

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to Jen Walsh for her six years of service as Legislative Assistant to the Committee. Jen's keen intellect and professionalism, combined with her warmth and ever-present smile, have served me and all of the Committee members, both Democrats and Republicans, well over the years. I am especially grateful for her service as my liaison with the staff of the Democratic Members of the Committee. Jen has shown a remarkable ability to communicate complex subject matter in an understandable format to the Members, and has been invaluable in ensuring that all the Members and staff of the Committee are well prepared and informed to carry out the responsibilities for which we serve. She is a shining example of the hard-working professionals that serve, often thanklessly, behind-the-scenes to ensure that this Committee and this Congress are able to meet the needs of the Nation.

Bradley Watson has served with the Committee since the end of the 110th Congress. As a Staff Assistant, he has managed the front office with efficiency and professionalism. He has worked diligently in many areas under the Committee jurisdiction and has been a steadfast presence coordinating Committee mark-ups and hearings. Bradley has been a versatile contributor and his research and database abilities have served the Committee well.

Carson Gorecki, a fellow native of Minnesota, served as a Staff Assistant with the Full Committee during the end of this 111th Congress. Starting his career with the Committee as an intern, he was soon hired full-time. Over the course of his time here, he has developed a deep grasp and appreciation of transportation issues and legislation.

Carson played a key role in the production of the monthly report on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, material that I consider immensely helpful to me and other Members. His hard work and humor were both welcome additions to the staff, and I express my utmost gratitude for his contribution.

John-Paul C. Hayworth is an outstanding member of the Oversight and Investigations staff of the Committee. His integrity, energy, and innovative ideas have been a great asset to the Committee and to my work.

Mr. Hayworth's time on the staff has proven his zeal for public service. His responsibilities have enhanced his analytical skills to the benefit of us all. Recently, he concurrently assumed responsibilities with the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee. Chair ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and the staff of the Subcommittee have found him to be calm and collected, but always with a vibrant sense of humor and a smile, even in the unpredictable environment of the House.

Laurie Bertenthal has been a valued staff member of the Committee for nearly four years. Laurie started as a Staff Assistant for the Oversight and Investigations staff, where she supported groundbreaking Committee investigations, including problems with the U.S. Coast Guard's Deepwater Acquisition program, and Southwest Airlines' "cozy" relationship with the Federal Aviation Administration.

In 2008, Laurie became an integral member of the Aviation Subcommittee, first as Legislative Assistant, and progressed to Professional Staff. Laurie has worked on many important matters pertaining to reauthorization of the

FAA and National Transportation Safety Board. Additionally, Laurie played a key role in the recently-enacted Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010, P.L. 111-216. Laurie employed her strong research and legislative drafting skills to craft a provision that will create a pilot records database, which will allow airlines to efficiently access pilot applicant records and improve the safety of the flying public.

Jeff Schnobrich has served the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for two years, first as an intern, later with the full Committee staff, and finally as a Staff Assistant with the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.

Jeff has shown himself to be a detail-oriented, dedicated member of my staff. From the beginning, he showed an appreciation for the importance of an effective transportation system to the economic vitality of America. He soon became versed in the intricacies of both Federal transportation policy and Congressional procedures and processes. During his time, he helped lead the Committee's effort to establish a database of Member-designated projects, ensuring transparency and accountability. In all his tasks, he has been efficient, reliable, and a pleasure to work with. I thank Jeff for his years of service and wish him the best.

Rose M. Hamlin has been a stalwart on the Committee staff for 19 years.

She began her service with the Subcommittee on Water Resources where she established herself as a dedicated and effective office manager. In her years of working on the Committee, she concurrently worked on Public Buildings, Coast Guard, and Oversight and Investigations.

Ms. Hamlin is now the Office Manager of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. She has played an instrumental role in the passage of several key pieces of legislation, coordinated dozens of hearings and markups, and has ensured that I and members of the Committee staff remain up-to-date on issues under the Subcommittee's jurisdiction.

Although his time with the Committee has been short, Lee Matsos has done an admirable job as Staff Assistant for the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. Lee's strong background in writing and editing allowed him to contribute to the Committee's national media coverage and concisely summarize the critical weekly news within the Water Resources jurisdiction for the Committee Membership. Lee also served as an able point of contact for witnesses testifying at the Subcommittee's September 30th hearing on the Impact of Green Infrastructure.

