake standards. Vic himself has attributed this as his proudest professional accomplishment. He also advocated for a new federal courthouse in Riverside, and the transfer of the 4th District Court of Appeal, Division Two headquarters from San Bernardino to Riverside. Additionally, he was a dedicated partner in the preservation and continued care of the historic Evergreen Cemetery.

Vic did so much for the community, the term the "Micelian Footprint" was coined, affectionately referring to Vic's ability to positively influence whatever he touched. In fact, 101-year-old retired Appellate Justice John Gabbert called Vic the person who has done more for the community in his lifetime, and said his contributions were "beyond measure."

Despite his passion and gusto, Vic always had a way of charming those around him—and perhaps that is what helped him get so much done. He will be remembered for his great sense of humor and optimistic outlook on life just as much as his drive to accomplish projects and lead others.

Although his career flourished, Vic always put his family first, and set aside time every summer to take his two sons on road trips around the country. His wife remembers him as the kindest and most generous husband.

Vic is survived by his wife and their two sons, Victor Miceli II and John Michael Miceli.

On behalf of all those who knew him, it is an honor to offer these remarks as a tribute to the life and legacy of my friend Victor Miceli. His life and presence will be sorely missed and I extend my condolences to his dear family and friends.

RECOGNIZING THE INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 90th Anniversary of the Independence, Missouri Chamber of Commerce, located in my District. History reveals how Independence, the county seat, grew

from a village, to a town, to the fourth largest city in Missouri. Civic leaders joined together to create a forum for the maintenance, growth and economic stability of the city. The Chamber has played a vital role in providing vision which helped to tackle the hard economic problems of the day. Today's Chamber is comprised of a ". . . partnership of more than 1,200 business and professional people committed to making a difference in the community."

Following its founding in 1920, the Chamber constitution encouraged its members "to promote the civic, economic, and social welfare of the people of Independence and vicinity" with membership open to all interested people. Colonel William Southern, Jr., who began publishing the Jackson Examiner in 1898, served on the original Board of Directors and holds the honor of being the first Board President of the Chamber. Due to the continued quality of leadership, the Chamber's involvement is respected on every issue from legislative initiatives to promoting pride in the city.

Throughout its 90 year history, the Chamber has initiated and supported local programs for economic development, public education, and general community quality of life. Working as a cohesive body with its Board, staff and members, the Chamber strives to provide a better quality of life for its citizens. Historically, they have campaigned to improve infrastructure, stimulate economic growth, annexation, transportation, parks, education and tourism. Through a variety of methods, they have achieved their objectives through bonds, fundraisers or by launching programs to benefit the citizens of Independence. "Put Us to Work" was one program initiated during the depression to coordinate all civic relief efforts and employment assistance for its citizens. We should recognize organizations like the Chamber of Independence as they help our communities find solutions to our current economic challenges.

When Harry S. Truman came home from serving in World War I, he came home to Independence, Missouri. When he was contemplating a run for Eastern District Judge, he went to Col. Southern for support. After serving as President, he once again returned to Independence. The Chamber honored him as a lifetime member of the Independence Chamber in 1945. Later, out of respect and admiration, the Chamber proudly supported fundraising efforts for the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library.

Madam Speaker, please join me in extending my warmest congratulations to Dr. Patty Schumacher, Chair of the Board, and Rick Hemmingsen, Chamber President, for the many accomplishments of the Independence Chamber of Commerce on this, their 90th Anniversary. The Chamber's work and dedication on behalf of the City of Independence has truly bettered our community. I urge my colleagues to join me in showing our appreciation to all its members, past and present.

HONORING THE 5TH STRYKER BRIGADE

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 5th Stryker Brigade,

2nd Infantry Division for their service and recognize their achievements after returning home from a 12-month deployment in Afghanistan. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the men and women of this Stryker Brigade and thank them for their service.

After 2 years of training in preparation to deploy to Iraq, the 5th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division received a change in orders and was directed to deploy as the first Stryker brigade in Afghanistan. The brigade began its operations in Kandahar Province, where they quickly encountered a determined enemy. Over the course of their year in Afghanistan, the brigade went on to lead the assault on Marjah, fight against the Taliban in Arghandab River Valley, help secure President Karzai in Daykundi, and secure highways and lines of communications, all while fighting enemy combatants. Under the leadership of Colonel Harry D. Tunnell, the soldiers performed their duty with honor and courage.

While the brigade performed admirably in challenging circumstances, the deployment did not come without sacrifice. Thirty-seven members of the brigade died in combat operations with another 239 wounded over the course of the deployment. Their sacrifice in defense of our nation, and in an effort to establish a more stable Afghanistan, should be acknowledged and their sacrifice will not be forgotten.

After 12 months in Afghanistan, the brigade began redeploying in June 2010 and held their homecoming ceremony on July 22, 2010 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. During the ceremony, the brigade was also formally reflagged as the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. Though the brigade may have a new designation, the service and sacrifice during their deployment as the 5th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division will not be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the men and women of this brigade, who have displayed venerable service to their country.

