

to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes:

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chair, I submit the following exchange of letters:

SIFMA,
June 19, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND LEADER PELOSI: SIFMA and its member firms strongly support H.R. 4413, the Consumer Protection and End User Relief Act, bipartisan legislation that seeks to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to better protect futures customers, provide market certainty for end-users, and make basic reforms to improve the functioning of the CFTC.

One provision in this bill seeks to create harmonization of cross-border swaps regulation by requiring the CFTC and SEC to jointly promulgate rules in full compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act and within 270 days. This is necessary as the two agencies share jurisdiction over the swaps markets and currently have inconsistent approaches to the extraterritorial application of rules under Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act. This provision is largely similar to H.R. 1256, Swap Jurisdiction Certainty Act, which passed the House by vote of 301–124.

Another provision in the bill would prevent costly margin requirements from being imposed on non-financial end-users for their derivatives activity used to hedge commercial risks. This provision is largely similar to H.R. 634, Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act of 2013, which passed the House by vote of 411–12.

SIFMA strongly urges you to vote for H.R. 4413. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

ANDY BLOCKER,
EVP, Public Policy and Advocacy, SIFMA.

EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE,
Washington, DC, June 18, 2014.

Hon. FRANK LUCAS,
Chairman, House Agriculture Committee,
Washington, DC.
Hon. COLLIN PETERSON,
Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS AND RANKING MEMBER PETERSON: On behalf of EEI's member companies, I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act. The legislation provides additional certainty and clarifies congressional intent on a number of issues of significant importance to EEI members.

EEI is the association of all the U.S. investor-owned utilities, international affiliates and industry associates worldwide. Our members provide electricity for 220 million Americans, directly employ more than a half-million workers, and operate in all 50 states. With more than \$85 billion in annual capital expenditures, the electric utility industry is responsible for providing reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity that powers the economy and enhances the lives of all Americans.

EEI members are non-financial entities that primarily participate in the physical commodity market and rely on swaps and futures contracts mainly to hedge and mitigate

their commercial risk. The goal of our member companies is to provide their customers with reliable electric service at affordable and stable rates, which has a direct and significant impact on literally every area of the U.S. economy. Since wholesale electricity and natural gas historically have been two of the most volatile commodity groups, our member companies place a strong emphasis on managing the price volatility inherent in these wholesale commodity markets to the benefit of their customers. The derivatives market has proven to be an extremely effective tool in insulating our customers from this risk and price volatility. In sum, our members are the quintessential commercial end-users of swaps.

As such, regulations that make effective risk management options more costly for end-users of swaps will likely result in higher and more volatile energy prices for retail, commercial, and industrial customers. H.R. 4413 goes a long way in providing much needed regulatory relief and an even greater clarity to the compliance landscape facing EEI and the entire end-user community going forward.

Thank you for your leadership on these important issues.

Sincerely,

THOMAS R. KUHN.

JUNE 17, 2014.

DEAR MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The undersigned organizations represent a very broad cross-section of U.S. production agriculture and agribusiness. We urge you to cast an affirmative vote on H.R. 4413, the "Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act," when it moves to the floor for consideration.

This legislation, unanimously approved on a bipartisan basis by the Committee on Agriculture, provides important protections for futures customers:

Enhanced reporting, transparency and accountability in futures markets. These much-needed improvements will help prevent another MF Global.

The ability for customers to "claw back" assets from a parent firm in the event of a shortfall of customer funds in FCM insolvencies—something that wasn't possible with MF Global.

A clear roadmap for meaningful cost-benefit analysis to be performed by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission before proposing major rules.

A solution to the very troubling "residual interest" rule approved last fall by CFTC that would force customers to pre-margin hedge accounts, thereby putting perhaps twice as much customer money at risk, dramatically increasing hedging costs, and likely driving farmers, ranchers and small hedgers out of the futures market.

Relief from technologically infeasible recordkeeping requirements in the cash commodity markets.

