

Outing, hosted in Riverwoods, IL, in my district.

The SBAC is a strong and clear voice for small businesses in the Chicagoland area and an important advocate for the interests of those companies and the working families they employ. The SBAC has been speaking up for these businesses for almost four years.

In 2010, with the country still mired in an economic downturn, the SBAC was established as a way to buoy many of the smaller businesses that were struggling. By providing advocacy, support services and educational programs, the SBAC has become a critical resource for our small businesses.

Our business community in the Tenth District is strong because it is just that: a community.

Working together and sharing strategies, being inspired by the innovation of fellow small businesses, companies in the Tenth District have fostered a community of mutual success and prosperity. It is this type of activity that the SBAC promotes and is so important to our economic success in the 21st Century.

Through a tightly-knit network of member organizations, the SBAC builds partnerships and facilitates cooperation, making our community stronger.

Mr. Speaker, advocacy organizations like SBAC are integral to driving the success of small businesses throughout our nation, which in turn will lift the rest of our economy. I thank the SBAC for its work, and I wish only great success for this year's golf outing and SBAC's future.

HONORING THE RE-DEDICATION OF THE E.B. GREEN MAUSOLEUM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the re-dedication of the E.B. Green Mausoleum on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. Designed by legendary architect Edward Brodhead Green, the mausoleum opened in 1913 in Oakwood Cemetery in Niagara Falls, New York.

E.B. Green, for whom the Mausoleum is named, is one of our Nation's most prolific and admired architects. During his 72-year career, he designed over 360 structures, many of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Over 160 of his Western New York works remain standing, including the Mausoleum which we honor today.

The E.B. Green Mausoleum is an architectural and historical wonder. Stately columns and gray Vermont marble produce its majestic exterior. Inside, the Mausoleum contains white Vermont marble and stained glass windows, one of which is a signed Tiffany. One of the only two Mausoleums designed by E.B. Green, its design evokes the reflective act of remembering our dead.

The Mausoleum magnifies the already significant historical legacy of Oakwood Cemetery. Oakwood was established in 1852, when Lavinia Porter, daughter of Niagara Falls founder Augustus Porter, donated the land

that would become the burial site. Theodore Dehone Judah, one of the central figures in the establishment of America's Transcontinental Railroad, designed the cemetery's original landscape. Locally, General Parkhurst Whitney of Niagara Falls and his three daughters were laid to rest at Oakwood. Celinda, Angelina, and Asenath Whitney are the three sisters for which the Three Sisters Islands are named. In 1882, their nephew Drake Whitney engineered improvements to Oakwood Cemetery.

Oakwood Cemetery's historical significance has been regionally recognized. The cemetery has received numerous awards, including the Preservation Buffalo Niagara Award in 2013, a \$5000 grant from the Niagara Falls Preservation League in 2011, a City of Niagara Falls Preservation Citation and designation as a Niagara Falls National Heritage Area.

Many programs are in place to educate the public about the history of the Oakwood Cemetery. The cemetery offers community activities such as guided tours, events that are open to the public, and educational workshops for students. The volunteer group "Friends of Oakwood" dedicates their efforts to the upkeep, preservation, restoration, and education of the cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize the historical and architectural significance of the E.B. Green Mausoleum and Oakwood Cemetery. I thank all those who worked to put together this lovely event, and sincerely appreciate their work every day to promote the incredible history and legacy of Oakwood Cemetery.

ENERGY CONSUMERS RELIEF ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1582) to protect consumers by prohibiting the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from promulgating as final certain energy-related rules that are estimated to cost more than \$1 billion and will cause significant adverse effects to the economy, with Ms. Ros-Lehtinen in the chair.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1582.

This bill would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing any "energy-related rule" that is estimated to cost more than \$1 billion if the Secretary of Energy determines that the rule will cause "significant adverse effects to the economy." The term "significant adverse effects to the economy" is not defined. In addition, the term "energy-related rule" is broadly defined to include any rule that "regulates any aspect of the production, supply, distribution, or use of energy or provides for such regulation by States or other governmental entities."

