

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 6483, THE SWINE WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ACT (THE SWINE ACT)

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the 114th Congress comes to a close, I have introduced the Swine Waste Infrastructure and Natural Environment Act (the SWINE Act, or H.R. 6483). I am hopeful that this bill will provoke constructive discussions and suggestions in the coming weeks from stakeholders in the agricultural and environmental communities, so that I can introduce an improved version early next year.

The SWINE Act builds on efforts in North Carolina and elsewhere to develop new technologies to manage and dispose of waste from animal agricultural production, replacing the current “lagoon and spray-field” method used by many swine producers. In 1999, the environmental impact of lagoon and spray-field waste disposal systems was made particularly acute by Hurricane Floyd, an unusually large storm which caused poorly-regulated hog lagoons to overflow and discharge untreated animal waste into water systems across Eastern North Carolina. But for years prior to the storm, large animal feeding operations had emitted noxious odor and threatened the air and water quality of small rural communities across the Southeast.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd, forward-thinking leaders in North Carolina initiated a process in which industry, academia, and the environmental community worked together to identify waste disposal technologies that would mitigate the worst environmental effects of the lagoon and spray-field system. The effort sparked a vigorous public discussion on issues related to swine waste while fostering a period of technological innovation in waste processing technology. For nearly a decade, I helped secure federal assistance for the research and development of environmentally sound methods of processing swine waste and for technical assistance to producers who sought to adopt such technologies. While this process resulted in significant progress toward a viable alternative to lagoon and spray-fields, the technologies developed thus far fell short of the established threshold for economic feasibility and have thus not been widely adopted by producers.

The environmental and social threats posed by the lagoon and spray-field method are not limited to North Carolina, and thus require a national solution. With additional investments in research and development and incentives for technology adoption, the technologies developed in North Carolina and elsewhere—or new technologies yet to be developed—can be made market-ready, producing an affordable and environmentally superior replacement for lagoon and spray-field. We should not be forced to choose between a clean environment and a successful, innovative animal agriculture industry. With this bill, I believe we can improve the environment while remaining the world leader in animal agricultural production.

URGING PRESIDENT-ELECT TO RESCIND APPOINTMENT OF STEVEN BANNON TO SENIOR WHITE HOUSE POSITION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the President-Elect to rescind his controversial appointment of Steven Bannon as White House Senior Counselor and Strategist.

If the President-Elect takes seriously his Election Night pledge to be a president to “all Americans,” he must immediately renounce his intention to appoint Steven Bannon as White House Senior Counselor and Strategist.

Steven Bannon has a long history promoting racial and ethnic bigotry, sexism, religious intolerance, and misogyny.

He has insinuated that African-Americans are ‘naturally aggressive and violent,’ and under his leadership, Breitbart’s publishing strategy turned to one that has made it the media arm of the racist “Alt-Right” movement, publishing articles promoting popular white nationalist tropes such as “black on white crime” and that “rape culture” is inherent in Islam.

In selecting Steven Bannon as one of his two most trusted White House advisors, the President-Elect is signaling to the American people that the inflammatory, reckless, and insensitive rhetoric and tactics employed by his campaign can be expected to become part of his Administration’s standard operating procedure.

This is not the way to begin healing the wounds opened by the recently concluded presidential campaign and or to bring the American people together.

I strongly urge the President-Elect to reconsider his decision and rescind his controversial appointment of Steven Bannon as White House Senior Counselor and Strategist.

HONORING COMMANDER MONICA MCGRATH

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Commander Monica McGrath, an outstanding and dedicated member of the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office, who is being honored as the recipient of Interface Children & Family Services’ inaugural “Domestic Violence Champion for Change” Award. A staunch advocate, spokesperson, and community role model in the fight against domestic violence, Commander McGrath has played an instrumental role in establishing local law enforcement’s unique and specialized response to domestic violence throughout the region.

Commander McGrath has been a longtime pioneer for women as a member of Ventura County Sheriff’s Office providing passionate advocacy to survivors of abuse and trauma since she joined the organization in 1987. Commander McGrath has served our community with the highest level of commitment to

public safety. Her extraordinary efforts have positively impacted and transformed the lives of many individuals and families.

