

Unfortunately, this occurs far too frequently. Last fall, an investigation by the Boston Globe found that 48 percent of the seafood it sampled from grocery stores and restaurants in the Boston area was not the species that was advertised. Subsequent investigations in Los Angeles and Miami this year produced similar results. These shocking revelations of seafood fraud have exposed a severe shortcoming in the ability of our nation to ensure the integrity of seafood products offered for sale, especially the 85 percent of those products that come from abroad.

In addition to problems with seafood fraud uncovered by these recent reports, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported last year that we are doing a terrible job ensuring that seafood imported into this country is safe for people to consume. GAO found that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is responsible for ensuring seafood safety, inspects only 2 percent of seafood shipments, and that failure to coordinate with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Seafood Inspection Service has led to hundreds of redundant inspections. This unnecessary duplication of effort is unacceptable, especially as difficult fiscal circumstances have squeezed the budgets of both agencies.

The Safety And Fraud Enforcement for Seafood Act, or SAFE Seafood Act—which I am introducing today along with Mr. FRANK and Mr. KEATING of Massachusetts, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut—addresses the seafood safety problem by ensuring that FDA and NOAA work together to maximize the frequency and effectiveness of seafood inspections, and to prevent unsafe seafood from entering the United States. In addition, it combats seafood fraud by requiring that information such as harvest location, production method, and species name of the seafood stays with that product from sea to sale. The SAFE Seafood Act accomplishes these goals by holding violators accountable with fines and import restrictions if they don't play by the rules.

American consumers have an expectation that the seafood they buy for their families is, in fact, the seafood that is advertised, and that it is safe for them to eat. Similarly, American fishermen, who comply with the most rigorous conservation and quality control standards anywhere in the world, should know they are competing on a level playing field, and not being undercut by an inferior foreign product. Fraudulent and unsafe seafood takes money from consumers and puts their health at risk. The SAFE Seafood Act is an important step toward reducing seafood fraud and increasing seafood safety. We owe it to American families and fishermen to address these problems immediately.

#### PUBLIC BROADCASTING FUNDING

### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I understand that these are tough budget times and we have to make a lot of cuts if we're going to balance the budget. However, I also believe that we have to make every possible

effort to retain adequate levels of funding for public broadcasting.

This March, I signed letters to two Appropriations Subcommittees in an attempt to protect funding for public broadcasting. For decades, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) has aired educational programs and helped our children to learn to read, to understand basic math, and to engage in the study of science. It would be a shame to deny the next generation beneficial programs like Reading Rainbow, Sesame Street, and Bill Nye the Science Guy because of budget problems.

Public broadcasting is more than education though. Even as newspapers are shuttering, trying to compete with the internet, 38 million people still listen to National Public Radio (NPR) every week. In Alaska, many communities rely on public broadcasting. The majority of our state can be described as remote and many Alaskans get their news exclusively from a single radio or television station. Fourteen stations, nearly half of those in Alaska, are critically dependent on federal funding and would likely close their doors if they lost that money. This would effectively strand numerous Alaskan communities, leaving them cut off from any form of news or even emergency communications.

I support the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, National Public Radio, and the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program. Funding these programs is not just good for the country, it is vital.

#### THE TRUE COST OF COAL ACT OF 2012

### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the True Cost of Coal Act of 2012 that protects the American taxpayer from bearing the costs of transporting coal for private companies to sell. If you were to listen to the coal companies, you would hear them decry the decline in domestic coal consumption. And while it is true that our domestic appetite for coal is waning, much of the rest of the world is still hungry for it.

U.S. coal producers and suppliers are considering the construction of up to 9 coal export terminals in Washington and Oregon. These terminals will have a combined annual export capacity of 170 million tons of coal. To put this in perspective, the U.S. exported just 26 million tons of coal in 2011. This sharp increase in coal exports will be transported primarily through Oregon and my home State of Washington. Without question, this staggering increase will have serious implications on the Northwest's environment, safety, commerce, and public health.

But what does it take to ship 170 million tons of coal through the Pacific Northwest annually? We're talking about a 1.5 mile long train packed with coal travelling thousands of times a year next to pristine waterfronts and through cities along the Puget Sound—each train spewing up to 500 pounds of toxic coal dust into the environment while increasing traffic on already congested rail tracks. These trains will run straight through the heart of my district, the city of Seattle, wreaking havoc on

people's health, the environment, commerce and shipping, and traffic. All of these costs will be endured for the sake of transporting coal that we get no benefit from.

