

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5576) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your leadership on this bill. I am proud to serve as the Vice-Chairman of this Subcommittee. I want to echo the words of my friend, Mr. REHBERG, because Amtrak is an essential service in my Congressional District and home state of New York.

We have had this debate every year, and we go through this process in each of those years. Last year in particular, we fought possibly the toughest battle in years for passenger rail. We were threatened with vetoes, unless some Amtrak reforms were enacted. So what did we do? We enacted reform. One year later, we have seen evidence these reforms are working.

Yet, here we are today with a proposal to fund Amtrak at \$900 million. This allocation is a shutdown number for Amtrak, and it would come at the worst possible time to shut down Amtrak.

This is because we have seen evidence these reforms are working. We required Amtrak put in place a new business plan. We required Amtrak to institute new service contracts and plans. For instance, they had to adopt more efficient accounting procedures. We also demanded they restructure their dining services, which was a big money loser.

The Department of Transportation Inspector General just issued a report on Amtrak business practices. According to this April 6th report, Amtrak has saved \$19 million from October 2005 through February 2006, thanks to these reforms. This is better than expected.

Amtrak is saving money because of the institution of these new reform plans that we demanded of them. To now shut them down would go back on our word. They lived up to their end of the deal, now we must live up to ours.

Finally, in these times of record high gasoline prices, allow me to mention that Amtrak promotes fuel conservation. At this time, when we are all sensitive about that, it is something that we ought to seriously consider.

A recent study by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory shows Amtrak consumes 17 percent less energy per passenger than auto-

mobiles and 18 percent less than planes. A vote to fund Amtrak is a vote to promote energy independence.

I am not naive enough to think that this will solve all of our energy problems. Our energy policy should be a multi-faceted approach involving increasing our supply of traditional energy, investing in forms of alternative energy and promoting conservation. Increasing our domestic supply and investing in alternative fuels takes time—years in many cases.

Here is an amendment that is part of this larger solution. Furthermore, this is an amendment that will make an immediate difference. This will not save gasoline 1 year, 5 years, 10 years from now. This will save gasoline tomorrow.

I urge support of the LaTourette Amendment.

CONGRATULATING JONES METAL PRODUCTS

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jones Metal Products of Mankato, Minnesota, on receiving the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's Above and Beyond award.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers. Their mission is to continuously gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve. Local and national representatives stand ready to help employers understand federal laws that affect the call-up of their employees. The Above and Beyond award recognizes those who have gone beyond what federal law requires for supporting activated Guard employees.

Minnesota businesses that employ Guard members are an essential link in family support for deployed service members. The state of Minnesota is recognized as a leader among those employing Guard and Reserve members and received the 2004 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

Jones Metal Products, one of 475 companies nominated for the Above and Beyond award, was nominated by Staff Sgt. Juan Berrones. While Staff Sgt. Berrones was deployed to Iraq, Jones Metal Products provided him pay raises, two bonuses and showed continuous support to his family.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Jones Metal Products for receiving the Above and Beyond Award from the National Committee for Employer Support of Guard and Reserve and commend them for the extraordinary services provided to those who serve our country.

ECOZONE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, in a time of increasing public demand for clean air, clean water, energy independence and improved environmental quality, I wish to commend the founder of EcoMedia—Mr. Paul Polizzotto for his visionary public-private partnership called “EcoZone,” which will debut this week here in our Nation’s capital. EcoZone leverages the resources of private corporations to improve local community environments at no cost to the taxpayer. Whether this is through funding projects which promote clean air, clean water, energy efficiency or greenspace, EcoZone allows corporations to demonstrate their commitment to local communities and is an example of the growing recognition by corporations that environmental sustainability and good corporate citizenship are profitable enterprises. I encourage the EPA, the Department of Energy, NOAA and other relevant government entities to pursue partnerships via the EcoZone program all across this country.

ECOZONESM DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OVERVIEW

1. EcoZone is the flagship program of EcoMedia, the world’s premier environmental media company, which brings together government and industry to fund technologies and solutions to serious environmental problems—at no additional cost to taxpayers.

2. EcoMedia’s flagship program, EcoZone, is the first public-private media partnership model in the nation to use corporate sponsorships to generate revenue for local governments to fund critical environmental and clean energy projects in their communities.

