

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, President Obama recently unveiled a new plan to reduce foreign oil imports by one-third over the next decade, which is timely given the instability sweeping across oil producing countries in the Middle East. To achieve that goal necessarily involves more fully developing renewable energy which his Administration and the Congress are committed to achieving. In my district, I am pleased that over a dozen new solar and solar-related companies have opened in the last three years, creating hundreds of jobs while reducing our reliance on foreign sources and protecting our environment.

The Department of Energy's Loan Guarantee Program is a critical factor in our country's effort to be a world leader in renewable energy. I would like to place in the RECORD a recent article in the Huffington Post on the importance of DOE's loan guarantee program and the potential loss of thousands of megawatts of bankable electricity and the tens of thousands of jobs if it is not allowed to continue.

A WIN-WIN FOR CLEAN ENERGY

(By Uwe T. Schmidt)

The nuclear tragedy in Japan and the disturbing upheaval in Libya and the Middle East have dominated the headlines, but it also serves as a haunting reminder that America's own energy security may be in peril unless we accelerate efforts to more fully develop energy alternatives that are reliable, safe and sufficient to meet our future needs.

Achieving energy independence has been a laudable but daunting goal since the first energy crisis in 1979. Fortunately, the Obama administration and Congress have embraced policies intended to spur investment and development in renewable energy projects, but it will take a major effort by the private sector and the support of government at all levels.

The private sector is doing its part. They have invested heavily in new, innovative technologies, assembled the engineering and technical support, arranged the necessary financing, and have been engaged at all levels to secure the Federal and local permitting and ultimately the requisite utility and distribution outlets.

Solar Trust of America (STA) is one of many American companies that are investing millions and utilizing proven technology to achieve California's ambitious goal of 33 percent renewable energy by year 2020. Such goals are unlikely without private-public collaboration. It is our job to harness the solar potential in areas like STA's thermal solar project site near Blythe in South-eastern California, utilizing our parabolic trough technology that will ultimately produce 1,000 megawatts of bankable electricity that is sufficient to supply 300,000

households with electricity, avoiding over 2,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

Our business model is unique in that it encompasses the entire American-based supply chain that involves engineering and technology specialists, financing through private equity funds, creating new demands for steel and other metals, project development and construction of the facilities, and management and operation of the plants.

Finally, it is a job producer. The first two of our four MW Blythe plants will employ 1,000 union construction jobs, another 7,500 supply chain jobs throughout the country, 100 on-going plant operations and post construction positions and, of course, the residual economic benefits to the local communities.

What is the government's role and how can it partner with STA and other companies to achieve these goals? Congress previously authorized a renewable energy loan guarantee program which is vital to securing the necessary financing to build large scale, sophisticated solar power plants and other renewable projects.

Without it, U.S. companies will be confronted with the sudden reversal of a national policy that two years ago encouraged them to invest in energy alternatives. Our Blythe plant is one of several major solar projects that has advanced through a diligent DOE review process for over a year and has met all the Federal and state permitting requirements.

STA and other solar companies have commenced preliminary site work just as Congress is considering legislation that would all but eliminate the loan guarantee program. Ironically, the House of Representatives passed a spending bill last month that would delete the loan guarantee program for renewable and clean coal technologies but left untouched loan guarantees for building nuclear plants.

This is not a government grant but simply a guarantee to facilitate the financing on loans to bring advanced technology to the market. Every dollar appropriated by Congress to DOE's Loan Guarantee Program spurs \$13 dollars in private investments and indeed whatever taxpayer funds are involved are repaid in full with interest.

The DOE loan guarantee is a "win-win" for government and the companies involved and will not only advance the cause of energy independence but will create hundreds of thousands of jobs across the country.

Yet all this is at risk if Congress rolls back the program and puts into jeopardy the enormous amounts of private capital already committed and the tens of thousands of sustainable jobs involved in the construction and operation of the plants. Apparently there are no guarantees when the Congress acts in a politically charged atmosphere.