In February 2015, Commander McGrath was selected as the new Chief of Police for the City of Camarillo. She has worked the majority of her career in Camarillo and is involved in several community-based organizations, including Interface Children & Family Services. Alongside Interface, she has been a true partner in supporting the comprehensive strategies to address, prevent, and ultimately end the cycle of domestic violence within families throughout Ventura County.

Moreover, Commander McGrath has been an invaluable member of the Interface Leadership Advisory Council, which shows her compassionate and caring dedication to victims of domestic violence. She also actively participates on the newly developed Domestic Violence Task Force for Ventura County. Her extensive knowledge, background, and leadership on the issue of domestic violence greatly contribute to her ability to effectively raise awareness and create the necessary change to end this epidemic.

For these reasons, I am pleased to join Interface Children & Family Services in recognizing Commander Monica McGrath for her countless contributions in combating domestic violence in Ventura County.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH MINOR

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to use this time in recognition of Elizabeth Minor, the beloved Mayor of Winchester, Virginia. Mayor Minor is retiring from her office after twelve years of dedicated service to the people of Winchester.

During her time as Mayor and as a member of the City Council, Winchester has experienced a renaissance that has transformed the city into an extraordinary place to live, work and study. There is no one who has had a greater impact on creating this transformation than Mayor Elizabeth Minor. Always willing to speak at gatherings of Winchester residents, Mayor Minor was always prepared with the perfect message for each occasion. She has tirelessly used her special position in the community to unify and encourage people of all ages, races and incomes.

Elizabeth’s tenure as Mayor has been marked by many successes, including significant improvements to the city’s education system, improvements to the Jim Barnett Park, the transformation of Old Town Winchester and the beautification of the gateways to the city. Additionally, when cities and states across the country are struggling to develop budgets, her stewardship has helped Winchester to win the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for four years in a row.

Elizabeth Minor served as Vice-Mayor of Winchester from 1994 to 2004, and has been a member of the City Council since 1980. Her nearly four decades of selfless service to her community will serve as a benchmark for the

future leaders of this great city for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mayor Elizabeth Minor for her exemplary service and unwavering dedication to the people of Winchester, Virginia. It is an honor to represent her in the U.S. House of Representatives and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
BONNIE L. VALKMAN

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding life and legacy of Bonnie L. Valkman, age 62, who passed away on Monday, November 24, 2014. A respected leader in her community, Bonnie will be remembered for her enthusiastic community involvement.

Bonnie was born on December 22, 1951, in West Bend, Wisconsin, to the late Walter and Joan Michaels. She was a resident of Wauconda, Illinois, for 28 years. Bonnie was the beloved wife of Greg and loving Mother of Laura Baker. Bonnie was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Bonnie Valkman leaves behind a legacy of kindness, devotion, and faith. She was a loving and devoted Wife and Mother, a kind and thoughtful friend, and, above all, a woman of deep faith. She attended the Willow Creek Community Church. Bonnie's outlook on life touched the lives of many and made her community a better place. I am saddened by the loss of such a valuable member of the community and extend my heartfelt condolences to her family

CONGRATULATING KATHY LONG

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Kathy Long upon her retirement from outstanding and invaluable public service to the residents of the Third District on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. For well over two decades, her steadfast leadership and immeasurable contributions to our community have been held in the highest regard throughout the region.

Supervisor Long's commitment to the success of Ventura County is truly commendable. She has been relentless in her efforts to promote Ventura County's economic growth and vitality, protect and strengthen Naval Base Ventura County, prioritize public safety and support the social safety net, conserve our natural resources, preserve our agricultural sector, as well as address the needs of Ventura County's veterans. Moreover, she has ensured a better future for Ventura County and its residents through her remarkable advocacy and tenacity.