And who will pay for this added cost? Without legislation like this, the taxpayers will pay the costs of mitigating the negative impacts of coal. As traffic increases, and public health risks are exacerbated, coal companies will continue to reap the profits of cheap coal, mined from public lands, and remain largely free from responsibility for any of the negative impacts. This means that States and local governments will need to raise taxes to pay for the additional crossings, the environmental cleanup, and increased health costs. It is time we opened our eyes to the true cost of coal.

This legislation would impose a 10 dollar per ton excise tax on all extracted coal. This money will go to mitigating the negative impacts of coal transportation, and ensure the true cost of coal is paid for by the responsible parties, and not the taxpayers. The money is allocated to the affected States, who are in the best position to determine how best to use their funds.

Make no mistake, these coal exports are not about jobs, they are about profits. The U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA) estimates that it costs about \$20 per ton to ship coal mined from the Powder River Basin to the Pacific Northwest. The EIA also has data that shows the average price per ton of coal exports is \$148 per ton. I cannot emphasize enough that none of the profits will go to helping the affected communities.

It's time we shine a light on the true cost of coal and protect the American taxpayer from the negative impacts of transporting coal through our States. I have dedicated my career to keeping Washington and the Northwest a place where the environment, public health and efficient transportation do not get trumped by narrow interests. In 1980, I led the successful "Don't Waste Washington" initiative, to keep Washington from becoming the country's nuclear waste dumping ground, and 30 years later I remain just as committed to keeping it that way.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF WILLIAM A. SILVERMAN

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of publicist, William A. Silverman.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, Bill was the son of an editor at the Cleveland News. Upon graduating from Centre College of Kentucky and the University of Madrid, he wrote for the Army's Stars and Stripes publication during the Korean War. He also spent five years covering the police beat, and worked for several different public relations firms before opening his own firm, Silverman and Co.

In the 1960s, Bill worked on the mayoral campaigns of Ralph Perk and Seth Taft; his work on Taft's campaign earned him a public relations position with Mayor Stokes and a grant from the nonprofit Greater Cleveland Associated Foundation. Soon after beginning work with Stokes, Silverman opened the Silverman and Co. public relations firm in downtown Cleveland, OH. Together with Stokes, he

helped pass a clean water bond issue, and created Cleveland: NOW!

Throughout the years, Silverman and Co. grew and opened branches in Toledo, Columbus, and Charleston, West Virginia. By 1996, the PR firm was the third largest in the region and ranked 40th in the country. Throughout Silverman's career, some of his clients included Blue Cross; Don King; BBC Industries; Mayor George Voinovich; and Democratic Council President George Forbes. After more than 30 years in business, Bill retired and the firm closed in 1997 and 1998 respectively.

I offer my condolences to his wife, Sandy; children, Alexander, Beth Ann, Frances, William, Jeffrey, and Jenny; and sixteen grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life and accomplishments of Mr. William A. Silverman.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARETHA THURMOND PARTICIPATING IN THE 2012 OLYMPICS

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Aretha Thurmond. Aretha will participate in the 2012 Olympics in London.

Thurmond, of Opelika, Alabama, qualified for her fourth Olympic team, becoming 16th U.S. woman to do so. Aretha is known as one of the most consistent American throwers over the past decade.

In 2007, she returned to compete only 18 days after giving birth to her son, Devon Theopolis. Thurmond will be participating in the 2012 London Olympics discus throw.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Aretha and best wishes in the Olympics.

CONGRESSIONAL REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ENERGY-RESTRICTING AND JOB-LIMITING OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6082) to officially replace, within the 60-day Congressional review period under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, President Obama's Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) with a congressional plan that will conduct additional oil and natural gas lease sales to promote offshore energy development, job creation, and increased domestic energy production to ensure a more secure energy future in the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my continued support for the restrictions placed on oil and gas leasing in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006. I am

pleased that H.R. 6082 continues this moratorium and recognizes an area not only critical to the protection of Florida's beautiful beaches and unique environment but to the training of our nation's sailors, Marines and pilots who conduct training exercises there on a regular basis.