In addition, Lee managed the database content and the filing of project requests for the expansive Water Resources Development Act of 2010. He connected constituents to the legislative staff in an eloquent and professional manner. It is clear that Lee has a bright future ahead of him, and we have been lucky to have him on our staff.

Madam Speaker, the essence of the legislative process is collaboration. Each individual member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure staff has played a vital role in the work of the Committee these past four years, and, through collaboration and hard work, has made this Committee the most productive on Capitol Hill.

I wish them all much success in whatever the future brings.

TRIBUTE ON THE BIRTH OF HARRISON CLAY LAVENDER

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Larry Lavender and his wife Kathryn on the birth of their new son, Mr. Harrison Clay Lavender. Harrison was born on December 16, 2010, at 11:14 in the morning.

I am excited for this new blessing to the Lavender family and wish them all the best.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chair, although I support extending lower taxes for the working and middle class and reauthorizing unemployment benefits, I voted against the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 (H.R. 4853) because it pays too high a price in terms of tax cuts for the rich. The disconnect between the needs of the country and the wealth of a few was just too much for me to bear.

As the economy recovers, I think it is important to make sure that the working people of America keep as much of their hard-earned dollars as possible. For that reason, I am very happy that this bill extended tax cuts targeted for the middle and working class. The bill helps families make ends meet and provides a tremendous boost to our economy.

Similarly, reauthorizing unemployment benefits provides stability and certainty for those hardest hit by the recession. Moreover, the unemployed will spend their benefits, which spread throughout their communities and help the entire economy. Low-income tax credits, refundable child tax credits, and college tuition credits in this bill all have the same effect. They invest in our people and stimulate the economy.

Unfortunately, the tax policies forced on us by Republicans will have the opposite effect. We have been there before. I vividly remember when the Bush administration slammed huge tax cuts through Congress. They promised the economy would grow and deficits would never appear. Of course, the opposite occurred. The working and middle class earned less, the wealthy took home more and the deficit exploded, erasing the surplus created under President Clinton.

I categorically oppose a return to Republican tax policies that benefit only the rich at the expense of the Nation. The elections told us that Americans are tired of giveaways to Wall Street and CEOs. But that is exactly what these tax cuts represent. Under the bill passed last night, 40,000 of the wealthiest families in America will save \$25 billion on estate taxes compared to current law. Couples earning over \$250,000 keep an extra \$116 billion over two years. Each billion equals one thousand millions. Just think of all the deficit reduction and extended unemployment benefits that could pay for.

When we are leaving millions of unemployed people empty handed a week before Christmas, it is outrageous to push our country further into debt just to give unnecessary tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans. I simply could not support such a stark contrast in our priorities.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF SEAN GILLILAND

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Sean Gilliland for his contributions to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. They work long hours—often for little pay or recognition—and their service is simply invaluable to those of us who serve in this esteemed chamber. Throughout my 26 years in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out those who are serving my constituents as my tenure comes to a close.

For more than 15 years, Sean Gilliland has been a dedicated and loyal field representative in my Murfreesboro office. He has spent countless hours traveling the district with me and attending parades, open meetings and events in every corner of the district. Sean works tirelessly on behalf of Middle Tennessee's veterans and their families, ensuring they receive the benefits and assistance they deserve, and helping them obtain the medals they earned during their service to our country. Over the years, Sean has helped me send the best and brightest young men and women to our nation's military service academies, filled in for me when my duties in Washington prevented me from attending an event or meeting, and enabled me to better represent the needs and interests of the people of the Sixth District.

Sean's career has been one of service, whether at my office or in the community. He serves on the Board of Directors of Main Street, Leadership Rutherford, the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra, the Rutherford County Adult Activity Center, and others. He has also donated his time to many other civic committees, and is deeply involved in his church. It is fitting that Sean will leave government service to enter a new kind of public

service in the administration of the Primary Care and Hope Clinic, a faith-based non-profit that provides health care to the uninsured.

Madam Speaker, Sean is a loving father, a dedicated husband and an all-around good person. I know that my busy weekend schedules in Tennessee have led him to spend some Independence Day and other holiday celebrations at official functions with me rather than with his wife, Anne, and daughter, Molly. I appreciate the sacrifices they have made over the years.

