

industrialised nation today will work with the Chinese people to build a new world order," said Mr. Dai.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4475) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my concerns regarding the FY 2001 Transportation Appropriation rider, which would continue to freeze the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards at current levels.

The CAFE standards passed by Congress in 1975 comprise one of the most successful environmental policies enacted in the past thirty years. Fuel efficiency standards save consumers millions of dollars at the gas pump while decreasing pollution and U.S. dependence on fossil fuels and foreign oil. Current CAFE standards save more than 3 million barrels of oil per day, and more than \$40 billion at the gas pump each year.

While the current provisions have been effective, the increase in the number of light trucks and sport utility vehicles (SUVs) on the road warrants a revision of CAFE emission standards. Light trucks and SUVs now account for 47.5% of vehicles sold in the United States. Yet, they are held to a lower fuel efficiency standard than passenger automobiles. The result is that the fuel efficiency of vehicles sold in the United States has hit its lowest point since 1980. This is in itself circumvention of the policy path, as these vehicles are certainly a substitute for the family automobile. When you add the freeze of CAFE standards, it compounds the energy inefficiency of our present policy and law.

The environmental benefits of reducing emissions cannot be underestimated. Holding SUVs to the same standards as passenger cars would reduce emission of carbon dioxide by 30 tons over the life of the automobile. Increasing CAFE standards for light trucks would reduce urban smog and the buildup of greenhouse gases, an important step in the battle against global warming. Furthermore, increasing CAFE standards would bring the United States closer to a 7% reduction from 1990 carbon dioxide levels, as required by the Kyoto Agreement.

The recent spike in oil prices highlights anew the need to reduce U.S. dependence on fossil fuels and foreign oil supplies. The United States has the technological capability to produce clean and efficient energy. It is essential that Congress support these goals, and stop prohibiting revision of CAFE standards. I urge my colleagues to work today to preserve the environment for tomorrow. Oppose the CAFE-freeze rider attached to the FY 2001 Transportation Appropriation bill.

RECOGNIZING TINA TAHMASSEBI OF DAVIE, FLORIDA

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Tina Tahmassebi, of Davie, Florida. Tina was recently honored by the Third Annual Seventeen/Cover Girl Volunteerism Awards as a first place prize winner in the 18–21 age category. Indeed, Tina is very deserving of recognition for her role in founding the Universal Aid for Children REACH OUT program.

The Seventeen/Cover Girl Volunteerism Award rewards and honors teens and young women who have made extraordinary achievements in the fields of volunteerism and public service. In concert with the Volunteerism Awards, Seventeen Magazine and Cover Girl Cosmetics Company have awarded more than \$90,000 in scholarship money, U.S. Savings Bonds and charitable donations. After examining Tina's extraordinary work, it is clear that her story exemplifies the tenets espoused by the Volunteerism Awards.

Tina founded the REACH OUT program while only a junior in high school. This student-run organization assists an orphanage and a vocational school in El Salvador by supplying medical supplies, office supplies, and clothing while simultaneously attending to the educational needs of the children involved in these programs. To purchase these much needed supplies, Tina and her group have held bake sales, car washes, and other fund-raising events. Shipping more than \$40,000 in relief to El Salvador to this date, Tina's efforts have undoubtedly made a lasting impression on those in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Tina Tahmassebi for her exemplary achievements in volunteering and public service. Tina has made a remarkable impact on the lives of the children in El Salvador, and her hard work is something that both she and the entire community can be proud of.

COLORADO STATE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE DOROTHY GOTLIEB

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesmen, Colorado Representative, Dorothy Gotlieb. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative Gotlieb's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the State House of Representatives in 1992, she has served on the Education, Transportation and the Energy Committees. Dorothy distinguished herself by working on issues concerning the budget. Dorothy pushes hard to make children the top priority in the legislature.

The number of honors and distinctions that Representative Gotlieb earned during her

years of outstanding service are too numerous to list, too few to do justice to her contributions to the State of Colorado.

2000 marked the end of Representative Gotlieb's tenure in the State House of Representatives. Her tenure embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative Gotlieb a debt of gratitude and I wish her well.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN C. SAWHILL

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, May 18, our nation and our world lost a remarkable leader with the passing of John C. Sawhill, the president and chief executive officer of The Nature Conservancy.