3. EcoZone consists of initiatives in four signature areas: air; energy; water; and parks and green space.

4. District of Columbia is the first city in the nation to launch EcoZone; other cities and states expected to launch EcoZone programs in 2006 include St. Petersburg, Miami, Long Beach and additional Southern California communities and the State of New Jersey and many more.

5. The historic agreement between the District of Columbia and EcoMedia implements the nation’s first EcoZone program and will help the city comply with federal and state environmental regulations mandating clean water and air in Washington, as well as identify best management practices to promote greater energy efficiency, preservation of greenspace and a cleaner local environment.

6. Previously, EcoMedia launched its EPA award-winning pilot program Adopt-A-Waterway®, to help fund and clean up local waterways. Successful Adopt-A-Waterway cleanup programs are currently underway in Miami, FL; Long Beach, CA; Sacramento County, CA, among other communities.

7. Under the EcoZone program, the city will receive critical funds secured through sponsorships of educational signage that promote environmental messages. The signage will include EcoZone’s public education messages, encouraging citizens to be stewards of

• 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.

the environment and remind them to recycle, ride-share, turn lights off when not in use and avoid littering, among other eco-friendly tips, accompanied by sponsoring corporate logos. In the District of Columbia, there will be approximately 100 EcoZone signs located throughout the city.

8. Half of the sponsorship revenues from the educational signage go directly to a dedicated and audited local government account to fund pre-determined environmental projects selected by the cities. This is accomplished at no additional cost to local taxpayers.

9. Since 2002, EcoMedia Partnerships, through the pilot Adopt-A-Waterways program, have funded critical community programs such as these:

Water quality testing

Storm drain catch basin insert filters that mitigate storm water runoff

Watershed cleanup

Steambank restoration

Extensive educational programs

10. Local governments can also use EcoZone funding to undertake environmental projects that otherwise simply wouldn't happen. The funds can be used for such things as:

Hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles (buses and municipal auto fleets) that improve both air quality and energy efficiency;

Solar paneling on city facilities to provide alternative, cleaner energy;

Greening projects to convert industrial lots into green space;

Catch basin insert filters that filter out trash and debris, oil and grease, contaminated sediments and even pathogens.

11. EcoZone leverages corporate sponsorships to fund, produce and implement comprehensive public education and environmental outreach programs including public service commercials on local cable stations and radio, grassroots education campaigns, local community events and online media.

12. EcoMedia's founder and chief executive is noted environmental entrepreneur Paul Polizzotto, who was named an "environmental hero" in 1999 by the Environmental Protection Agency for a process he pioneered while running his industrial environmental cleaning company, Property Prep—the first of its kind to help companies become environmentally compliant. Paul's inspiration for pioneering private sector solutions to environmental challenges began during his surfing days in Manhattan Beach, California, his hometown. Paul recognized the importance of creating a comprehensive model that involved business, government, environmental advocates and communities without increasing additional costs for local communities and taxpayers.

13. In recognition of his achievements, Polizzotto has received the following recognition: "Public-Private Visionary" as featured in *Vanity Fair* magazine's May 2006 "Green Issue"; the Coastal Living 2003 Leadership Award from Coastal Living magazine for protecting our coastlines; the 2002 Keeper Award for improving water conditions in the Santa Monica Bay from the Santa Monica Baykeeper; and the Year 2000 Achievement Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for developing innovative technologies to mitigate toxic urban runoff.

MAYOR ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS ANNOUNCES THAT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WILL BECOME THE NATION'S FIRST SITE TO IMPLEMENT THE 'ECOZONE'™ PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, DC, June 20, 2006.—In a unique public/private partnership designed to forge solutions to the District's most crit-

ical environmental challenges, District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams today announced that the city will launch the nation's first, and flagship, 'EcoZone'™ program designed to fund important technologies and solutions to measurably improve the local environment in the areas of air, water, energy and greenspace—at no additional cost to taxpayers.

As the Nation's Capital, it is fitting that the District of Columbia should implement the nation's first—and flagship—EcoZone program," said Mayor Williams. "In partnering with the federal government and the private sector for revenue and support, the city can now address some of the most urgent environmental challenges in our city—at no additional cost to District taxpayers. Washington, DC is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, and it is critical that we maintain its beauty and a clean and healthy environment for our residents and visitors."

Initial corporate sponsors for the District of Columbia's EcoZone program include DaimlerChrysler and CH2MHill, AbTech, Alcoa, BAE Systems, Zipcar and Willard Intercontinental Hotel. Government agencies that will lend their support include NOAA, EPA and the Department of Energy.

