

policy decisions of that nature can certainly be made during further consideration of this legislation.

IN HONOR OF TRIDENT PRECISION
MANUFACTURING, INC.

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a distinguished company located in New York's 28th Congressional District: Trident Precision Manufacturing Inc.

President Clinton and Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor honored Trident on December 6, 1996, by awarding it the 1996 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for Small Business. The Baldrige Award, which highlights customer satisfaction, workforce empowerment, and increased productivity, is given annually to companies that symbolize America's commitment to excellence. No company could be more deserving of this award than Trident Precision Manufacturing.

Trident manufactures precision sheet metal components, electro-mechanical assemblies, and custom products. It has grown from a 3 person operation at its founding in 1979 to an employer of 167 people at its facility in Webster, NY today.

Between 1991 and 1995, Trident's employees submitted more than 5,000 process-improvement recommendations—and Trident's management implemented 97 percent of those ideas. It is a testament to Trident's workers and management that over that 5-year period, Trident made significant gains in productivity, efficiency, customer satisfaction, sales, and profitability. Sales per employee jumped 29 percent, time spent on rework decreased nearly 90 percent, and customer complaints fell by 80 percent. Defect rates have fallen so consistently that Trident now offers a full guarantee against defects in its custom products. In 1995, Trident's five major customers rated the quality of Trident's products at 99.8 percent or better. The company has never lost a customer to a competitor.

I am delighted that President Clinton and Commerce Secretary Kantor chose to recognize Trident for its strong record of quality and its excellent business performance. This award was a result of Trident's exceptional commitment, not only to the company's bottom line, but to its employees and customers. Trident's efforts to train and reward its workers are to be particularly commended. Since 1989, Trident has invested an average of 4.4 percent of its payroll on training and education. This is a remarkable investment for a small company, and two to three times above the average for all U.S. industry.

Trident represents the very best in American business: putting its customers first, trusting its employees, building quality into products and services, and being responsible corporate citizens. I am proud of Trident's success, its achievement, and of the contribution it makes to our community. Congratulations to everyone at Trident who shares in this honor.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW WILD-
LIFE REFUGE AUTHORIZATION
ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the New Wildlife Refuge Reauthorization Act of 1997.

By way of background, our National Wildlife Refuge System is comprised of 91.7 million acres of Federal lands that provide essential habitat for hundreds of species and offer recreational opportunities for millions of Americans.

The first wildlife refuge at Pelican Island, FL, was created in 1903 when President Theodore Roosevelt signed an Executive order setting aside three acres of land as a preserve and breeding grounds for native birds. Today, the system has 511 refuges, which are located in all 50 States and 5 territories. These units range in size from the smallest of less than 1 acre at Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota, to the largest of 19.3 million acres in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. In the last decade, more than 80 new refuges have been added to the system.

The vast majority of our Nation's 511 refuge units were created administratively. In fact, less than 70 refuges have been designated by Congress. The authorizing committees, therefore, have had little, if any, input in the establishment of the other 460 refuges, which include the 192,493-acre Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge in Florida, the 254,400-acre Hawaiian Island National Wildlife Refuge, and the 572,000-acre Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada. These Executive orders have set aside a huge amount of privately owned lands.

Under current law, funding for refuge acquisitions comes from two primary sources: No. 1, annual appropriations from the Land and Water Conservation Fund [LWCF], and No. 2, the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which is financed from the purchase of a yearly duck stamp and refuge entrance fees.

In the past, more than \$1 billion in taxpayer money has been appropriated from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to acquire lands that become additions to existing units or entirely new wildlife refuges. This represents a substantial expenditure of money by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] without adequate input by Congress.

By contrast, the Migratory Bird Commission, whose membership includes four bipartisan Members of Congress, regularly meets to evaluate and decide how Migratory Bird Conservation Fund will be spent. Under normal conditions, a Governor of a State, after consulting with local citizens, will recommend that a new refuge be created or that additional land be added to the system. It is a process that has worked effectively for a number of years.

Regrettably, the checks and balances that exist on the uses of the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund simply do not exist in the allocation of money from the LWCF. Therefore, lacking such a review mechanism, we have a responsibility to carefully examine the recommendations of the USFWS and, if we so choose, to legislatively create any new wildlife

refuge using LWCF money in the future. This is an essential change.

Under the terms of the New Wildlife Refuge Reauthorization Act, no funds could be expended from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to create a new refuge without prior congressional authorization. This bill does not affect any land additions to the existing 511 wildlife refuges or those created with money from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must have a more meaningful role in the acquisition of hundreds of acres of new Federal lands. We should authorize new wildlife refuges just as we authorize new flood control projects, highways, national parks, scenic rivers, and weapons systems. After all, we are talking about the expenditure of millions of taxpayers dollars. Furthermore, at a time when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a \$440 million backlog of unfinished wildlife refuge maintenance projects, a comprehensive review of the service's priorities is appropriate.

I urge the adoption of the New Wildlife Refuge Authorization Act and want to thank our distinguished colleague from California, RICHARD POMBO, for his leadership in this important effort. By enacting this legislation, we will ensure that private property owners and their tax dollars are more adequately protected in the future.

SUPPORT THE POSTAL CORE
BUSINESS ACT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague from San Diego, Mr. HUNTER, in introducing the Postal Core Business Act of 1996. This legislation, which is similar to H.R. 3690 from the 104th Congress, will prevent the U.S. Postal Service [USPS] from unfairly competing with a small business industry, known as Commercial Mail Receiving Agencies [CMRA]. The livelihoods of those who own and operate small commercial packing stores throughout the country, like Mail Boxes Etc. and Postal Annex, are threatened.

More than 10,000 CMRA businesses may be forced to close their doors due to the USPS' tax-free expansion into services already provided by private packaging stores. These expanded services include wrapping, packaging, and shipping of items, and the USPS may expand beyond that. The USPS is opening stores throughout the country, many in locations very near private companies who already provide these services.

The fact is that the USPS is not a fair competitor with private enterprise. The USPS is not forced to charge State or local tax on retail items, it is insured by the Federal Government, and it often does not pay the same Federal, State, and local taxes that private companies must pay. These are only some of the advantages enjoyed by the USPS, creating a playing field tilted against private industry. Moreover, when a customer brings an item to be packaged by the USPS, the USPS requires that the customer send the package through U.S. mail. Commercial mail companies do not require this of their customers.