Many of the rules that this bill aims to stop are rules that would directly affect my constituent companies—rules that I too have serious concerns about how they were developed.

I could support a bill that would require the Department of Energy to have an official consulting role similar to the Office of Management and Budget in the drafting of EPA rules where appropriate. For example, I was very frustrated to hear that DOE's concerns about grid reliability were not heeded by EPA during the Utility MACT rulemaking.

I am shocked though that my colleagues are okay setting a precedent where one Department has veto power over another Department or Agency's actions. What's next? Are we going to give the Department of Treasury veto power over the Securities and Exchange Commission or give the Department of Defense veto power over the Department of Homeland Security just because we have concerns about their rulemaking processes?

The Environmental Protection Agency is already required to conduct two Regulatory Impact Analyses, once when the rule is proposed and another when the rule is final, and then this analysis is reviewed by the OMB for accuracy.

This Congress should be able to address the core concerns we have about how these rules are developed without completely gutting an agency's statutory responsibilities and independence.

I encourage my colleagues to oppose this bill. This legislation is unprecedented and duplicative.

ENERGY CONSUMERS RELIEF ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1582) to protect consumers by prohibiting the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from promulgating as final certain energy-related rules that are estimated to cost more than \$1 billion and will cause significant adverse effects to the economy, with Ms. Ros-Lehtinen in the chair.

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Chair, I rise today to speak in opposition to the proposed cuts to Amtrak in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2014.

Amtrak is a vital need for constituents from my home state of New Jersey and to people all along the eastern seaboard. Each day, thousands of passengers take to the railways and ridership on Amtrak has continued to grow over the past several years. Now is not the time to cut their funding.

These proposed cuts in THUD could cripple the railroad system, requiring cuts to maintenance and equipment replacement, which could jeopardize the safety of the thousands of Amtrak riders each day.

Once again, I would like to reiterate how heavily my constituents rely on Amtrak for their traveling needs and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together and oppose the cuts included in this legislation.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2610) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes:

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the devastating funding cuts to the Transportation and Housing initiatives in this appropriations bill, and particularly the cuts to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

Established nearly forty years ago, the CDBG program provides State and local governments across the country with the funding and flexibility to most effectively target resources to local community development needs.

The only Federal program of its kind, since 1974, the CDBG program has invested \$135 billion in local communities.

And, in addition to being a critical factor in national economic growth, this program has assisted States and local governments in achieving the kinds of infrastructure projects, job creation and poverty elimination that our communities so desperately need.

In this Chamber, there is often talk of the need to make government more efficient, and reduce wasting taxpayer dollars.

Well, I'm happy to report that this program does just that—it continues to be one of HUD's most efficient programs—with grantees devoting on average 94 percent of CDBG funds directly to efforts that provide benefits to low- to moderate-income families.

Within my district in Franklin County Ohio, CDBG funding has been used for housing rehabilitation, micro-enterprise assistance, ADA compliance, and revitalization of downtown Columbus. These developments have made a real difference in my community.

The City of Whitehall has removed and replaced about thirty-three-hundred feet of curb and gutter along Bernhard Road, enhancing water runoff management in the area—preventing pooling water and possible disease or outbreak.

Recent projects have provided 650 households with access to public transit—public transit that many families use to get to and from work and stores all of which improves the local economy as a whole.

And CDBG funds have given 1400 families in Franklin County, Ohio access to clean, safe drinking water—a project that would have been nearly impossible otherwise because local revenues were just not available.

I'm proud to say that Franklin County continues to leverage \$5.30 for infrastructure development for every dollar of CDBG funding it receives, but with the draconian cuts to CDBG contained in this bill, there's simply no way that we can make up the difference.