Mayor Williams made the announcement at a press conference at the City Museum & Historical Society of Washington, DC, at Mt. Vernon Square. Among those joining the Mayor were Paul Polizzotto, founder and CEO of EcoMedia; John Bozzella, Vice President of External Affairs and Public Policy, Americas, DaimlerChrysler Corporation; Liliana Maldonado, Senior Vice President and Northeast Regional Manager, CH2M HILL; Benjamin Grumbles, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, EPA; Alan Hecht, Director for Sustainable Development, Office of Research and Development, U.S. EPA; Stephanie Branche, Government Liaison, Region 3, EPA; Richard Moorer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Technology Development, U.S. Department of Energy; Elizabeth Scheffler, CFO, Administrator for Management and Budget, National Ocean Service, NOAA; and William O. Howland, Jr., Director, Department of Public Works, the District of Columbia.

The District has entered into an agreement with EcoMedia to implement the EcoZone program. EcoMedia is a leading environmental media company that brings together government and industry to forge solutions to pressing environmental problems. The initiative will be funded solely through corporate sponsorships, with half of all EcoZone revenues generated from educational outdoor signage going to fund the District's pre-determined environmental and clean energy projects in each of the EcoZone's four signature areas: air, energy, water, and greenspace.

"We are particularly happy today to announce our corporate sponsorship of the innovative EcoZone program as it launches in the nation's capital," said John Bozzella, Vice President of External Affairs and Public Policy, Americas, DaimlerChrysler Corporation. "The EcoZone program complements our commitment to developing vehicles that have less impact on our environment, whether that's through reducing fuel consumption and exhaust emissions, emitting less CO₂ or developing new alternative drive systems, such as fuel cells."

Said Liliana Maldonado, Senior Vice President and Northeast Regional Manager, CH2M HILL, "We are proud to join in the launch of today's EcoZone program, a partnership project between communities and compa-

nies, because it reflects CH2M HILL's ongoing mission to protect and preserve natural resources around the globe. Since 1946, CH2M HILL has been helping clients provide high quality drinking water and sanitation for communities around the globe, environmental remediation, sustainable development, habitat restoration, energy efficiency, green architecture and low impact development. From planning to design to construction and operations, CH2M HILL embraces health, safety and environmental protection because it is the right thing to do for our people, our communities and our environment."

Under the EcoZone program, educational signage featuring environmental messages will be posted throughout the district. The signage will include EcoZone's public education messages reminding consumers to recycle, ride-share, turn lights off when not in use and avoid littering, among other eco-friendly tips. In the District of Columbia there will be approximately 100 EcoZone signs located throughout the city.

Half of the revenues from the EcoZone corporate sponsorships of educational outdoor signage will go directly to a dedicated and audited government account to fund the pre-determined environmental projects selected by the District government. This will help the city comply with federal environmental regulations, and/or fund new local environmental programs that otherwise would not happen. Cleanup projects can include:

Storm drain catch basin insert filters that mitigate storm water runoff,

Hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles for municipal fleets that improve both air quality and energy efficiency,

Solar paneling on city facilities to provide alternative, cleaner energy,

Greening projects to convert industrial lots into green space.

EcoZone leverages program sponsorships to fund, produce and administer comprehensive public education and environmental outreach programs, including local cable television and radio public service commercials, grassroots education campaigns, branded merchandise, local community events and online media.

Paul Polizzotto, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, EcoMedia, said, "We commend Mayor Williams for his commitment to the quality of life in the District of Columbia and for joining with businesses to launch our nation's first EcoZone program. The District's EcoZone program, we hope, will be the beginning of a national grassroots movement among cities, corporations and consumers working together to improve and strengthen our environment."

Additional cities and states to be included in a 2006 national rollout of the EcoZone program include: Miami; Long Beach and other Southern California communities; and the State of New Jersey, among others. EcoZone is the second public private sponsorship model created by and managed by EcoMedia. Its pilot program, Adopt-A-Waterway®, was launched in 2001. This award-winning, national program pioneered the public/private model of raising money for environmental cleanup—at no additional cost to taxpayers—and is currently underway in Miami, FL, Long Beach, CA, Sacramento County, CA, as well as other communities throughout the country.

Based in New York City, EcoMedia is a leading environmental media company dedicated to pioneering market-based media solutions that generate necessary funds and resources to address critical environmental challenges. For more information, log on to: www.ecomedia.us.