

# INTRODUCING THE “SAVING AMERICA’S POLLINATORS ACT OF 2013”

## HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2013*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with the support of my colleague and friend Mr. BLUMENAUER of Oregon to introduce the “Saving America’s Pollinators Act of 2013.” This legislation requires the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take swift action and prevent future mass die-offs of honey bees.

One of every three bites of food we eat is from a crop pollinated by honey bees. These crops include: apples, avocados, cranberries, cherries, broccoli, peaches, carrots, grapes, soybeans, sugar beets and onions. Unfortunately, unless swift action is taken, these crops, and numerous others, will soon disappear due to the dramatic decline of honey bee populations throughout the country. For over a decade now, honey bees have been suffering rapid population losses as a result of a phenomenon known as ‘colony collapse disorder.’ Another decade of these mass die-offs will severely threaten our agricultural economy and food supply system.

Scientists have reported that common symptoms of this decline are attributed to the use of a class of insecticides known as neonicotinoids. The ‘Saving America’s Pollinators Act’ will address the decline of honey bee populations by directing the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to suspend the registration of certain neonicotinoids—known as imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, dinotafuran—and any other members of the nitro group of neonicotinoid insecticides until the Administrator has made a determination that such insecticides will not cause unreasonable adverse effects on pollinators based on an evaluation of peer-review scientific evidence and a completed field study. The bill will also require the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to regularly monitor the health and population status of native bees and identify the scope and likely causes of unusual native bee mortality.

This legislation is extremely critical to examining the death of honey bees and will allow us the opportunity to adequately secure our future food supply. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and protect America’s pollinators.

## IN TRIBUTE TO BESSIE MARIE GRAY

## HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2013*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a mother, teacher, mentor, and community leader, Bessie M. Gray. On July 21, 2013 her over 40 years of service will be celebrated and honored along with family, friends, former employees, and former students at a program entitled, “Mother to Many, Teacher to More and Mentor to All.”

Mrs. Bessie Gray was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas and moved to Milwaukee after graduating from high school, where she met and married her husband, Percy. She began her child care business in her home in 1973 after working as a Head Start volunteer. Gray’s Child Development Center, Inc. became a nonprofit organization and was accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). It was the first African American-led program in the State to achieve this accreditation.

Mrs. Gray earned her bachelor’s degree in early childhood education from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee and her master’s degree in educational administrative leadership from Marquette University. She was a State certified child care trainer for many years and started hundreds of teachers on their way to successful child care careers. She served on many boards and is a past member of Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (vice president), Midwest Early Childhood Association, Black Child Development Institute, and Easter Seals Southeastern Wisconsin. She continues to be available for board consultation.

In 1991, Mrs. Gray began purchasing a property on North Teutonia Avenue from the Sisters of Sorrowful Mother. After providing day care services for children at this site for three years, the Sisters gifted the property to Mrs. Gray. For the next 20 years, Gray’s operated out of that facility until its closure in 2011.

Many honors and awards have been bestowed upon Mrs. Gray during her career, including Milwaukeean of the Month (Milwaukee Magazine) 1981, First African American Nationally Accredited Child Care Center in Wisconsin 1994, State of Wisconsin Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Heritage Award 2001, and Black Child Development Wisconsin Affiliate/Child Care category 2009. She has touched the lives of thousands during her 48 years of service to children and their futures. When parents could not afford to pay the child care fees, she absorbed these costs to ensure that parents could maintain employment stability or finish their schooling.

Bessie Gray is a woman armed with a strong personal faith. She taught Sunday school and provided a nursing home ministry. She was married to Percy Gray, Sr. for over 55 years until his passing in December 2010, and is the mother of nine children, with 23 grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Bessie M. Gray, my friend. Mrs. Gray’s contributions have greatly benefited the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District.

## HONORING THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH, MAINE

## HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2013*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Ellsworth, Maine as it celebrates its 250th anniversary.

Located in the heart of Hancock County, and a gateway to Acadia National Park, Ellsworth is one of our state’s fastest growing and picturesque communities. It serves as the

county seat and is a regional center for Downeast Maine, with agricultural, commercial, and educational resources that are utilized and embraced by thousands of nearby Mainers.

