

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2012*

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker on rollcall No. 381, I was absent due to personal reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

## TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5972) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chair, I rise to note a provision in H.R. 5972, the Transportation-HUD Appropriations legislation for FY2013 which appears to have been accepted with virtually no debate and contains even less merit.

H.R. 5972 contains a provision redirecting funds from the Maglev Deployment Program to other programs. Section 154 reads—

SEC. 154. The unobligated balance of funds provided under sections 1101(a)(18) and 1307 of Public Law 109–59 shall be used for the elimination of hazards at railway highway crossings described in section 104(d)(2) of title 23, United States Code, to remain available until expended.

In a statement in support of this amendment, the claim was made that these "unobligated funds" were somehow lying dormant on the projects they were intended to support. In my opinion, and weighing the available facts, that was not an accurate statement. While one may sympathize with the need for safe grade crossings, the United States already has a well funded program to meet these needs.

The Maglev Deployment Program (MDP) was authorized for far different purposes—to promote leading-edge high speed rail/technologies. And as is the case with all major multistate undertakings, the planning processes that precede construction take time and coordination to complete. Under the Federal Railroad Administration's program for the MDP, a feasibility study must have been completed, followed by detailed environmental re-

view—either a full-scale Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a phased approach, requiring a Tier 1 EIS followed by a Tier 2 EIS.

Anyone who has observed the NEPA process knows that it sometimes proceeds in fits-and-starts. And even if it appears that at times not much is happening, these detailed planning phases sometimes take years to accomplish. The funds in question date to SAFETEA-LU, passed in 2005, and the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections, passed in 2008.

As the result of these two statutes, the Federal Railroad Administration issued a Notice of Funds Availability or NOFA, in 2008, inviting applications for a portion of these funds. Applications were due in early 2009. Several projects applied competitively, and the Administration deliberated carefully over the applications. Two projects which had applied were awarded funds; the Atlanta-Chattanooga and Pittsburgh projects.

The FRA advised a third project applicant, a route from Baltimore to Washington, DC, that there was a deficiency in Maryland state law that prevented FRA from awarding funds. Far from standing still, my State of Maryland worked to cure that deficiency, and last year repealed the offending section of its state law, with the Governor's support. Since then, various stakeholders have been working with the Congress to ensure that SAFETEA-LU provisions were carried over in the Surface Transportation reauthorization legislation, which was passed by a bipartisan vote in the House after a conference with the Senate. Thus, I am pleased to report my understanding that the Maglev Program was preserved, and, in fact, maglev was specifically advanced in various sections of H.R. 4348, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, or "MAP-21".

We can understand from this congressional action that there remains broad support for the program, its promise for the future, and the need for our nation to pursue, not curtail, next generation high speed rail technology. The remaining projects, I am told, have been striving in good faith to complete their required planning phases. Indeed, one project has been working with the FRA to obligate its funds even as Congress voted to approve the MAP-21 conference report.

Mr. Chair, the Congress as a whole authorized and funded the Maglev Deployment Program in 1998 and 2005 and 2008. My State of Maryland competed successfully to become one of the original seven maglev programs, and then on the basis of the merits of our Feasibility Study, one of two projects was down-selected for further work. We are pledged to continuing that work, and have acted in our state in the good-faith knowledge that those funds were secure.

For that reason, I would like to urge the sponsors of the relevant language to look elsewhere for funds for their initiatives, and I stand ready to work with the leadership of the House and of the Committee to return the

MDP funds to their historic purpose, to help build infrastructure and to promote economic revitalization.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF NORA  
EPHRON

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Nora Ephron, an iconic journalist, novelist, playwright, screenwriter, actress, director, and producer.

Nora was born into a Jewish family in New York City on May 19, 1941. She spent most of her childhood in Beverly Hills, California with her parents, who were also screenwriters, and her three younger sisters. Nora graduated from Wellesley College in Massachusetts in 1962 with a degree in political science.

Nora's many talents, in addition to her unique personality, equipped her for a long and very successful career that included a variety of roles. She began as an intern in the Kennedy White House upon graduation from college. Nora then moved to New York where she was a columnist and essayist for major newspaper publications including The New York Post and The New York Times Magazine. Nora later enjoyed success in the film industry. Some of her most famous films include hits such as When Harry Met Sally (1989), Sleepless in Seattle (1993), and You've Got Mail (1998), all of which were nominated for major awards. Recently, in 2009, Nora was the writer, director, and producer of the film Julie and Julia, fulfilling three of the roles traditionally not held by women in Hollywood. In addition to her ambitious career, Nora was the mother of two children, Jacob and Max Bernstein.

She will be greatly missed by those who knew her, as well as by all who enjoyed reading her work and watching her films.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Nora Ephron, a woman who contributed invaluable works of literature and film during her lifetime and set an example for women everywhere.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2012*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 454 on H.R. 5892, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a weather delay.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

# HONORING PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pine Tree Legal Assistance in celebration of their 45th anniversary this month.

Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing high quality, free, legal assistance to low-income individuals. Serving as the primary legal aid provider in Maine with six offices ranging from Presque Isle to Portland, Pine Tree Legal strives to provide access to legal assistance in all corners of the state.

Since its founding on July 19, 1967, Pine Tree Legal Assistance has worked to remove the barriers to justice that can be experienced by low-income Mainers. Their services range from providing basic legal advice to active representation in the most serious cases. The organization continues to place a priority on helping individuals and families meet their basic human needs, such as access to housing, food, income, safety, and education. Pine Tree Legal also boasts innovative, issue-specific divisions such as a Native American Unit and KIDS LEGAL, as well as providing help with unemployment issues and foreclosure prevention. More recently, they have been responsible for the development and ongoing support of Stateside Legal, which is an online resource to provide legal information to veterans and military families.

