

against North Korea's continued desire to build nuclear weapons. I disagree.

Our military's extended nuclear deterrent capabilities are already sufficient to deal with the North Korean threat. The Kim Jung-un regime is aware that with our advanced submarine launch capabilities, our sophisticated stealth bombers, and our ICBM missiles, the United States military has the ability to cause devastating harm to North Korea.

Instead of acting as a deterrent to North Korea, placing tactical nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula will only embolden the Kim Jung-un regime to develop their nuclear capabilities faster, increasing the risk of development or testing mistakes that could harm innocent North Koreans in the process.

Placing tactical nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula without the support of the South Korean, Japanese, or Chinese governments could severely hamper the progress made during the six-party talks. The United States should not unilaterally decide to take a destabilizing action in this region of the world without close consultation with our allies in the region.

For these reasons I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Johnson amendment.

#### IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF TIBET

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the people of Tibet and to thank groups like Students for a Free Tibet for all the work they do to raise awareness on this issue. For too long, the Tibetan people have suffered numerous human rights violations at the hands of the People's Republic of China. In the fight for Tibetan freedom, 35 Tibetans have set fire to themselves since February 2009 to protest China's occupation of their land. At least 23 of them have died. Their sacrifice should not go unnoticed. They have given their lives to show the world the suffering the Tibetan people endure at the hands of Chinese government.

Additionally, there are numerous Tibetans who have been arrested for speaking out against the government and advocating for the freedom of Tibet. These political prisoners need to be set free. Their only crime is standing up for the rights of the Tibetan people. While China continues to enforce policies that encroach on the freedoms of Tibetans, the people continue to conduct peaceful demonstrations. It is our responsibility to support the Tibetan people both politically and financially.

As a body, we should carry on our support for the Tibetan people by continuing to fund areas such as development, refugee programs, and Radio Free Asia and Voice of America. By supporting programs such as these, we encourage Tibetan livelihood and culture. U.S. assistance has supported sustainable development, environmental conservation, and cultural preservation in Tibet since 2000. Let us continue this support to contribute to a better future for Tibet.

We should also continue to support the Dalai Lama's efforts to negotiate a peaceful

solution for Tibet with the Chinese government. The Tibetan people are a peaceful people and we should support their belief system in finding a peaceful solution to this problem. Let us lend our support to the people of Tibet so that they can continue their fight for freedom.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the people of Tibet.

#### RECOGNIZING HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDING WEEK

#### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize America's engineers, architects, and skilled workforce who construct our new state-of-the-art new buildings and to speak in support of H.R. 2866, the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act.

Next week is High-Performance Building Week, and America's leading trade groups will come together to promote their efforts to design, build, and maintain buildings to a higher level of performance. Throughout the week, the High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus Coalition—a diverse group of building professionals—will hold a number of briefings on high-performance basics and new technological breakthroughs, conduct tours of local green roofs, and offer other outreach opportunities. These activities will remind attendees that these buildings are not only attainable, but can improve the quality of our lives.

High-performance buildings have eight specific attributes that ensure that the buildings are designed for the people they serve and the environment they impact. These buildings should be accessible, cost-effective, functional, productive, safe, sustainable, aesthetically pleasing, and mindful of historic preservation.

While all of the attributes of high-performance buildings are important, efficiency and cost-effectiveness are increasingly vital given the rising costs of energy. H.R. 2866, the Mechanical Insulation Installation Incentive Act, will help alleviate these rising costs, promoting the construction of truly high-performance buildings. H.R. 2866 will create tax incentives to encourage commercial and industrial entities to go beyond current minimum building requirements—as set by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers—in new construction or retrofit projects, and to also keep up with regular and timely maintenance of their mechanical insulation systems.

Over a five-year period, these incentives have the potential to save American companies \$35 billion in energy costs and reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 170 million metric tons. In addition, this bill will not only help building owners save money and use less resources, it will also create jobs. It is estimated that this initiative could support the development of more than 89,000 sustainable jobs for skilled craft personnel to install and maintain mechanical insulation systems.

H.R. 2866 is just one step this body can take to help achieve all these goals and make our country more competitive. During High-Performance Building Week, I encourage my

colleagues to learn more about the work of building professionals and join me in supporting this measure. Our residential, commercial and industrial buildings are more than just places where we live, work, and shop. They can inspire us and reflect our values, and be engines for energy independence and job creation.

