

collection is essential if we are going to improve our citizens' trust and confidence in election results. EAC develops and fosters the training and organization of our nation's more than 8,000 election administrators.

Terminating EAC is not only an invitation to repeat the embarrassment of the 2000 presidential election, but it breaks faith with those who labored long and risked much to secure the right to vote for all Americans, particularly African Americans and other minority groups.

Mr. Speaker, if you believe every vote counts—and every vote should be counted—then we must preserve the EAC and oppose this legislation.

It is also important to note that abolishing the EAC would simply shift costs to the Federal Election Commission and local governments, not save taxpayer money. The FEC is not an agency that can make decisions in a timely and responsive fashion due to its partisan divisions. Consequently, transferring the functions performed by the EAC to the FEC is inconsistent with the national interest in ensuring election integrity, improving voter access to the polls, and enhancing the quality of election systems.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose H.R. 672 and I would urge my colleagues to join me in defeating this misguided and reckless legislation that puts the integrity of our election systems—public confidence in election outcomes—at risk.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 478. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HIGHWAYS BETTERING THE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Highways Bettering the Economy and Environment Act with my Co-Chairman of the Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus, Representative TIM JOHNSON. This bi-partisan bill provides much-needed aid for the birds, bats, bees and butterflies that pollinate our food.

The Highways BEE Act seeks no new monies and involves a limited federal role. It has received widespread endorsement from a diverse group of scientists, researchers and members of the business and environmental communities including the National Audubon Society, Lafarge Construction, National Farmers Union, the Isaac Walton League, American Farmland Trust, Waste Management, and Defenders of Wildlife.

This bill provides for existing authorities and funding sources to incorporate integrated vegetation management practices along America's highways, which includes things like re-

duced mowing and replacing invasive plant species with native forbs and grasses. This kind of roadside vegetation management provides much-needed habitat for pollinators and other small nesting animals.

The Association of American State Highway and Transportation Officials Vegetation Management Guidelines released in March advances integrated vegetation management principles and recommendations consistent with the objectives of this legislation. A number of states, including Minnesota, are already doing this and reporting maintenance cost savings of 20 to 25 percent from reduced mowing alone.

Mr. Speaker, there are around 17 million acres of land where significant reductions in mowing and maintenance can reduce costs for cash-strapped states. The millions of acres of agriculture and wildlife ecosystems adjacent to these roadways will benefit from the increased pollinator habitat resulting from integrated vegetation management practices.

To understand how worried we should be about declining pollinator populations, consider that rising global food prices are the primary topic of discussion at the G-20 meetings in Paris right now. This is the first time that agriculture has had the top spot at a meeting and is indicative of how serious the issue is. Food prices have already led to global riots overseas and a declining pollinator population will only make the situation worse. Seventy-five percent of all flowering plant species rely on creatures like birds, bats, bees and butterflies for fertilization. One out of every three bites of food that we eat, as well as \$20 billion of products in the United States alone, derive from pollinators.

If we don't solve these problems soon, we won't have any bees. Without bees, we won't have any food. The benefit to cost balance in the case of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is an easy choice.

HONORING DANIEL RODRIGUEZ

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Daniel Rodriguez on the occasion of his retirement after 26 years of service as executive director for the University of Oregon Alumni Association.

The University of Oregon is a world class institution renowned for its groundbreaking research, and is an important keystone that unites Oregonians both at home and throughout the world.

Since coming to the University of Oregon in 1988, Dan Rodriguez has played a pivotal role in the rebirth of the alumni association. He created the alumni membership program that has topped 20,000 members worldwide and worked diligently to put the association on sound financial footing. He also led the effort to increase the number of active alumni chapters to 22 across the country.

But perhaps Dan's greatest accomplishment is the construction of the new Ford Alumni Center. While Dan will be the first to say this Center came about due to the tireless effort of many committed individuals, there is no question he has been a driving force for the project since its inception.

Dan grew up in Sunnyvale, CA, and is a graduate of Arizona State University. While he is a Sun Devil by pedigree, it is difficult to think of a more devoted and true Oregon Duck than Dan. He has spent untold hours promoting the University and the alumni association. He has also dedicated himself to the University's hometown community of Eugene, Oregon, where he has served on the Eugene Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Rotary Club, and in several capacities with the American Lung Association of Oregon.