The town was settled in 1763 and named after Oliver Ellsworth, a delegate to the 1787 United States Constitutional Convention. The city combines a comfortable small town feel with the beautiful scenery of Maine’s coastline. One of Ellsworth’s many attractions includes the Downeast Scenic Railroad, which begins in the town and travels along the historic, recently renovated, Calais Branch line.

The residents of Ellsworth embody the values of the hardworking people of Maine, and they take great pride in the rich heritage they have created over the past 250 years. It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Ellsworth in Congress, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to help the town celebrate its 250th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the people of Ellsworth and wishing them well on this joyous occasion.

## SUPPORT OF ROBUST FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH AND THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

## HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2013*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of robust funding for the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute. This funding is critically necessary to support life-saving research for diseases like pancreatic cancer.

In the 112th Congress, I cosponsored the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act, which calls on the National Cancer Institute to develop a scientific framework for combating pancreatic cancer and lung cancer. This scientific framework will identify the most promising avenues for research and coordinate resources to achieve a greater impact.

Mr. Speaker, strategic investment in pancreatic cancer research is absolutely crucial. While overall cancer incidence and death rates are declining, pancreatic cancer remains the deadliest of all major forms of cancer. Pancreatic cancer has a devastatingly low five-year survival rate of just six percent, and it will impact over 45,000 Americans this year.

Unfortunately, funding for the NIH and the National Cancer Institute has been declining due to inflation and sequestration. I urge my colleagues to support a permanent fix to sequestration and provide the resources needed to help every American suffering from cancer.

## IN HONOR OF CARTERET COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER AND THE ASPCA

## HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2013*

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor the Carteret County

Humane Society Animal Shelter, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the volunteers in Carteret County, North Carolina, who answered the call to help homeless animals in their local community.

The Carteret County Animal Shelter, located in my district, was facing the loss of its state license and possible closure unless it underwent significant improvement due to a tight budget on the local, state, and federal levels. This shelter is the only facility in the area that provides a place for homeless pets to stay while they wait for adoption.

In an unprecedented outpouring of support from the community, more than 100 volunteers, including 30 U.S. Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, came together to renovate the facility. The ASPCA, through its nationwide grants program, was more than willing to provide essential funding for supplies and improvements as well.

As a result of this funding and assistance from the community, the shelter was given preliminary approval to reapply for its license and continue its work as a safe haven for homeless animals in Carteret County.

This situation is a testament to the incredible results that are possible when local citizens, along with national organizations like the ASPCA, come together to serve a community.

I want to thank the Carteret County Humane Society Animal Shelter, the ASPCA, and the people of the Third District of North Carolina for their work on behalf of the homeless animals in Eastern North Carolina. These individuals and organizations have provided a tremendous service to Carteret County, and I am pleased to have them recognized by the United States Congress.

#### RECOGNIZING KIA MOTORS FOR THEIR ONE MILLIONTH CAR BUILT IN WEST POINT, GA

#### HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2013*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to recognize a tremendous milestone for Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia: The completion of their one millionth car built in West Point, Georgia. This is a huge achievement for Kia Motors North America and for Georgia, as West Point is the first Kia automobile manufacturing facility on our continent.

Beginning in November of 2009, Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia has been rolling out cars and keeping over 11,000 Georgians employed. Using on-site and local suppliers, they've helped to grow the Third District's economy with quality manufacturing, excellent jobs, and a deep commitment to improving our community. Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia's continued success led to a \$100 million expansion in early 2012, increasing their annual capacity to 360,000 vehicles. In fact, the best-selling vehicle in the U.S., the Optima, is built in West Point, Georgia.