For our nation to fully develop renewable energy, it is clear that neither the private sector nor government can do it alone. It requires a partnership.

As we advance into this new millennium, it is now understood that our raw resources are finite, the planet is fragile, and that energy consumption to sustain growth globally is our greatest challenge. The answer to all this is renewable energy. There are no boundaries or limits to what we can accomplish if we work together.

HONORING OUR NATION'S NURSES

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our nation's nurses, and in recognition of the exemplary healthcare they provide to patients all across our country. Nurses represent the largest group of healthcare professionals, standing at the front lines of our nation's healthcare system. They are our brothers, our daughters, our neighbors and friends. My own sister was a nurse and my mother was a nurse's aide, and I remember the dedication and sense of service they brought to their job every day.

I'm sure that everyone in this chamber can remember one time, if not many, when a loved one needed medical help or felt ill. Often, a nurse is the first person by our side when we need it most. Often, their compassion, their expertise, and their decisions make all the difference.

Recently, my office had the chance to welcome my constituent Grace Paranzino, as a part of the Nurse in Washington Internship Program. She spoke of her experiences in nursing, and how we as a nation can better serve the needs of those who so often serve ours. For all the vital services they provide, nurses are severely short-staffed across the country: 2.5 million nursing positions are currently waiting to be filled. The Health Resources and Services Administration predicts that by 2030, that number could climb even higher to nearly 30%.

Nurses across this country need our help. They need lawmakers here in Washington to enact smart policies that don't impede their ability to save lives and ease suffering. They also need us to encourage qualified, professional, and educated citizens like themselves to take up the profession of nursing.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me today in applauding these nurses from my home state of Michigan and across the country.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NATIONAL MATH AND SCIENCE INITIATIVE

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of my colleagues to the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI). This initiative, focusing on recommendations put forth by the National Academies of Science's 2005 report, "Rising above the Gathering Storm," seeks to enhance science and technology enterprise in the United States. Specifically, NMSI and the National Academies argue

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that the most effective way to do this is to dramatically improve K-12 math and science education. They will achieve this end through increasing the production of more, and more effective, math and science educators, strengthening the skills of existing classroom teachers through training programs, and expanding the pipeline of students with the desire and preparation to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in higher education.

As the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee Ranking Member, I have had the opportunity to hear witnesses testify to the incredible discoveries and innovations currently underway to address some of our nation's most pressing concerns—energy security, global climate change and human health and development. These same experts have repeated the same refrain—absent a significant change in course, the United States is poised to lose our global supremacy in scientific discovery and enterprise. I am greatly encouraged that NMSI has taken on this challenge and is engaging a diverse range of partners to develop a new generation of mathematicians, engineers and researchers.

I would specifically like to take this opportunity to recognize one of NMSI's founding sponsors, the ExxonMobil Foundation. In a show of great community-mindedness and corporate responsibility, ExxonMobil has committed \$125 million to NMSI. These funds, among other purposes, will go to increase access to and successful completion of Advanced Placement courses in the nation's high schools. I have long been an advocate of the AP program, and other efforts to increase rigor and college-readiness for all students in all schools. I am grateful to have such a partner, and to have the opportunity to engage with NMSI, ExxonMobil and others committed to addressing this critical question of global competitiveness.

Difficult budget times call for creative solutions and I believe it would serve Members of this body well to turn attention to these innovative public-private partnerships which serve our nation's young people and economic future well.

IN HONOR OF KENNETH H.
COOPER, M.D., M.P.H.

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kenneth H. Cooper, M.D., M.P.H., my friend, renowned physician, and the Father of Aerobics.