Pine Tree Legal Assistance maintains an excellent reputation in the field of legal advocacy. They also serve as one of six Maine nonprofits that meet the Better Business Bureau standards for charitable accountability. I am pleased to share in the celebration of Pine Tree Legal Assistance's 45th year of exemplary legal assistance to the people of Maine.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Pine Tree Legal Assistance on achieving this tremendous milestone.

## IN HONOR OF THE 20TH VENTURA COUNTY STAND DOWN

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2012*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding achievements of Ventura County Stand Down, which next week will mark 20 years of helping homeless veterans combat life on the streets.

During the three-day, two-night Stand Down, veterans will live on the campus of the California Army National Guard Armory in military-style tents erected by the Seabees. They will have access to showers, toiletries, new and used clean clothing, and hot meals each day.

Working in conjunction with dozens of public and private agencies, Stand Down 2012 will provide homeless veterans with a myriad of services such as medical treatment, legal services, prescription lenses, employment counseling and referrals, VA benefits, drug and alcohol counseling, general relief information, transitional housing information, along

with a range of other government and social services.

It's a monumental undertaking. Ventura County Stand Down would not be a success—or have even been launched—without the skill and perseverance of Claire Hope, the founder and chairperson of Ventura County Stand Down. The daughter of a World War II veteran and mother of a veteran of Desert Storm, Claire Hope has a soft heart for veterans and a strong will to help those in need.

About 300 volunteers help Claire each year. Another nearly 300 companies, corporations, and non-profit organizations are on board. About 20 service providers take part and 20 committees oversee all aspects of the event, from planning, to execution, to cleanup, to follow-up.

Many of the volunteers have been with Claire since the beginning. While I can't name them all, I would be remiss without noting several key people whose efforts have meant so much to our veterans. They include 20-year Executive Committee Chairs J. Roger Myers, Herb Williams III, Dr. Cal Farmer, Madeline Lee, Gene Ogden, Jean Farley, and Hal Nachenberg. Other Executive Committee Chairs include Judge Pro-Tem Nancy Aronson, Jodi Prior, Yasmin Morrison, Mary Gene Ryan, Betty Zamost, Charles Lane, Jane Towley, Bob Shiverdecker, Carl Lanterman, Gary Erland, Connie Biggers, Carol Rogers, and Jim Rogers.

Special recognition for their ongoing major contributions to Stand Down belongs to: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 952; California Army National Guard Armory, Ventura; American Legion Auxiliary; American Legion; Beacon House—San Pedro; Salvation Army of Ventura; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11395 Thousand Oaks; Marjorie Mosher Schmidt Foundation; New Directions Technologies, Inc.; U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Beacon House San Pedro; Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center & the Thirty-First Seabee Readiness Group; Ventura County Bar Association Ventura County Public Defenders; Chief's Council of the 146th Airlift Wing of the California Air National Guard; Ventura Superior Court Homeless Court; and Neal C. Green, DDS.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be affiliated with Ventura County as Honorary Cochairman for the 20th year. I know my colleagues will join me in recognizing the importance of Ventura County Stand Down and in thanking Claire Hope and her myriad of volunteers for their selfless efforts in helping those who served our country and who fell on hard times to have a fighting chance to resume a life of stability and peace. It's a yeoman's effort, and one worth undertaking.

## STAND WITH THOSE WHO SERVE

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2012*

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor "Stand With Those Who Serve Week" in my home state of Washington. Governor Christine Gregoire today urged all citizens to join her in "this special observance to support the many activities and efforts of Washington's public safety personnel and services."

The public safety and law enforcement community in Washington State has endured a lot of heartache over the past years, and those losses are always at the forefront of our thoughts. Such terrible incidents remind us that despite the risk, our police officers and other public safety personnel do not pause for fear or self-interest. They serve bravely, boldly and selflessly and continue every day to earn our respect, admiration and gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, the support that my colleagues across state and party lines have shown demonstrates our commitment to the brave men and women in the law enforcement and public safety professions. It is my hope that through all of this support they continue to have the tools and encouragement that they need.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I join with Governor Gregoire today, along with other elected representatives in Washington, community leaders and private citizens in standing in solidarity with our brave public servants and law enforcement personnel. While they work to reduce crime, protect the vulnerable and keep our communities safe, we will stay mindful of their efforts and in turn serve them, wherever and whenever possible.

## CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4348, MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act. After nearly two years of Republican control, there is finally a true jobs bill on the floor of the House.

MAP-21 will protect and create 3 million American jobs. This two year transportation authorization will also provide much-needed certainty for state departments of transportation, construction companies and construction workers after nearly three years without a long term authorization.

Passage of this bill was inexcusably delayed by House Republicans for four months—first due to their refusal to negotiate with the Senate and then, due to a long list of misguided policy riders. I am pleased that a prohibition against coal ash regulation and many other unrelated riders were stripped from the final bill.

While I support the underlying legislation, I am concerned about reduced support for bicycle and pedestrian projects such as Safe Routes to School. This funding is necessary to create a modern, multimodal transportation system that gives commuters and families more choices. Under MAP-21 funding for these programs is cut by 34 percent. This is a disappointing step backwards at a time when Americans are seeing their budgets' under pressure from high gas prices. Moreover, the authorization timeframe should be longer, and the overall funding level for this bill should be higher in order to meet the country's mounting infrastructure needs.

This legislation represents a compromise between the House and Senate that is far worse than the original Senate bill. It is long overdue and far from perfect. Still, despite