#### ONE LAPTOP PER CHILD

#### HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ketaki Desai, Elizabeth Cullinan, Tim Kelly, and Reginald Cox, four graduate students from Carnegie Mellon's Heinz School of Public Policy and Management, for their first place finish at the Hult Global Case Challenge.

Their innovative program, One Laptop Per Child, seeks to provide durable, low energy laptops for children in 3rd world countries with limited educational resources. This idea garnered the top prize at the Hult Challenge, where these CMU grad students were awarded \$333,000 to encourage and further their initiative.

The Hult Global Case Challenge, now in its third year, is focused on bringing some of the brightest minds in the world together to find ways to solve key social challenges. This year, the three categories—education, energy, and housing—had hundreds of entrants from over 130 countries around the world. Such luminaries as Muhammad Yunus, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize judged the final round; and President Bill Clinton handed out the top awards for each category. CMU's Ketaki Desai, Elizabeth Cullinan, Tim Kelly, and Reginald Cox won first place in the education category.

One Laptop Per Child seeks to provide greater educational resources for children ages 6 through 12 in impoverished areas of the world. OLPC has designed laptops with several key features geared towards helping these children. They cost significantly less to manufacture than the standard laptops we use here in the U.S.; they are pre-loaded with lots of educational software, and have wireless internet built in; they are low energy, ensuring that even children in communities without electricity can use them, then recharge the laptops using solar energy; the laptops' screens can be read in sunlight—an important feature because so many of these children go to school outside; and, perhaps most importantly, these laptops are extremely durable and rugged, because, let's face it, kids are going to be kids, no matter where they are in the world.

By providing children with these laptops, One Laptop Per Child hopes to broaden children's worldview, and enrich their educational experiences, because, as they see it, education is the foundation for the other solutions to problems like a lack of shelter or running water. Their goal is to donate and distribute 20 million laptops to poor children throughout the world over the next 5 years.

This is just one more example of the innovative work that's being done in Pittsburgh, and I am proud to be their representative.

Congratulations to these grad students and to all the bright minds in Pittsburgh working so hard to solve the world's problems. I thank them for their dedication.

#### INTRODUCTION OF CLEAN WATER RESEARCH BILLS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to describe two bills I am introducing regarding clean water research—H.R. 5826, The Coordinating Water Research for a Clean Water Future Act of 2012, and H.R. 5827 the Energy and Water Research Integration Act of 2012. These two bills will help focus the Federal government's research efforts on clean water, a critical natural resource that we too often take for granted.

As a Representative from the great state of Texas, I know how important water is to public health, the economy, and the environment. Moreover, Texans certainly are not alone. Whether facing unpredictable and extreme weather conditions in places like Idaho where increasingly difficult dam and reservoir management is making it harder to protect property and lives; the drawdown of aquifers in the Powder River Basin from coal-bed methane operations; or the billions of taxpayer dollars spent to upgrade water infrastructure in the East, water is an ever-present topic of dinner conversation and political tension across the country.

As of last week, in Texas alone more than a thousand community water systems were forced to limit water use in order to avoid shortages. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the 12-month period between October 2010 and September 2011 was the driest in Texas since 1895. The dry conditions have been so severe that large portions of the State are categorized as being in "an exceptional state of drought," the worst condition on the Federal government's drought monitor scale.

Throughout my career I have fought to ensure that future generations have access to clean water. My introduction of these two bills builds on the accomplishments of the former Chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Bart Gordon, who introduced similar legislation that moved through the House of Representatives in the 111th Congress.

The first bill, H.R. 5826, will authorize coordination of water research activities to ensure a future where clean water is abundant, affordable, and accessible for generations to come. To do this, the country needs to better coordinate federal research among agencies which oversee and protect this natural resource. The bill elevates the importance of ensuring clean and reliable water supplies through the implementation of a National Water Research and Development Initiative at the Office of Science and Technology Policy of the White House. The Initiative will improve the Federal government's role in coordinating federal water research activities that identify, characterize, and address changes in U.S. clean water use, quality, supply, and demand.

H.R. 5826 is drafted based on a range of expert recommendations, including those from

the 2004 National Research Council report, "Confronting the Nations' Water Problems; the Role of Research," and the 2007 Office of Science and Technology Policy report "A Strategy for Federal Science and Technology to Support Water Availability and Quality in the United States."