Thank you in advance for your support of this bill that is so important to U.S. farmers, ranchers, hedgers and futures customers.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa, Agribusiness Council of Indiana, Amcot, American Cotton Shippers Association, American Feed Industry Association, American Soybean Association, Commodity Markets Council, Grain and Feed Association of Illinois, Indiana Grain and Feed Association, Iowa Institute for Cooperatives, Kansas Cooperative Council, Kansas Grain and Feed Association, Michigan Agri-Business Association, Michigan Bean Shippers, Minnesota Grain and Feed Association, Montana Grain Elevators Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Grain and Feed Association, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers Council, North American Export Grain Association, North Dakota Grain Dealers Association, Ohio Agribusiness Association, Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council, Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association, South Dakota Association of Cooperatives, South Dakota Grain & Feed Association, Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council, United Egg Producers, USA Rice Federation.

IN HONOR OF SCOTT OBERG

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Scott Oberg for his outstanding commitment and dedication of 29 years of service to law enforcement, specifically the California Highway Patrol, the community, and his service to the United States of America.

Scott Oberg began his law enforcement career as an officer when he joined the California Highway Patrol El Centro Area Office on May 23, 1985 after graduating from the academy. Soon after, Scott Oberg served as a Field Training Officer from 1988 until 2002; during this time he trained seventeen officers, served on the Critical Incident Investigations Team from 2009 until 2012, as Court Officer from 2011 to 2013, and currently serves as a Front Desk Officer.

Additionally, from 1992 to 1996, Scott Oberg served on the elite Imperial County Narcotics Task Force, where he participated in 24 undercover investigations and assisted in many seizures and arrests. Furthermore, Scott Oberg has an exemplary record of approximately 21,000 citations issued, 1,000,000 patrol miles, 12,000 motorist services, 900 collisions investigations, 425 DUI arrests and 95 felony arrests.

I applaud Scott Oberg for his distinguished service to California, the Imperial Valley community, and California's 51st Congressional District.

STATEMENT COMMEMORATING MELROSE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the centennial celebration of Melrose, Wisconsin. Originally known as "Bristol," the village was first settled by Robert Douglas in 1839. Located in Jackson County, the village served as an important hub for the lumber industry during Wisconsin's early development. After the lumber boom, Melrose's mill and proximity to water helped support the development of the agricultural industry that is so abundant in southwest Wisconsin. In 1854, the village post office was established, and the community name was changed to Melrose. In 1913, the village of Melrose was incorporated.

With a population of 503 residents, Melrose is proud of its many close-knit community connections. The village boasts two wonderful

parks, including Recreation Park, where residents can come together to enjoy Wisconsin's great summers and play baseball, tennis, and volleyball, and "Tank" Park, where residents can enjoy various recreational activities while inspecting the park's World War 2 Era tank.

The beautiful wooded lands surrounding the village make it an excellent destination for outdoorsmen and women of all sorts. Melrose is a great place to explore the Black River, or to hike, bike, or snowmobile on one of its many recreational trails. The village also hosts a number of popular events, including the Melrose Corn Broil, which features locally-grown produce.

On July 5, 2014, Village President Tory Lockington, local elected leaders, and Melrose residents will come together to celebrate the village's centennial with a variety of events devoted to the village's diverse offerings, including a farmer's market, concerts, and various performances by local student groups. Today, I recognize Melrose's centennial and join in their celebration.

**RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
THE WOLF CREEK BRIDGE TO
MICHAEL G. GIBBS**

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the dedication of the Wolf Creek Bridge in Cocke County, Tennessee to Mr. Michael Gibbs.

The Wolf Creek Bridge is one of East Tennessee's infrastructural treasures. Located in Cocke County, Tennessee, the original bridge was completed in February 1928 for a meager cost of \$119,102. Having been through a series of repairs throughout its time, the Wolf Creek Bridge underwent its first major rehabilitation in April 2012 under the direction of the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The Wolf Creek Bridge is now larger than it has ever been at 30.8 feet across with lanes widened to 12 feet and 3 foot shoulders on either side. Thanks to this rehabilitation, this bridge, which has been an integral part of the region since its induction in 1928, is now better than it has ever been before.

June 27, 2014 marked a new day in the history of the Wolf Creek Bridge, wherein the bridge was dedicated to one of the many soldiers from Tennessee that has given his life to the service of our nation and renamed Veterans Pass in Memory of Michael Gerald Gibbs. Michael G. Gibbs, a native of Del Rio, Tennessee, served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. On April 25, 1967 he made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States of America and was among the first casualties from Cocke County, Tennessee. His name on the Wolf Creek Bridge marks a significant union between those who have served our nation on the front lines through the military and those that have provided the necessary infrastructure and community support to keep America strong at its core.