I had the good fortune to work with John and his staff over the last three years as we developed the Tropical Forest Conservation Act—legislation designed to protect the world's most threatened tropical forests. Under John's leadership, the Conservancy provided us with the technical expertise, research and political savvy to help ensure that the TFCA was enacted into law.

During John's long and distinguished career in public service, academia, and the private sector, he held senior positions in the Nixon, Ford, and Carter administration; served as president of New York University; and was a partner in the international consulting firm of McKinsey and Company.

John joined The Nature Conservancy in January 1990. Under his leadership, the Conservancy grew into the world's largest private conservation group and the nation's 14th largest nonprofit institution, with annual revenues of \$780 million, over one million members, and a network of 1300 private nature reserves. Its mission is to preserve biodiversity by protecting wildlife habitat.

Samuel C. Johnson, the chairman of The Conservancy's National Board of Governors, noted that John's passing is sad news not only for the Nature Conservancy family, but also for the cause of conservation. I could not agree more. The Conservancy's remarkable record of achievement over the past decade is an eloquent testimony to John's energy, vision, intellect, and commitment to the mission of conservation.

During John's tenure, The Conservancy protected more than 7 million acres of land in the United States alone, including such landmark purchases as the 502-square-mile Gray Ranch in New Mexico in 1990 and the \$37 million acquisition of Palmyra Atoll in the Pacific, announced only two weeks ago. His stewardship of the organization also saw the number of staff triple to the current level of 3,000 employees; total assets triple to \$2.3 billion; and membership more than double.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, on June 12, 1936, John was raised in Baltimore, Maryland. At the time of his death, he resided in Washington, D.C. and Washington, Virginia. He graduated *cum laude* from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 1958 and received his Ph.D. in economics from New York University in 1963.

From 1960 to 1963, he was assistant dean and assistant professor in the department of economics at NYU.

John served as a director of a number of major American corporations, including Consolidated Edison, RCA, Philip Morris, Crane Corporation, General American Investors, American International Group, Automatic Data Processing, and North American Coal. At the time of his death, he was serving as a director of the Procter and Gamble Company, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and the Vanguard Group of Mutual Funds.

He was involved with a number of nonprofit organizations. He was chairman of the board of the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment. He served as a member of the President's Council on Sustainable Development and the Environment for the Americas Board, the group that oversees debt-for-nature swaps and the establishment of conservation trust funds in several Latin American countries.

In addition, he served on the Commission on the Future of the Smithsonian and chaired the task force on governance, management and financial resources. He also served as a trustee of Princeton University and was chairman emeritus of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In September 1997, John became senior lecturer of business administration at the Harvard Business School where he taught and conducted research on not-for-profit institutions. John also published a number of books, articles, and reports about energy and energy-related subjects.

John is survived by his wife, Isabel V. Sawhill, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and president of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy; his son, James W. Sawhill, a senior vice president at Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco; a grandson, John C. Sawhill II; a brother, James M. Sawhill, of Newport News, Virginia, and two sisters, Sally Supplee of Palo Alto, California and Monroe Hodder of London, England.

John was an inspiration to me personally. I considered him not only a colleague but a friend. He will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATING UMPQUA TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT, INC.

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Umpqua Training and Employment, Inc. (UT&E), which celebrates its 25th anniversary on June 11, 2000. UT&E has been a pillar in the community, offering employment training, guidance, and aid to the citizens of Douglas County.

On June 11, 1975, the State of Oregon's Corporation Division of the Department of Commerce issued a certificate of incorporation to the District 6 Manpower Program. The nonprofit corporation was organized by a group of Douglas County residents who believed that federal employment and training programs should be administered by a private corporation governed by local directors. In 1981, the corporation began doing business under the name Umpqua Training and Employment, Inc.

Although UT&E's original focus was training the structurally unemployed—those who have difficulty getting and keeping jobs under any economic circumstances—they saw an increase in business during the recession of the 1980's. The unemployment rate shot past the 20 percent mark, and residents increasingly began to utilize UT&E services, which include labor market information, testing and assessment, job search training, career counseling, work experience opportunities, and occupational training both in the classroom and on-the-job.

