

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### ZIKA VECTOR CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 24, 2016*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 897, the so-called "Zika Vector Control Act."

This legislation, which has appeared four times before this chamber in the past two years, in no way addresses the serious mosquito control or Zika virus concerns confronting communities I have the honor of representing in Houston and Harris County, Texas.

Instead, this bill would create a loophole in the Clean Water Act to exempt pesticide spraying from current permitting requirements that most mosquito control districts and state agencies already have, including Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services.

I hosted an event with my colleague, Congressman AL GREEN, last Friday at El Centro de Corazon health clinic in Houston's East End, where we urged Congress to fully fund the Administration's request for \$1.9 billion in emergency funding to combat Zika. Houston and Harris County are particularly exposed to Zika due to our region's climate, many bayous, and the presence of the Aedes mosquito species, the carrier of the Zika virus.

For the people of Houston and Harris County, this emergency finding is essential to protect our nation's fourth largest city from a Zika outbreak that has devastated countless communities in Latin America.

I urge the House Majority to abstain from using the fears over Zika as a Trojan horse for legislation that will create unnecessary loopholes in our environmental laws, and to bring to the floor H.R. 5044, emergency appropriations for \$1.9 billion to combat Zika, for a vote as soon as possible.

### TSCA MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 24, 2016*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I am unable to vote on H.R. 2576, the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, on May 24, 2016. I plan to vote on H.R. 2576, and I will vote aye.

I strongly support the sensible regulation of toxic chemicals. Under the current Toxic Substances Control Act, the Environmental Protection Agency is extremely limited when regulating toxic chemicals, as the bill has not been significantly updated since its enactment in 1976. The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act will greatly increase the scope and authority of the EPA to identify and regulate harmful chemicals.

The legislation passed will subject all new and existing chemicals to an EPA review and will further protect the American people by strengthening transparency by requiring EPA to provide the public with more information about toxic chemicals. This legislation also provides EPA with the authority to restrict the use of chemical substances which put the public and our environment at unreasonable risk.

Congress has the responsibility to protect the health and safety of all Americans. This legislation will improve current law and advance our efforts in protecting every American from harmful toxic chemicals.

### TSCA MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 24, 2016*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2576, the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, specifies that the Administrator, in selecting among prohibitions and other restrictions for chemical substances that present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment, shall consider an evaluation of alternative substances. In evaluating alternative substances, the Administrator, "shall consider, to the extent practicable, whether technically and economically feasible alternatives that benefit health or the environment, compared to the use so proposed to be prohibited or restricted, will be reasonably available as a substitute when the proposed prohibition or other restriction takes effect."

Additionally, the Administrator may grant an exemption from a prohibition or other restriction on a chemical substance if the "specific condition of use is a critical or essential use for which no technically and economically feasible safer alternative is available, taking into consideration hazard and exposure."

A technically feasible alternative substance is intended to mean a chemical for which: the technical knowledge, equipment, materials, and other resources available in the marketplace are expected to be sufficient to develop and implement the alternative, and to meet consumer demand after a phase-in period; the product that contains the alternative substance can continue to comply with all applicable legal requirements; the product that contains the alternative substance can continue to comply with all applicable safety standards and regulatory approval or certification requirements applicable to the product; and, the consumer accepts the product as made with the alternative substance.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2016*

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on May 23, 2016, on Roll Call Number 229 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 4889, Kelsey Smith Act, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, As Amended, H.R. 4889.

On May 23, 2016, on Roll Call Number 230 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3998, Securing Access to Networks in Disasters Act, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3998.

### TAIWANESE ELECTION AND INAUGURATION

**HON. DINA TITUS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2016*

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, as a longtime friend of Taiwan, I rise to congratulate the country's people on their recent presidential elections and President-elect Tsai Ing-wen on her victory. A respected leader in trade and national security, the country's first-ever female president, Tsai Ing-wen, is setting a great example for governments around the globe.

The people of Taiwan should be proud of their strong democratic institutions, freedom of expression, and open elections. This joint appreciation and application of democracy have brought our two countries together.

We have been fortunate to work hand-in-hand on many critical issues. One example is Congress' recent effort to expand the Visa Waiver Program so citizens of Taiwan and the United States can travel freely between both countries. These visits allow for increased economic cooperation between our governments, the exchange of ideas and culture, and the development of long-lasting relationships.

I am proud to represent a large and thriving Taiwanese-American population living in Las Vegas and my congressional district, where they have made valuable contributions to our culture, economy, and society.

Again, I send my best wishes to President-elect Tsai and the people of Taiwan as you celebrate her history-making inauguration and look forward to working with you all as we grow our democratic partnership. I hope you will visit us soon, either in Las Vegas or Washington, D.C.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING BOB OPSAHL

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2016*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the service of Bob Opsahl, the early evening news anchor for Cox Media Group Orlando's Channel 9 Eyewitness News. After nearly 38 years of faithful work with the television station, Bob Opsahl will be retiring this week.

In 1978, Bob joined the WFTV Eyewitness News Team as a general assignment reporter, and began anchoring on the weekends in 1980. Since then, Bob Opsahl has become a familiar face as a trusted and consistent evening newscast anchor in Central Florida.

