

John Fenton brought a level of integrity, passion and tremendous enthusiasm to the position and was respected by railroad stakeholders such as the NTSB, rail unions and federal and state regulatory agencies.

John Fenton's dedication and perseverance led Metrolink to increase its ridership, thereby reducing traffic congestion and air emissions and providing Southern California commuters with a safe, reliable, efficient and cost-effective means to travel.

In the two years that John Fenton has led Metrolink, he has ushered in a new era of service that has included a 14 percent service expansion, the introduction of express trains, bike cars, quiet cars, service to sporting events throughout the region, and increased coordination with other regional transit providers including airports.

John Fenton's private sector railroad experience helped him introduce business oriented best practices that led to efficiencies in the agency that elevated Metrolink's performance and resulted in improved Metrolink reputation in the region to passengers, employees, stakeholders, rail industry partners and the news media.

John Fenton expanded a fuel conservation policy to save over 860,000 gallons of fuel annually, reducing costs to the agency and reducing idling, noise and air emissions from Metrolink facilities and was unwavering in his vigilant pursuit of additional operational efficiencies.

Under John Fenton's administration the agency pursued major capital projects including the Metrolink Service Expansion Program, Orange County Grade Crossing Safety Improvements, Glendale Corridor Grade Crossing Safety Improvements, Los Angeles Union Station Platform Improvements, and Perris Valley Line Expansion.

John Fenton brought his strong mid-west values from Indiana to all of his endeavors while embracing his role of "Johnnywood" with rock-star flair, as required by the unique Los Angeles culture.

John Fenton's departure to Florida is a loss to the Southern California region's railroading industry. He is leaving an admirable legacy as well as many friends and colleagues that will miss him.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose attempts to weaken energy efficiency standards for lighting that were included in the bipartisan Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Plain and simple—these attempts to do away with energy efficiency standards will hurt our competitive advantage against China.

America's lighting industry has invested millions of dollars to manufacture new energy efficient incandescent light bulbs here in the United States. These bulbs produce the same type of light as the former bulbs but use 28 percent to 33 percent less energy. An amendment to prohibit enforcement of the energy efficiency standards is an attack on our domestic lighting industry. Denying the Department of Energy the power to enforce an existing law opens the door to the importation of non-compliant products from foreign manufacturers that will not only harm the investments made by American manufacturers but put American jobs at risk.

The current lighting efficiency standards are creating American jobs because the manufacturing of these light bulbs is done in the United States. Most of the operations producing less efficient lighting were moved offshore years ago. We are creating American jobs making better light bulbs that meet the new standards. The energy-efficient lighting industry currently employs more than 14,000 American workers. I do not want to send those jobs to China!

The light bulb has been a symbol of American ingenuity since the late 1800s. When Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, it revolutionized our economy and electricity around the world. If America wants to lead, we need to become more efficient. That is the way of the future.

Supporting America's energy-efficient lighting industry is about more than jobs. It's about saving money, saving each American household \$100 per year in the form of lower electric bills. I know my constituents want that \$100 in their pockets.

That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing any amendment that would prohibit the Department of Energy from utilizing energy efficiency standards for lighting to help save money and energy while supporting U.S. manufacturing.

HONORING SCORE AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO SMALL BUSINESSES

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I realize that small business is essential for creating jobs in our nation. Small businesses are the engine of America's economy, and there is an organization that exists to help strengthen small businesses and assist them in achieving their dreams. That organization is SCORE. SCORE is a nonprofit that provides free business advice to anyone looking to start or grow a small business. With over 350 chapters across our nation, SCORE volunteers stand ready and willing to help all of those who want it.

As a strong supporter of all small businesses in our nation, I am proud to congratulate the South Palm Beach SCORE chapter in Florida for winning the United States Small Business Administration's National SCORE Chapter of the Year Award. South Palm Beach SCORE was chosen to receive this award thanks to the strong relationships they've built in their local small business community, the programs they have developed assisting veterans and young entrepreneurs, and

their efforts to expand the reach of their chapter to new entrepreneurs and small business owners.

South Palm Beach SCORE helped over 5000 small businesses in Fiscal Year 2011. South Palm Beach SCORE has also started a number of programs that have helped their community grow, including joining with Lynn University, Palm Beach State College, and Florida Atlantic University to assist with Veteran Affairs, Government Trade Shows, and Mentoring Business School students and alumni; forming a program with the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce to provide a 33-week course working with area students, ages 11–18, focused on successfully starting and operating a small business; and creating the Veterans Grant Program to help returning Iraq and Afghanistan vets start or grow their own business.