As you know, I have been working on the issue of drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico since 1983, when the oil industry proposed drilling off the Gulf Coast of Florida. That year, I offered an amendment to a 1983 supplemental appropriations bill to create the first buffer zone to protect Florida's Gulf Coast from offshore oil drilling. Congress did not implement this buffer zone only to protect the economic or environmental interests of the State of Florida; rather we also recognized the potential conflict that exists between drilling and naval and aviation military activities.

The importance of this area to our military training was affirmed in 2000, when the Department of Defense requested that no above-surface structures be built in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, officially establishing the Military Mission Line within which no drilling can occur. This decision proved timely when the Air Force and Army were forced to end training exercises in Vieques, Puerto Rico and had to find a new site to undertake these specialized training activities. The Eastern Gulf of Mexico was the only site available where this training could continue because this naval and aviation training is incompatible with drilling platforms and drilling ships.

Since the first amendment in 1983, I negotiated with my colleagues to include this moratorium in appropriations bills year after year, until a bipartisan compromise was reached in 2006 that balanced increased domestic energy production with the critical military activities conducted in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. This carefully crafted agreement opened 8.3 million acres south of the Florida Panhandle to drilling, an area previously under a ban, while barring new oil and gas leases off Florida's coastline until June 30, 2022, and codifying the ban on drilling within the Military Mission Line.

Prior to the enactment of the current moratorium, then Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stated that "in those areas east of the Military Mission Line, drilling structures and associated development would be incompatible with military activities, such as missile flights, low-flying drone aircraft, weapons testing and training." By maintaining the drilling ban in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, H.R. 6082 continues to protect an area that holds the U.S. military's largest training and testing area.

Mr. Chair, I am pleased to support this measure that will responsibly increase our domestic oil production while maintaining the important protections against drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, in order to ensure that our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PROPOSED OFFSHORE DRILLING LEASE SALE PLAN

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss today's vote on the bill to approve

and implement the Obama administration's offshore drilling plan. Holding this vote today was a political stunt by the Republican majority—nothing more. No committees have reviewed the plan, and it was brought to the floor without any consideration.

The Obama Administration's plan would supplant the Bush Administration's plan which is currently in place and I voted for the bill today, not wanting to play political games with our environment. Despite any reservations I have with the details of the Obama Administration's plan, the current administration correctly excluded lease sales in the Atlantic, Pacific or North Aleutian Basin. The Republicans offered an alternative plan that would, without question, cause significant harm to the environment. Voting yes today on this better package was the right thing to do.

Protecting our environment is not a game. Today I voted to move us forward from the terrible environmental policies of the previous administration, and I will continue to advocate and vote for stronger environmental protections.

RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT TO BIRMINGHAM, AL ON WEDNESDAY JULY 18, 2012

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the visit by First Lady Michelle Obama to Camp Noah at the McAlpine Recreation Center in Birmingham, Alabama on Wednesday July 18, 2012.

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to my dear friend and our First Lady, Michelle Obama, who traveled a long way last week to honor her commitment to return to Alabama to see our recovery efforts from the devastating tornadoes of April 27, 2011. President Obama and the First Lady visited Alabama two days after the storms to witness first-hand the destruction. They promised federal assistance and that we would not be forgotten. On July 18, 2012, the First Lady held true to her promise to return to Alabama to see our recovery and rebuilding progress.

We will never forget the tremendous losses suffered by the April tornadoes which claimed the lives of 253 Alabamians. Yet out of that devastation, we found hope and showed great resilience in working together to rebuild our communities. The First Lady's visit gave us the opportunity to show our progress as she witnessed the healing spirit of the children affected by the tornadoes.

During her visit to Birmingham, First Lady Michelle Obama surprised a crowd of nearly 100 kids, grades first through sixth, at McAlpine Recreation Center participating in Camp Noah. The summer camp is sponsored by Ascension Lutheran Church in Huntsville, AL and is part of a national project designed to help kids heal from their disaster experience through music, life-skill training and arts and crafts.

The First Lady greeted the children with a smile and words of encouragement. She graciously took the time to hug each and every one of the children. The kids' excitement and joy when the First Lady entered the room was