The second bill, H.R. 5827, "The Energy and Water Research Integration Act" focuses attention on the energy-water nexus, a term used to describe the energy required to provide reliable water supplies and the water required to provide reliable energy supplies. The bill directs the Secretary of Energy to integrate water considerations into the Department of Energy's energy research. The bill requires the Secretary to seek to advance energy technologies and practices that would minimize freshwater withdrawal and consumption, increase water use efficiency, and utilize non-traditional water sources with efforts to improve water quality.

H.R. 5827 is based on hearings held in the 110th and 111th Congress when the Science and Technology Committee reviewed federal research related to water, with particular attention on the energy-water nexus. At the request of the Committee, the Government Accountability Office conducted five studies on the energy-water nexus. As GAO has aptly pointed out in its reports on this issue, energy and water are two critical resources that are intrinsically and reciprocally linked. For example, the energy sector is the fastest-growing consumer of water right now and will account for 85% of the growth in domestic water consumption in the United States between 2005 and 2030. The GAO's reports showed that very substantial quantities of water are needed to produce energy from a wide range of resources, such as for cooling thermoelectric power plants, growing and converting feedstocks into biofuels; and extracting oil shale and natural gas. GAO's work also demonstrated that the development of oil and gas sources often results in the production of large volumes of wastewater that must be managed or treated. Furthermore, GAO's work has also shown that significant amounts of energy are needed to extract, transport, treat, and use water in urban environments.

In many ways, these seminal reports confirmed what we already knew, and that is that water availability and quality are essential for public health and a strong economy, but demands for, and threats to, these resources are growing. We can no longer afford to take it for granted. Whether it is billions of dollars in lost revenue for our agricultural sector, or reduced electric reliability due to low cooling water supplies for power plants, the country is already feeling the impacts of reduced water availability and quality.

That is why communities and businesses across the country want to see more water research and better coordination. The bills are supported by small businesses like NanoH<sub>2</sub>O, who see the need for innovative technologies in the water sector, as well as national organizations like Alliance for Water Efficiency, the Water Innovation Alliance, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), and the Water Research Foundation. The Water Environment Research Foundation also supports the Energy and Water Research Integration Act.

Given this diverse base of support and the passage of similar bills through the House in

the 111th Congress, I hope that the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and the House will be quick to take up these pieces of legislation and move them expeditiously.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JUDY BIGGERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269: 263—"nay", 264—"nay", 265—"yea", 266—"yea", 267—"nay", 268—"nay", 269—"nay".

Had I been present, I would have voted as above.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO JUDGE MARY THOMASINE GRAYSON MASON

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are grateful to pay tribute to Judge Mary Thomasine Grayson Mason who is an inspiration for achieving the distinction of being the Southern Lady who makes a difference. Her extraordinary talents were recognized by her dear friend, U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond, who recommended her appointment in 1971 by President Richard M. Nixon as Federal Administrative Law Judge. Over the years during her residency in West Columbia she became a beloved friend of the Wilson family.

Upon her death this month the following obituary was published in the Post and Courier of Charleston, South Carolina.

#### JUDGE THOMASINE MASON

SUMMERTON, SC.—Judge Mary Thomasine Grayson Mason, widow of Edgar Fleming Mason, died Friday, May 4, 2012, at her homeplace in Summerton, South Carolina.

Born November 7, 1917, in the St. Paul community near Summerton, she was the daughter of James Fulton Grayson and Anne Gentry Grayson.

She graduated Summerton High School and attended the University of South Carolina. She completed her undergraduate degree in three years, graduating with honors from the University of South Carolina in 1938.

Because her father did not consider the study of law a proper career for a young lady, Judge Mason taught school in West Columbia for one year. In 1940, she enrolled in law school at the University of South Carolina, one of the first two women to attend.

With war having broken out in Europe and fearing she may not get to finish law school, Judge Mason sat for and passed the bar exam during her junior year of law school. She was admitted to the South Carolina Bar on June 12, 1941, and graduated from law school June 1, 1942.

During World War II, she worked as a Civil Service Representative assigned in Atlanta, Athens, and Charleston.

After the war and with her father's health failing, she returned to Summerton and worked with her brother operating the family farm, cotton gin, seed processing, and grain elevator.

She continued her studies at North Carolina State College earning a degree in Cotton