South Palm Beach SCORE members funded the program by donating over a quarter of a million dollars of their own money to get the program off the ground. The criteria for National SCORE Chapter of the Year award is based on demonstration of the chapter delivering quality, contributions to the community, client focus, and merit achievement.

To ensure small businesses' continued success, I will work to focus in the United States Congress on what is best for entrepreneurs, small business owners and their communities. This means providing SCORE with the funding they need to adequately assist those people who need it.

SCORE is an effective and efficient catalyst for job creation. Studies show for every \$1 appropriated to SCORE, \$57 flows into the federal treasury from SCORE clients. SCORE is a unique national organization serving the two great American ideals: entrepreneurial spirit and volunteerism. It is my hope the Federal Government tries to maintain SCORE's budget at \$7 million to let volunteer experts continue to help small business owners at no cost to them.

SCORE exists to help entrepreneurs achieve their dream of success and strengthen the economy of this great nation, and we need to support them in their efforts.

South Palm Beach SCORE chapter winning the Small Business Administration's National SCORE Chapter of the Year Award exemplifies the goal in meeting entrepreneurs' dreams and growing of economy.

MARKING THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL BERNIE FOWLER PATUXENT WADE-IN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the twenty-fifth Patuxent River Wade-In, begun by former Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler in 1988. This year's wade-in will take place on June 10 at Jefferson Patterson Park in St. Leonard.

We rely on a multitude of measurements to take stock of our economic health, such as the Industrial Production Index, the Consumer Price Index, and the S&P 500 index. However, to take stock of the health of the Patuxent River—and, indeed, of our stewardship of the

Chesapeake Bay—there is no index more important than Bernie's annual "Sneaker Index." Bernie's sneakers have now been the leading non-scientific measure of the river's health for a quarter century.

Each year, in order to gauge the health and water quality of the Patuxent River, Bernie has waded into its water to measure its clarity, stopping at the point at which he can no longer see his sneakers. As a young man, he recalled being able to see them clearly when the water was already up to his chest—through as much as sixty inches of river water. When Bernie first waded in the river to measure in 1988, he could only get as far as his shins, recording only eight inches of water before his sneakers disappeared beneath the polluted waters. In 2011, Bernie measured this level at 31.25 inches—slightly lower than the previous year and much lower than the over-42 inch record in 2004. This is a sign that we still have much work to do.

I have had the honor of joining him, along with other Maryland elected officials, at the banks of the Patuxent for many years at this annual event. Throughout his career, Bernie has done much to draw attention to the health of the river and the Chesapeake Bay into which it flows. The Patuxent is the Chesapeake's only tributary to flow entirely through our State, and Marylanders feel a special responsibility to protect it for future generations.

Let us continue to follow in Bernie Fowler's footsteps and heed his call to conserve and

protect the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay, and let us leave our children and grandchildren a cleaner and clearer Patuxent and Chesapeake to enjoy and treasure.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2013**

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5854) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to section 517 of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. That is because it would prevent the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related construction agencies from using project labor agreements (PLA) when they determine that they would benefit from doing so. If an agency decides that it is in their best interest to enter into a PLA, they should be given the ability to make that call.

Project labor agreements increase efficiency and quality of construction projects and are an effective tool for ensuring that large and complex projects are completed on time. They provide construction contractors with access to a highly skilled and well trained workforce and ensure that contractors comply with equal employment rules and environmental standards. And, workers have found that it protects their safety and wages. For these reasons, PLAs have been used in all 50 states and the District of Columbia; on the local, state, and federal level; and in the public and private sector.

You might have even heard of the Tappan Zee Bridge, Fort Drum, Walt Disney World and the Kennedy Space Center—all were built with project labor agreements. And any attempt to restrict even the consideration of project labor agreements where they would promote economic efficiency is simply the height of anti-union tactics getting in the way of good government.

There is an Executive Order that encourages agencies to use project labor agreements if it finds that an agreement would promote economic efficiency. During this time of fiscal restraint when the government must tighten its belt, it does not make sense to prohibit use of a proven business model that increases efficiency and keeps costs down. That is why I support the use of project labor agreements and am opposed to this anti-labor provision.