In the mid-1980's Alcan Cable moved to Douglas County and established a unique partnership with UT&E by locating their human resource department in UT&E's offices. Applicants who may never have been considered for employment, found good jobs with an excellent local company, and UT&E began to actively participate in industrial recruitment efforts. They have assisted virtually every new employer who has located in Douglas County since 1987, including WinCo Foods, which is currently establishing their food distribution center, and Roseburg Forest Products which is building their new LVL and I-Joist plant.

In the early 1990's as the timber industry downsized, UT&E, the local office of the Employment Department, and Umpqua Community College formed a "rapid response unit" to assist workers displaced by plant closures and large lay-offs. With federal funds granted to especially hard-hit areas like Douglas County, UT&E helped almost 1,500 residents acquire new skills and new jobs.

UT&E has been recognized for its excellence by the Board of Douglas County Commissioners, the State of Oregon, and the Oregon Consortium. I join my colleagues in offering my personal congratulations to all those involved with Umpqua Training and Employment, Inc. on its 25th anniversary. Their tireless work in the community has provided countless jobs for the citizens of Douglas County, and I wish the members and beneficiaries of UT&E continue success in their future endeavors.

STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to announce that for the first time, a Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, is available in South Texas. CHIP is low-cost health coverage provided under a state-subsidized insurance program. Any Texas uninsured child, newborns through age 18, are eligible. All costs are flexible, and based on family income. For example, a family of four qualifies if the household income is \$34,000 or less. If you make more than that, you can qualify for greatly-reduced insurance through another program, Texas HealthyKids.

The CHIP operates like a Health Maintenance Organization, or MHO. It is run by the TexCare Partnership which partners with all 254 Texas counties to sponsor services through one of three different plans: CHIP, Medicaid, or Texas HealthyKids. CHIP provides services such as hospital care, surgery,

x-rays, therapies, prescription drugs, mental health and substance abuse treatment, emergency services, eye tests and glasses, dental care, and regular health check-ups and vaccinations.

For Texas, CHIP is funded from the proceeds of our tobacco settlement with the tobacco companies a couple of years ago. It is critically important in our state because Texas has the highest rate of uninsured in the country. And unfortunately, Texas has the nation's second-highest number of uninsured children. The worst problem we have is that not enough parents are using this great program.

South Texas, in particular, has carried the burden of uninsured children for many years. About 1.4 million of Texas' 5.8 million children lack health insurance, but 470,000 of them are now eligible for coverage under CHIP. Almost one-fourth—109,000—of the newly-eligible kids live on the Texas-Mexico border. When children don't have health insurance, they have to rely on costly medical treatment at the last minute. This threatens the child's future well-being. But now we have a true opportunity to change that. CHIP will give a lot of children the opportunity to lead healthy lives, without the fear of getting sick.

Let me share a quote with you from a parent from my district who recently went through the enrollment process: "My husband and I are hardworking middle-income people who were disqualified from Medicaid because I became employed. We have two incomes and * * * can't afford (insurance). Now we are told by TexCare Partnership we will have insurance for our children with low premiums and low co-payments that we can afford. My children have health care when they need it."

CHIP was first implemented in 1998 to address a national crisis—almost 12 million children that were without insurance. In Texas, we are now able to offer insurance to approximately 1.8 million children that otherwise would have none.

While we can make this offer, it is up to each parent or guardian to enroll, or at least inquire about getting, their children in this program. Believe it or not, the hardest part of the CHIP program is getting parents to enroll their children. More parents need to take advantage of this genuinely great program. I want to stress that even if a parent has never qualified for health insurance for their child before, now they can.

CHIP solves the cost problem for many Texas families. In CHIP, many families will only pay an annual fee of \$15 to cover all their children in the plan. Some higher-income families will pay monthly premiums of \$15 or 418, which covers all children in the family. Most families will also have co-payments for doctor/dental visits, prescription drugs, and emergency care. And families must re-enroll their children once a year. Children can only get this insurance if their parents apply, and I hope all parents will take the initiative and make certain your children are enrolled.

The application process is simple and straight-forward—any Texan can call 1-800-647-6558 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. If parents want local assistance or information in my congressional district, they can call the organization "ADVANCE" at 956-618-1642, or visit any public library in Hidalgo County to pick up a bilingual brochure and application.