Dan has served four University presidents, seven athletic directors, and acted as a mentor to hundreds of UO students teaching the importance of leadership and volunteerism as part of campus life. He leaves a team of 12 employees and a board of directors who will miss his devotion and dedication to the association and the university it serves.

On the occasion of his last day at the University of Oregon, I wish to personally thank Mr. Rodriguez for his service. He will certainly be missed. Go Ducks!

AMERICA INVENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1249) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1249, which will help America maintain its distinction as the most innovative country in the world. For too long, independent inventors, small businesses, and America's leading universities and technology companies have been mired in a convoluted patent process that has stifled innovation and job creation. H.R. 1249 streamlines and clarifies the patent process, giving inventors and investors the certainty they need to expand their businesses and grow the economy.

This legislation also gives the United States Patent and Trademark Office the tools it needs to process the hundreds of thousands of applications it receives every year, increasing their ability to adjust its fees to reflect the actual costs of the services it provides, to fast-track patent applications, and to expand opportunities for post-grant review of patents. I remain deeply concerned that, under the manager's amendment, the Patent and Trademark Office will have fewer resources to pursue these objectives, a change which risks squandering the very opportunities created by the remainder of the legislation.

Innovative stakeholders in my district have voiced concerns that the legislation's expansion of the defense of "prior user rights" will weaken their ability to protect their patentable innovations and give rise to widespread trade secret litigation, particularly for those areas of research the blend federal investment and private investment. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure these concerns are addressed, so that America's finest universities and research centers can continue their role as global leaders of innovation.

H.R. 1249 is a strong step toward protecting the administration of our system of intellectual

property rights. This is a worthy bipartisan accomplishment. I am concerned that some of my colleagues have championed this bill as the ultimate job-creator and that once it passes, they will forget about the millions of Americans that are still struggling to find work. Patent reform is important, but what out-of-work Americans need most are jobs. I urge my colleagues to build on this bipartisan momentum and work together to rebuild and renew America's infrastructure, the most efficient way to create jobs and strengthen our economy.

INTRODUCTION: "FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INCLUSION ACT"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, in our tough economic environment, individuals should not have to choose between caring for a loved one and their job. The high work participation rates among mothers and the caregiving needs of an aging population put further demands on American families. The landmark Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) has allowed millions of employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave from work to care for a new baby or to care for a spouse, child under age 18, or parent who has a serious health condition. However, the law does not allow leave to care for a same-sex partner or spouse, a grandparent or an adult child. Anecdotal evidence suggests that same-sex partners have endured negative reactions and denials to requests for leave when partners gave birth or had a serious medical condition. When a loved one is in need of care, employees should not be subjected to discrimination but should be allowed to take advantage of the benefits FMLA provides.

Already, hundreds of companies, several states, and the District of Columbia have extended such protections to individuals not originally included in the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. In order to do this at the federal level, today I am reintroducing the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act. This legislation will allow an employee to take unpaid leave from work to care for his or her same-sex spouse or domestic partner, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, grandchild or grandparent if that person has a serious health condition. Additionally, in light of the recent repeal of the Military's Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, the legislation permits leave for domestic partners of service members.

I thank Senator DURBIN for reintroducing the Senate companion legislation and thank original House cosponsors Reps. POLIS, TOWNS, GEORGE MILLER, STARK, FRANK, HOLMES NORTON, SUSAN DAVIS, CONNOLLY, ISRAEL, FREDERICA WILSON, OLVER, SHERMAN, CAPPAS, SERRANO, NADLER, ENGEL, MOORE, BARBARA LEE, CHU, and JACKSON Jr.

Almost two decades after enactment, it is time FMLA caught up to the growing demands on and changing makeup of American families.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLEVELAND ARTS PRIZE WINNER MARSHA DOBRZYNSKI

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents who, because of her service to the students of Northeast Ohio, has been bestowed a great honor by her community. On June 28, 2011, Marsha Dobrzynski will receive the 51st annual Cleveland Arts Prize.