After serving four years in the U.S. Navy, Bob graduated from the University of Central Florida in 1976 with a major in Radio and Television Communications. Opsahl later received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from his alma mater, and has been widely recognized for his community involvement, specific attention to special needs children, and excellence in journalism and reporting.

Through the decades, Bob Opsahl covered many major events such as the Challenger and Columbia space shuttle tragedies, Hurricane Andrew's impact in South Florida, the inauguration of President George H.W. Bush, the 2000 Florida recount, and the Casey Anthony Trial. Bob Opsahl has been a reliable familiar and trusted news source, relaying it with clarity and heart. Bob will be missed in Central Florida.

HONORING WADE CLARK ROOF

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2016*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Wade Clark Roof, who is retiring as the Director of the Walter H. Capps Center at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Wade has had a distinguished career as a leader, educator, and colleague on California's central coast and exemplifies the qualities of a true academic. Wade graduated from Wofford University in 1961 magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. Having formed an interest in theological studies and religion, Wade moved to New Haven, Connecticut where he studied at Yale University, receiving his Master of Divinity degree in 1964, before earning a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of North Carolina in 1971.

Following the completion of his doctorate, Wade accepted a professorship at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where he taught research methods for studying religion, religious pluralism, and religion and society. In 1989, Wade moved to the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB), where he was named the Rowny Professor of Religion and Society. He has been an irreplaceable part of the UCSB community ever since.

Wade is a gifted educator who constantly challenges his students to reflect on the changing roles of religion in society and analyze how changes in religion, faith, and spiritu-

ality have affected how we define ourselves as Americans. He is also a prolific author. Throughout his academic career Wade has produced many works of scholarship, including 17 books and edited collections, 88 journal articles and book chapters, and dozens of newspaper editorials. In addition, he has provided professional commentary for various media outlets including Time, Newsweek, New York Times, Washington Post, and the LA Times.

It is also important to note that Wade is a trusted colleague and friend, something I have experienced firsthand. Wade worked with my husband Walter in the Department of Religious Studies at UCSB. After Walter's passing, Wade raised \$2 million in matching funds to establish the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB. Serving as the center's founding director from 2002 to 2016, Wade has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the center's mission: "the belief that public dialogue and an informed and engaged citizenry are vital to democratic society." He is a dear friend, and I am so grateful for his indispensable contributions to honor Walter's legacy through the Capps Center and their innovative programming.

Wade has announced his retirement and will be starting a new chapter. He can do so knowing that his work and influence have been immeasurable and will continue to have an effect on his students and the entire UCSB community for many years to come.

I am pleased to celebrate Wade's countless achievements and I would like to express my utmost gratitude for his service to his students and community. I wish him nothing but continued success in his retirement.

HONORING THE ALICE HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2016*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Alice, Texas High School Academic Decathlon Team for winning the state title. After countless hours of studying and preparation, their record-breaking performance demonstrates the remarkable talent and dedication of these bright students.

The Alice team is the first Title 1 school—one with a disproportionate number of students from low-income families—to win an Academic Decathlon at any level in Texas. They defeated 29 other qualifying schools to claim the state championship. After 14 consecutive regional titles won by Alice teams, this year's squad shattered the previous 5A state record by scoring 50,292 points in the competition. Alice High School is one of only eight institutions to score above 50,000 points in the 30-year history of the Texas Academic Decathlon.

I also want to recognize the coaches, teachers, parents, school administrators, and everyone who has helped in developing the minds of these champions. Their support, and that of other role models, has contributed greatly to the past decade and a half of success at Alice High School.

Success in Academic Decathlon competitions requires levels of commitment and prep-

aration that go well beyond what is asked of a typical high schooler. Each round consists of ten events, including a seven-minute interview, an essay, two speeches, and comprehensive written exams in subjects from music to literature to economics. Not only did these Alice students outperform the competition, they did so with fewer resources and advantages than many of their opponents.

I commend these students for studying many hours each week to prepare for the State Academic Decathlon competition, and for bringing home the top prize. The future could hardly be brighter for each of them. I rise today to share my congratulations and applaud their efforts.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2016*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to bring to the House's attention the 125th Anniversary of the Bethany United Church of Christ located in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and to offer congratulations to the congregation.

Bethany UCC, located at the corner of 5th Avenue and West Market Street in Bethlehem, was originally founded in order to provide a conveniently located place of worship for the western portion of Bethlehem that would help alleviate the over-crowding at the First Reformed Church of Christ in the City.

One hundred twenty five years later, Bethany UCC continues to thrive with an engaged congregation who immerse themselves in their community to aid and enrich the lives of others through service, fellowship, and music.

My heartfelt congratulations are extended to the members of the Bethany United Church of Christ on this 125th Anniversary. I believe I speak on behalf of the community when I thank them for their efforts on behalf of the people of the Lehigh Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in offering well wishes and congratulations to the men and women of Bethlehem's Bethany United Church of Christ. May the next 125 years foster additional congregational growth and provide further opportunities for continued service and fellowship within the Bethlehem community.

IN RECOGNITION OF HELENE M. WHITAKER FOR THIRTY-ONE YEARS OF SERVICE TO NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Helene M. Whitaker, vice president for administrative affairs at Northampton Community College, where she is responsible for government relations, planning, institutional research, human resources, and labor relations.