**COMMENDING THE MARCH OF DIMES MICHIGAN CHAPTER**

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the March of Dimes Michigan Chapter for their dedicated and tireless service to families across our state. Since its founding in 1939 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the March of Dimes has been devoted to improving the health and wellness of infants and children across the country.

Last year, in my home State of Michigan, the March of Dimes awarded over \$1.1 million to local researchers to support research to save babies; awarded more than \$255,000 in chapter community grants to local programs that support innovative ways to promote and protect maternal and child health; advocated for funding to maintain the Michigan Birth Defects Registry; worked to expand Michigan's newborn screening panel to include over 40 disorders; among many other achievements.

Volunteers like Michael and Suzy Fezzy, the recipients of this year's "John Dingell Hero for Babies Award," are the reason why the Michigan Chapter of March of Dimes is so successful.

Both Michael and Suzy have gone above and beyond to improve the health and well-being of all children. Together they have worked with Sweet Dreamzzz, to provide sleep education and bedtime needs for at-risk school children, as well as working with Yatooma's Foundation for the Kids to help children and families who have lost one or both of their parents.

Suzy also serves as a board member for The Arc of Oakland County, which works with children and adults with intellectual and development disabilities, while Mike has served as the Michigan State Chapter and Metro Detroit Board Chairs for March of Dimes.

Michael and Suzy serve as role models to those around them, giving of themselves to improve the lives of children and families in their community.

Together I have worked with the March of Dimes to pass the Affordable Care Act, to establish and expand the Children's Health Insurance Program, and to advocate furiously for increased funding for research at the National Institutes of Health that will prevent birth defects, prematurity and infant mortality.

These are just a few reasons why I am proud to be an active member of my local March of Dimes chapter in Michigan, and why I am proud to call them my friends. The staff and volunteers at the Michigan Chapter are loyal advocates to improving this world for the next generation, and for more than four decades, we have worked hand-in-hand to fight for America's children, to ensure that every baby born in this country has a fighting chance.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the March of Dimes Michigan Chapter for their support for lifesaving research and quality family support programs that help ensure Michigan's families can bring their children into this world healthy and happy. I look forward to working with them for many years to come.

**RAY BELL**

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor C. Ray Bell, a master builder who passed away on September 4, 2010. He was an outstanding member of the Nashville community, a lifelong activist, a leader in the construction industry, and my friend.

Mr. Bell was born in Scottsboro, AL and raised in Shelbyville, TN. He graduated from the University of the South in 1963 with an honors degree in English and throughout his life remained a very well-read man. He worked in construction in Shelbyville for 6 years before he came to Nashville and started Ray Bell Construction Company, Inc. in 1970. His company became the State's largest construction firm and led the most significant projects in Tennessee and the South for over 30 years. Mr. Bell was a self-made man who had the enthusiasm and drive to make his business a great success.

Ray Bell's company built everything: skyscrapers, interstate highways, bridges, prisons, stadiums, arenas and more. Many—including the Bicentennial Mall and Train Trestle, the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, the

Shelby Street Bridge Rehabilitation and renovations to the Nashville Court House and Criminal Justice Center, Neyland Stadium and Thompson Boling Arena—quickly became renowned landmarks in Nashville's cityscape and throughout Tennessee. Mr. Bell knew how to bid projects, pinch pennies, cut costs and complete the job ahead of schedule without sacrificing quality. He was a perfectionist for his clients, making men and construction materials come together, even salvaging the work of other firms.

Ray Bell was often called a Renaissance Man because of his love for the arts, history and music. Mr. Bell's other passions included his family, politics and charitable organizations. When it came to politics, Mr. Bell firmly believed in bipartisanship and working together to accomplish common goals. He gave generously to various charities and was active with the Tennessee State Museum Foundation, Easter Seals and the Arthritis Foundation.

And so, Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Ray Bell's life and accomplishments. We are grateful for his passion for construction and politics and the decades of service and contributions he provided to Nashville and the people of Tennessee.

**RECOGNIZING MARC HERBST FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO LONG ISLAND'S INFRASTRUCTURE**

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Marc Herbst, Executive Director of the Long Island Contractors' Association, who has been named the 2010 Construction Executive of the Year by the Long Island Chapter of the Construction Financial Management Association. No one deserves this recognition more than Marc.

Mr. Herbst is active in Long Island's business and labor organizations. He serves as Vice President of the New York Roadway Improvement Coalition and is a member of the Council of State Executives for the American Road and Transportation Builders Association. The Suffolk County Executive appointed him as vice-chair of the Suffolk County Wastewater Treatment Task Force, and he is an employer trustee for labor benefit funds. Previously, Mr. Herbst was a five-term member of the New York State Assembly, where he was ranking member of the Transportation Committee.

As you can tell, Marc has dedicated his life's work to making Long Island a better place for generations to come. We all know that infrastructure is essential for our safety and economic livelihood. Even throughout the economic downturn, Marc continued this fight and I am proud to have worked with him to move important infrastructure projects forward on Long Island.

Long Island is a better place because of people like Marc Herbst and for that I am grateful.

I am proud to recognize Marc Herbst for this honor and for the work he has done to strengthen Long Island's infrastructure and economy.