Supervisor Long's service to Ventura County extends well beyond her role on the Board of Supervisors. She has continually sought

and worked to be an agent of change in her community through other undertakings including active participation on the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Collaborative-Ventura County, as Co-Chair of the Regional Defense Partnership for the 21st Century, as Chair of the County of Ventura Medical Oversight Committee, as Commissioner of the First 5 Commission, and through her establishment of the Ventura County Women's Economic Roundtable. In addition, Supervisor Long has served as the Ventura County Board of Supervisor's representative to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and served on the Executive Board as Chair of the Urban Counties Caucus. She has also served as Co-Chair of the Women's Leadership Forum, Poverty Working Group, and Coastal Counties Regional Association.

In recognition of her tremendous and impactful work, Supervisor Long was recognized as "Woman of the Year" in 2015 by the California State Legislature, "Legislator of the Year" in 2013 by the Chamber of Commerce Alliance of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, awarded the "Housing Hero Award" in 2011 by the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, received the American Red Cross Clara Barton "Public Servant of the Year" award in 2005, and was acknowledged as the "Public Servant of the Year" for 2002-2003 by the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce.

I humbly applaud Supervisor Kathy Long for her demonstrative dedication and tireless efforts to our community, and Ventura County as a whole. It has been my great honor to work with Supervisor Long throughout the years. I have been fortunate to call her a colleague, an ally, and a friend.

Supervisor Long has established a wonderful legacy of hard work and good governance in the public sector, and she has shown that she has a huge heart for Ventura County. As she retires from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and enters a whole new chapter in her life, I am confident that this is not the end of her endeavors as an advocate on behalf of our community.

IN HONOR OF J. LAMAR REESE,
JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a respected civic leader, outstanding citizen, and friend of longstanding, the Honorable J. Lamar Reese, Jr. Sadly, Lamar passed away on Saturday, December 10, 2016. Funeral services to celebrate his life will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church in Albany, Georgia.

John Lamar Reese, Jr. was born on February 14, 1933 in Rome, Georgia. His family later moved to LaGrange, Georgia, where he graduated from LaGrange High School in 1951. He attended the Georgia Institute of Technology and graduated in 1955 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management. While at Georgia Tech, he was a member of the Chi Phi Fraternity and the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps.

After graduation, Lamar served our nation honorably as a lieutenant in the United States Navy for two years. In 1957, he moved to Albany, Georgia where he founded Reese Construction Company and was a founding partner of LRA Constructors.

Lamar Reese was widely known as a driving force in his community. He served on various boards and organizations including the Albany Board of Realtors; Albany Home Builders Association, and the Kiwanis Club. He was a board member of SunTrust Bank, Darton College, the Hospital Authority of Albany/Dougherty County, and the Albany Chamber of Commerce, where he was awarded the Chamber's first Lifetime Service Award.

Further demonstrating his enduring community commitment, Lamar dedicated his time and talents to serving the city of Albany, Dougherty County, and the State of Georgia. He served on the Dougherty County Board of Education for sixteen years, including thirteen years as Chairman. The Dougherty County Board of Education established the Lamar Reese School of the Arts in honor of Lamar's contributions to the education of young people in Dougherty County.

Lamar also served as Chairman of the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners for four years and was elected President of the Georgia School Boards Association. He was a longtime member and advocate for the Albany YMCA and the Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church, where he served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and on the Administrative Board. A devoted alumnus of Georgia Tech, he was a trustee of the Alumni Association, member of the Scheller School of Management Advisory Board, recipient of the Dean Griffin Community Service Award, and President of the Albany Area Georgia Tech Club.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies." Lamar Reese is one such great soul, who served humanity in a special way. He devoted many years of dedicated service to the people of Dougherty County through his meaningful contribution of energy, skill, and genuine passion. He was an honorable human being who loved deeply and, in return, was deeply loved. His impression on this earth extends beyond himself to the very well-being of Dougherty County, and for it he will be remembered by the community for time to come.

On a personal note, Lamar was a friend of longstanding. I have truly been blessed by his friendship, counsel, and inspiration throughout the years.

Lamar is survived by his loving wife, Sandra, dedicated sons, John, Marvin, and Franklin, eight wonderful grandchildren, a great-granddaughter and a host of other family members and friends.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District salute J. Lamar Reese, Jr. for his dedicated service and exceptional impact on Dougherty County. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to the Reese family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.