It is an honor to see the dedication of the Wolf Creek Bridge to the memory of Mr. Michael Gibbs, a true representation of the volunteer spirit.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PENN STATE COOPERATIVE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, one hundred years ago, the Cooperative Extension was established by Congress as a nationwide transformational education system that would operate through Land-Grant universities. We acknowledge the good work of the Penn State Cooperative Extension in this anniversary year. This successful program advocates healthful lifestyle choices, community vitality and a safe and abundant food supply, while dedicated to protecting our natural resources. It engages rural and urban learners through practical, community-based and online approaches, with topical classes available to children as well as adults, such as business, health, family, youth, food, animals, plants, pests and master gardener classes. Like all Cooperative Extensions, the Penn State Cooperative is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture, state and county government. We congratulate the Cooperative Extension and its dedicated staff on a century of outstanding service to the communities they serve and look forward to interesting and exciting programming through the 21st century.

**HONORING SYLESTER FLOWERS,
R. PH.**

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of Mr. Sylester Flowers. Known as a hardworking and long-standing public health advocate, and a visionary in the field of pharmaceutical services, Mr. Flowers has left an indelible mark on Bay Area communities. With his passing on June 21, 2014, we look to Sylester Flowers' legacy and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born on June 30, 1935 in High Point, North Carolina, Mr. Flowers grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Howard University in 1958 and moved to California after serving in the military. He worked as a pharmacist at St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco from 1961 to 1963 before opening his first retail pharmacy, The Apothecary, in East Oakland in 1964. He opened other pharmacies in working-class neighborhoods that grew into a successful chain, all while primarily serving underrepresented communities. In 1967, Mr. Flowers founded the Ramsell Corporation (Ramsell) as a holding company for his pharmacies. His business later flourished as he expanded into managing pharmaceutical services. In addition, he served as the Pharmacy Director for the San Francisco County Mental Health Department's methadone treatment program from 1971 to 1982, and also held teaching positions as an adjunct professor of pharmacy at the

University of the Pacific in Stockton and as an assistant clinical professor of pharmacy at the University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy.

Headquartered in Oakland, Ramsell serves as the parent company to four healthcare-related businesses including Ramsell Public Health Rx, Ramsell Pharmacy Solutions, Ramsell Information Technology and Ramsell International. In 1997, Ramsell won a competitive bid to administer the State of California's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), and the company operates similar programs in Oregon, Texas, Washington, Colorado and Delaware. Active in 14 states, Ramsell provides forty percent of HIV/AIDS medications nationally with a mission to ensure that underserved communities receive access to prescription drugs and quality health care services. Ramsell has expanded services to include drug administration program management, medication therapy management, patient assistance programs tools and re-entry solutions for Corrections. Mr. Flowers served as CEO and President of Ramsell until 2008, when he stepped down and his son Eric Flowers took the reins. He served as Chairman of the Board until his passing.

Throughout his prolific career, Mr. Flowers was also keenly committed to community leadership. With a strong passion for giving back to his community and finding solutions to bridging the gaps in care and treatment in marginalized populations, Mr. Flowers and his family established the Flowers Heritage Foundation in 2003 with an educational grant to Howard University. The Flowers Heritage Foundation became a non-profit organization in 2005 and is dedicated to working closely with community partners and stakeholders to achieve successful outcomes of the unmet needs in the healthcare system, which includes identifying and addressing disparities in HIV/AIDS care and prevention as well as other burgeoning health crises.

Mr. Flowers also earned myriad accolades, including recognition by the California State Senate and then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2007, and receiving the California Pharmacy Hall of Fame Award in 2008 by the California Pharmacists Association. In 2009, Mr. Flowers received the Pinnacle Award from the American Pharmacists Association Foundation for his leadership on enhancing healthcare quality. Additionally, he was honored by Howard University and received the Alumni Award for Distinguished Postgraduate Achievement for his accomplishments in business and public health service. In 2013, the Oakland African American Chamber of Commerce honored Ramsell with the Oscar J. Coffey Small Business Award for its vital contributions to improving the lives of Oakland and Alameda County residents.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual and community leader, Mr. Sylester Flowers. His invaluable service to improving the lives of the underserved will live on in the endless legacy of his life's work. I offer my sincerest condolences to his many loved ones, friends and colleagues he touched over the course of his incredible life. May his soul rest in peace.