The importance of cardiovascular exercise and fitness in our world today can be attributed to the dedicated efforts of Dr. Cooper. Throughout his career, Dr. Cooper has focused on preventive medicine and his work has revolutionized the physical fitness world. Aside from working with the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) to create a fitness program for astronauts and designing the "Cooper test" used by the military to assess fitness, Dr. Cooper also trained the 1970 Brazilian soccer team to a World Cup victory. At the local, national, and international levels, Dr. Cooper has educated numerous individ-

uals about the importance of diet and exercise and motivated them to adopt healthy lifestyles. He is also aggressively combating the childhood obesity epidemic with the Our Kids' Health initiative and by working with legislators to bring physical education back into our schools. The impact of Dr. Cooper's work spans across the globe; I know he has made our world a healthier place.

His family, friends, colleagues, and patients will gather to honor him at Health Needs a Hero on May 22, 2011 in Austin, Texas. I am delighted to join them in recognizing Dr. Cooper's many achievements and contributions to the health and medical fields. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Cooper.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2011 VIENNA VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DAY HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize outstanding citizens of our community. Each year, the Town of Vienna celebrates the extraordinary contributions of its residents with a "Volunteer Recognition Day" to honor those individuals and organizations who have been nominated by members of the community for their commitment to improving the community.

Communities are only as strong as the residents who live there. Through their selfless actions, civic activists improve the quality of life for all and help improve their towns and neighborhoods. The recipients of the 2011 Vienna Volunteer Recognition Honors are shining examples of how each of us can contribute to the betterment of our communities.

I am pleased to recognize the following individuals for their accomplishments: Robert Borgatti, Harold Bonacquist, Miles Bowen, Sydney Bowen, Linda Collins, Mike Davis, Alma Frank, Laurie Harmon, L.F. Jennings, Steve Kenney, Mark Lander, Ann Martin, Marjorie Midilli, John "Jack" Reichert, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Tim Sampson and family, John Shults, Susan Stillman, Anne Stuntz, Howard Svigals, Dorothy Evans, Bill Farrell, Mike Garbacz, Julius Hankin, Jean Jennings, Marcie Lee, Harry Mason, Ralph Nider, Eileen (Casey) Tarr, June Terry, Maria Alvarez-Lundie, Diane Eckert, Sara Freund, Cynthia Kohrman, Sharmila Rao, Deborah Roney, Katie Wolffe, Liz DiFrancisco, Barbara Mackie Franklin and Dan Mulville.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these individuals and in congratulating them on their contributions to their community. Civic engagement is what defines a community, and it is thanks to these individuals that Vienna will remain a wonderful place to call home. Their contributions and leadership have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.

REPEALING PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1217) to repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund:

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1217, a bill to repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

Prevention works. It's the best way to keep costs down and keep people healthy.

For decades our healthcare system has been designed to treat patients once they're sick. This is inefficient and costly. The Prevention and Public Health Fund included in healthcare reform is finally starting to change this backward system and invest efforts to keep people healthy.

The Fund is important because it offers flexibility—grants are awarded to states, communities, and local public health groups to implement local prevention programs that work for the local community.

Any person in this chamber who is concerned about the rising cost of healthcare in our country should be embracing the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Study after study has proven that prevention saves money. This legislation willfully ignores this fact and instead, favors an "every man for himself" approach.

Is it any wonder why we spend more on healthcare than any country in the world with lackluster results? Other nations are out-investing us in prevention, public health infrastructure, and primary care. Smart healthcare saves money.

Unfortunately, we're also considering several bills this week to eliminate healthcare and none of them are wise. Efforts to chip away at the first meaningful health reform our country has ever seen are shortsighted and foolish . . . even worse is to take away basic preventive health services that women already have. Ninety seven percent of the services Planned Parenthood provides have nothing to do with abortion and everything to do with family planning, diabetes care, vaccines, physicals, and, for men, testicular cancer screenings. Eliminating funding for the preventive services of Planned Parenthood will increase the number of abortions in our country and reverse the positive results of mammograms and cervical care.

I urge my colleagues to vote against these efforts.

HONORING TOMMY MARSH FOR WINNING THE LESSONS OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE WRITING CONTEST

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tommy Marsh as a winner of the second annual Lessons of the African-American Experience Creative Writing Contest.