That's why the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, the National Housing Trust, the Community Development Finance Authority, the National Association of Counties, the National Association of Development Organizations, the YWCA, Rebuilding Together, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, the American Planning Association, and the Council of State Community Development Agencies have all written in strong support of CDBG funding and the programs it sustains.

And yet, here we are considering an appropriations bill that would literally cut the program in half.

The proposed funding level would be less than when CDBG was first authorized in 1974.

This would tip many low- to moderate-income Americans over the brink into poverty and would negatively impact our communities and our country.

So I stand here today—with my colleagues—strongly opposed to the funding level cuts contained in this appropriations bill.

The Chairman of the T-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, Representative LATHAM, has said “cutting over \$7 billion in programs was very challenging.”

I say this to my Republican colleagues, if cutting these programs was hard—I can assure you, the children, seniors, and families directly helped by CDBG programs will have a much more challenging time dealing with the effects of over \$7 billion in cuts.

I urge opposition to this bill.

NUCLEAR IRAN PREVENTION ACT
OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I have voted for many of the Iran sanctions bills that have to come before this body in the past, and I strongly believe that sanctions are a crucial tool in the extremely important effort to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. But I am disappointed that the House took up and passed H.R. 850, the Nuclear Iran Prevention Act, this week. I believe that the timing and substance of this latest sanctions bill are ill-considered and would have the effect of pushing Iran in the opposite direction we seek.

More than 100 Members of Congress from both parties wrote to President Obama just two weeks ago in support of efforts to “utilize all diplomatic tools to reinvigorate ongoing nuclear talks.” I signed that letter because I believe that, while we cannot know at this point whether President-elect Rouhani will in fact be willing to negotiate in good faith to end Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapon, we must do everything in our power to demonstrate to Iran that it will benefit from ending its pursuit of nuclear weapons. Bringing H.R. 850 for a vote this week, just before President-elect Rouhani's inauguration, I believe, does the opposite, as it indicates an unwillingness to adapt to any adjusting circumstances that may occur. Moreover, it strengthens the hands of extremists in Iran who could use this vote to falsely claim that the American government is

not interested in pursuing a diplomatic solution.

Additionally, I am concerned that certain provisions in H.R. 850 would unwisely limit President Obama's authority to negotiate as he sees fit. In particular, the bill would impose a total oil embargo, without providing an appropriate exemption for President Obama to utilize if need be. This creates two problems. First, it diminishes President Obama's ability to offer economic benefits to Iran in exchange for an Iranian halt to enrichment of uranium. Second, it makes it substantially more challenging for President Obama to maintain the strong international coalition that he has developed in support of sanctions. Without international support, our sanctions would be for naught, as Iran would be able to simply continue trading with other countries and would not face the economic harms intended by sanctions.

I support a strong sanctions regime as part of an effort to achieve a diplomatic solution that prevents Iran from developing nuclear weapons. I also support some important provisions of H.R. 850, such as those that provide for new sanctions against Iranian officials who are responsible for human rights abuses. Yet, overall, I am concerned that H.R. 850 will not strengthen the effort to utilize sanctions to achieve a diplomatic solution, but will instead be counterproductive to it.

NUCLEAR IRAN PREVENTION ACT
OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the record my support for H.R. 850, the Nuclear Iran Prevention Act. Unfortunately, I was not present for the rollcall vote on this bill. Please let the record show that I am a co-sponsor of this legislation and that had I been present I fully intended to vote: “yea.”

The message should be heard loud and clear from America: Iran must abandon its nuclear ambition. H.R. 850 is the vital next step in toughening sanctions on this brazen nation. Iran is an existential threat to Israel, our strongest ally in the Middle East, and a threat to peace throughout the world. Our steadfastness and resolve for peace and stability in the world will see this through.

NUCLEAR IRAN PREVENTION ACT
OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters.

JULY 30, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN ISSA: I am writing concerning H.R. 2711, the “Citizen Empowerment Act,” which your Committee ordered reported on July 24, 2013.