Sean, thank you for all your help and dedication over these many years. I wish you, Anne and Molly all the best.

BRAZIL HARBORS AMERICAN
DAUGHTER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Brazil is at it again. We thought they learned their lesson in the case of Sean Goldman, but they have not—as of 2009, there were still over 50 kidnapped children in Brazil, including Nicole Pate, the daughter of my constituent, Marty Pate.

I have come to this floor before to talk about the case of my constituent, Marty Pate. Marty lives in Crosby, Texas, and has not seen his daughter, Nicole, in 4 years. Her mother, Monica, is a native of Brazil. In 2006, she took Nicole on a trip to Brazil and never came back.

Legal documents from Texas give Marty joint custody, and the Hague Convention requires Brazil to work out visitation for Marty. Marty is not asking for his daughter to be returned—though it is well within his rights to ask for this. He is just asking to see his daughter and have her visit family in the United States.

Marty has gone above and beyond in trying to work with the government of Brazil. He has even offered to drop the charges pending against his ex-wife if it would make a visit with Nicole easier. He has spent over \$10,000 of his own money flying to and from Brazil countless times to see Nicole.

But Brazilian officials have continued to stonewall and ignore their obligations under the Hague Convention. They have allowed Nicole's mother to make a mockery of the Hague process, to file meaningless allegations and attempt to delay the process. So far, it's working. The Government of Brazil has let this case linger for over a year without resolution.

A child's welfare hangs in the balance. Nicole Pate is caught between two worlds—living with her mother in Brazil and not allowed to see her father or her siblings back in the United States. But officials in Brazil don't seem to care. They are taking their sweet time in dealing with this case. In August, it was decided that the case would go before a Federal judge. It is now December and we still don't have a court date.

Madam Speaker, there is a reason that the State Department has labeled Brazil a non-compliant country when it comes to honoring the Hague Convention. It seems that Brazil would rather sign onto treaties and gain all the benefits that come with that—but they don't

care about holding up their end of the bargain. The State Department needs to take aggressive action to pressure Brazil into acting with haste when determining the fates of American children. There is no excuse for Brazil to drag their feet while little Nicole Pate sits and wonders why she can't see her daddy.

Even worse is that the behavior of Brazil and other non-compliant Hague countries seems to have no impact on our foreign policy in relation to these countries. We still trade with them, we still send them millions in foreign aid each year, and these countries still violate their treaty obligations. Or in the case of Brazil, become a haven for kidnapped American children.

That is why in the 112th Congress I intend to introduce a bill that will require Congress to vote on foreign aid by country—instead of in one, giant package. The American people should be able to see where we send foreign aid money, and for what purpose. And furthermore, it will allow Congress to hold countries accountable to receiving that money.

It's time for the Government of Brazil to begin honoring their obligations under the Hague Convention. It's time for the State Department to be more aggressive in fighting for kidnapped American children around the world.

And it's time for Marty Pate to be reunited with his kidnapped daughter, Nicole.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENFORCING
ORDERS AND REDUCING
CUSTOMS EVASION (ENFORCE)
ACT OF 2010

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, today, joined by Representatives WALTER JONES and MARK CRITZ, I introduce the Enforcing Orders and Reducing Customs Evasion Act, or the ENFORCE Act. This legislation is critical to improving our ability to enforce trade laws.

This bill is about protecting American businesses and the workers that keep those businesses thriving.

Unfortunately, under current law, too many foreign producers flout our trade laws. Too many ship mislabeled goods to the U.S. to avoid paying legally imposed anti-dumping or countervailing duties. And they do this with impunity, rarely paying a price for their crimes.

Many of these fraudsters even have websites advertising how, for a fee, they can help you avoid paying the duties legally owed the United States. In November, my colleague Senator WYDEN of Oregon, published a useful report identifying 12 such Chinese companies.

Most of these companies' evasion schemes involve illegal transshipment through a third country and falsified country-of-origin certificates for Chinese products destined for the United States and other export markets.

This dishonest conduct robs the American people and our federal coffers of money rightly owed. But perhaps more importantly, it gives these deceitful actors an advantage over American businesses. It has forced hundreds of businesses, in my district and others, to permanently close their doors.