The goal of the Cleveland Arts Prize is to support and encourage artists, and to promote public awareness of artistic creativity in Northeast Ohio through the work of Arts Prize recipients.

The oldest award of its kind in the United States, the Arts Prize is a testament to the standard of excellence and quality of artists in Northeast Ohio. In addition to artists, the Arts Prize honors individuals who have expanded the community's participation in the arts and helped make the region more hospitable to creative artistic expression.

Marsha Dobrzynski, the Executive Director of Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio, an integrated program with more than 30 arts, cultural, philanthropic and educational institutions will receive the Martha Joseph Prize for Distinguished Service to the Arts. Since 1994, Marsha has continually demonstrated her unsurpassed dedication to ensure that children throughout Northeast Ohio have equal access to the arts and the consequent benefits experience in the arts can bring to their personal growth and education.

Her bold leadership and tireless efforts throughout her tenure at Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio have made it possible to incorporate arts education into the lives of more than 242,000 children a year, providing the much needed framework for a strong education in the arts and a path for arts-based careers through her introduction of the ArtWorks program. The extraordinary value that she has brought to this important discipline strongly reflects the principles of this award and her championship of arts in education is rightfully recognized.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE GREENHAW

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to acknowledge the loss of Wayne Greenhaw, a dedicated Alabama journalist and one of the finest writers to hail from our state. He passed away May 31, 2011, at the age of 71.

A native of Sheffield and a graduate of the University of Alabama, Wayne Greenhaw was the author of 22 books, many of which were influenced by his southern upbringing and the historical events that shaped his early career as a reporter.

His foray into journalism began in 1958 as a part-time sports reporter for the Tuscaloosa News, followed by a full time job with the Ala-

bama Journal in Montgomery. During his reporting days, he chronicled the segregationist movement of the 1960's and frequently profiled state and national politics, which later led to stints as a stringer for the New York Times and Time magazine, among others.

In 1976, Wayne Greenhaw briefly left journalism for politics, serving as Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign press secretary for Alabama. Nearly two decades later, he entered public service as the Director of the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel from 1993 to 1994. In 1995, President Bill Clinton appointed him as a representative to the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism. He was also awarded Travel Writer of the Year in 1995 by the Southeast Tourism Society.

Above all things, Wayne was a truly decent man who had a moral compass and not only knew the difference between right and wrong, but was willing to express it in a powerful way. As one of our best writers—and we've produced some mighty talented men and women from Alabama in this field—Wayne was not limited to any one medium. From fiction to nonfiction, books to poetry, beat reporting to plays, Wayne Greenhaw put his stamp on Alabama literature like few others.

His many books include *King of Country*, *Ghosts On the Road: Poems of Alabama*, *Mexico and Beyond*, *The Thunder of Angels*, *The Spider's Web*, *Montgomery*, *The Long Journey*, *Beyond the Night*, *Alabama: A State of Mind*, *Tombigbee*, *Elephants in the Cottonfields*, *The Golfer and Watch out for George Wallace*. He also authored two plays, *Rose: A Southern lady*, and *The Spirit Tree*.

Given his prolific talents, it is, therefore, not surprising that he was the recipient of the 2005 Clarence Carson Award for nonfiction and the 2006 Harper Lee Award for Distinguished Writing.

His most recent book, *Fighting the Devil in Dixie*, about civil rights activists confronting the Ku Klux Klan from the late 1950's to the mid 1980's, is considered "the culmination of his career."

Mr. Speaker, Wayne Greenhaw has been described by his peers as "a storyteller" and "a part of our State's history." Wayne's works always reflected his affection and passion for the history of our state. It is hard to imagine where our state would be without the historical and cultural contributions of this great writer.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I would like to extend my condolences to Wayne's wonderful wife, Sally, and their family and many friends during this time of personal loss. Wayne's love for Alabama and our people will never be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

JOBS AND ENERGY PERMITTING ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2021) to amend the Clean Air Act regarding air pollution from Outer Continental Shelf activity:

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I voted against H.R. 2021, the so-called Jobs and Energy