One million cars in four years is a huge success for Kia and for Georgia. Kia's achievements showcase how great Georgia is for manufacturing and business, and I thank them for their commitment to improving our district's economy. I am honored that Kia Motors Manu-

facturing Georgia calls the Third District home and look forward to sharing many more milestones with them in the future.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ELLIOTT LYNN, WINNER OF AUBURN'S POLITICAL SCIENCE LEADERSHIP AWARD

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2013*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend an outstanding young leader who attends Auburn University, which is a leading research and educational institution in my district in Alabama. Auburn's political science department each year recognizes a student leader who excels in both the classroom and the community. It's my honor to announce that Mr. Elliott Lynn is this year's winner of Auburn's Political Science Leadership Award. A faculty committee selected Elliott after careful consideration of his outstanding credentials.

Elliott is from Phenix City, Alabama. He is a senior political science major with an outstanding 3.95 Cumulative Grade Point Average. Elliott is a National Merit Scholar and on the Dean's List. He is a member of many honor societies, including Phi Eta Sigma, Pi Sigma Alpha and Pi Lambda Sigma. Elliott is an Honors College Drummond Scholar and a recipient of the Auburn University Marie Glass Ward Endowed Academic Scholarship.

Elliott is active in helping the community, and he participated in multiple service trips to underserved communities in the U.S. and in developing countries. He went to Haiti to build housing for the victims of the 2010 earthquake. He also volunteered as a teaching assistant with the Victory Mission at a church in Columbus, Georgia, and volunteers at the Columbus Habitat. Last summer, Elliott had the opportunity to intern with our colleague in the other chamber, Senator RICHARD SHELBY, and he has also interned with a Circuit Court Judge in Alabama.

After graduating from Auburn, Elliott plans to attend law school and work in human rights or public interest law. He hopes his career will allow him the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Elliott and thank Auburn University for producing such outstanding students and citizens.

#### KILLEN'S STEAKHOUSE

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2013*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chef Ronnie Killen and the staff of Killen's Steakhouse in Pearland, Texas. It's no secret that Texas is known for its beef. Killen's Steakhouse has been ranked the number one steakhouse in Texas and the number six steakhouse in the United States out of The Daily Meal's top 20 American Steakhouses. This is an exceptional honor, and reflects the hard work, talent and dedication to culinary

craft that Chef Killen and his staff have contributed. This upscale steakhouse is the only restaurant in the Pearland area serving Allen Brothers USDA prime beef, and I am more than excited to be a loyal patron.

Small businesses make up the backbone of the U.S. economy and play a crucial role in American productivity and economic vitality. We must continue to support small businesses like Killen's Steakhouse, and I look forward to hearing from Chef Killen as a small business owner about the needs and concerns of the small business community.

Congratulations to Killen's Steakhouse for achieving this prominent ranking. On behalf of all residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to recognize this achievement. Our community is proud that Killen's Steakhouse calls Pearland home. I wish Chef Killen and his staff the best of luck in the future.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 16, 2013*

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, due to attending the memorial for the 19 firefighters who died fighting the wildfire in Yarnell, Arizona, I missed 20 recorded votes on July 9, 2013. I would like to indicate at this point how I would have voted had I been present for those votes.

On rollcall vote No. 308, H. Res. 288, I would have voted "yea" On Ordering the Previous Question to begin consideration of the bill (H.R. 2609) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes.

On rollcall vote No. 309, H. Res. 288, I would have voted "yea" On Agreeing to the Resolution for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2609) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes.

On rollcall vote No. 310, Journal, I would have voted "no" on approving the Journal.

On rollcall vote No. 311, H.R. 2609, the FY2014 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, I would have voted "no" to strike the section of the bill that would prevent the Army Corps of Engineers from updating guidance concerning federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act.

On rollcall vote No. 312, H.R. 2609, the FY2014 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, I would have voted "no" to strike the section that would prevent the Army Corps of Engineers from changing the definitions of "fill material" or "discharge material" under the Clean Water Act.

On rollcall vote No. 313, H.R. 2609, the FY2014 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, I would have voted "no" to increase renewable energy, energy reliability, and efficiency by \$245 million and to decrease Weapons Activities by the same amount.

On rollcall vote No. 314, H.R. 2609, the FY2014 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, I would have voted "no" to increase Renewable Energy, Energy Reliability and Efficiency by \$31 million and reduces Departmental Administration by the same amount.