

MADERA WATER SUPPLY
ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Madera Water Supply Enhancement Act, which authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the design and construction of the Madera Water Supply and Enhancement Project. This important water bank project will help improve water supply in California's San Joaquin Valley.

The Bureau has completed its final appraisal study and has concluded that the Madera water bank will increase water supply, provide groundwater resource protection, mitigate the water supply impacts of the San Joaquin River restoration project, contribute to habitat conservation and have other positive impacts on the severe water supply and reliability problem in the area.

The Project will be located on the over 13,000-acre Madera Ranch, where the soils on and underneath the land are ideal for percolating water from the surface to the aquifer for storage. The land is also a valuable habitat for numerous species and contains large sections of the region's native grasslands.

In the 109th Congress, the Resources Committee held hearings on this legislation and the House unanimously passed H.R. 3897, the predecessor legislation. There are two changes in this legislation from the bill that passed in the last Congress. First, we are immediately authorizing construction of the Project without further study. Second, the legislation caps the total cost of the Project, limiting the Federal government's contribution to 25 percent of total cost, which cannot exceed \$90 million. We have made these changes for the following reasons.

First, the water supply and reliability problems in the area are, as the Bureau has acknowledged, severe. The Bureau's Friant Division is falling almost 1 million acre-feet of water per year short in meeting its contractual commitments, and groundwater pumping is exceeding groundwater recharge by approximately 100,000 acre-feet per year, causing severe groundwater level declines. The proposed San Joaquin River restoration could reduce Madera's water allocation, already insufficient, by an additional 10–20 percent or more. The water bank, by storing excess water in wet years, will provide a much needed source of water in dry years, facilitate the restoration of groundwater levels over time and mitigate the adverse impact on water supply as a result of the San Joaquin River restoration project.

The Madera Irrigation District has already invested over \$40 million to acquire the land and plan this Project. The region's economic well-being depends on having a secure, sufficient and reliable water supply. We simply cannot continue to delay making the Madera water bank a reality.

Second, the Madera water bank represents a very unique situation. As the Bureau stated in the Final Appraisal Report, "[t]he Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank is a project that has been investigated for approximately 10 years for its potential to improve water supply reliability and reduce groundwater overdraft con-

ditions." Over a decade ago, the Bureau of Reclamation tried to buy the Madera Ranch and build its own water bank. As part of this effort, the Bureau conducted extensive studies regarding the feasibility of this Project and concluded that the Project was feasible. After the Bureau decided not to go forward with the Project because of local opposition, private entities conducted further studies with the same positive results. Most recently, the Madera Irrigation District has undertaken additional costs studies conducted by the same engineering firm that worked for the Bureau, further technical studies regarding the Project's feasibility and a completed and certified environmental impact study.

To date, over \$8 million has been spent on studies related to the Project, not counting the Bureau's own substantial efforts to study the feasibility of a water bank at the site. All of this work, including four successful pilot tests, has verified that the Project is not only feasible, but with a certified Environmental Impact Report in place, ready to move immediately to the construction phase, most especially in light of the area's water supply problems.

The legislation lists no fewer than 18 studies and reports regarding this Project that have been undertaken over the past 10 years, many of which done by the Bureau or with the Bureau's knowledge and involvement. Clearly, no further study is required given the urgent need and unique history of the Project.

Third, we recognize that when committing to support a project, the Federal government requires assurances regarding the extent of its financial commitment. The Madera Irrigation District has already evidenced its commitment to the Project by investing to date over \$40 million. The legislation establishes a ceiling of \$90 million for the total cost of the Project. With the prevailing 25 percent federal cost share for such projects, the Federal government's financial commitment is limited to \$22.5 million or 25 percent of total cost, whichever is less.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to expand water supply opportunities in California's San Joaquin Valley.

THE AGRICULTURE BUSINESS
SECURITY TAX CREDIT ACT

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues of legislation I have introduced today to strengthen security at facilities where agricultural chemicals and fertilizers are manufactured, transported and stored.

The legislation that I have proposed, The Agricultural Business Security Tax Credit Act, extends tax initiatives to help defray the high costs agricultural businesses now face enhancing on-site security. I have introduced similar legislation in the past two Congresses.

Farm-use chemical production is unique in its use, distribution and security needs. Pesticides and fertilizers, while important to farmers and agricultural businesses, can also be used as agents for manufacturing illegal drugs such as methamphetamine. Some chemicals can even be used to develop explosive de-

vices, making these sites a potential target for foreign and domestic terrorists.

I believe the incentives offered in The Agricultural Business Security Tax Credit Act will promote improved security at agricultural facilities that handle chemicals and fertilizers, helping them take the necessary steps to better protect U.S. agriculture and the American public from potential threats and other illegal activity.

I urge my colleagues to consider supporting this bill.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ESTES
MCDONIEL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of my friend Estes McDoniel, a former Mayor of Henderson, Nevada and a Basic High School Principal.

Estes earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Arizona. After college, Mr. McDoniel moved to Henderson where he began his long and distinguished career in the Clark County School District as a teacher at Basic High School. Estes' teaching career was interrupted when he enlisted in the Navy and served in the Pacific theater off the coast of Okinawa, Japan during World War II.

Following his service, Estes returned to Basic High School where he continued his exemplary teaching service. Estes was a science teacher, vocational carpentry and industrial studies educator, head coach of the football, basketball, and track teams, Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, and Principal. Estes' dedication to the community expanded beyond the walls of the classroom where in 1969 he was elected Mayor of Henderson, Nevada. In 1988, Estes' great service to the Clark County community was recognized when an elementary school was named in his honor.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and memory of my friend Estes McDoniel. His dedication to the Clark County community and the City of Henderson was commendable and should serve as an example to us all.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2008

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2008. At a time when we need to be fiscally responsible, the Democrats unveiled a budget plan that would increase taxes and increase spending.

Cutting taxes, not increasing taxes, is the solution to spurring economic growth. Our economic recovery after the \$2 trillion of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 was directly related to these creative tax cuts. We

have witnessed more money being kept in the taxpayers' pocketbooks and more small businesses being established due to the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts. In fact, my district, which was hardest hit community after September 11, 2001, is now recovering due to accelerated depreciation and other tax incentives.

Instead of recognizing this truism, the Democrat budget will impose the largest tax increase in American history. The tax relief Americans have been enjoying would cease to exist under this legislation. The Marriage Penalty Relief would be eliminated and 23 million taxpayers would see their taxes increase by an average of \$466 in 2011. As we continue on down the list of tax hikes, 31 million taxpayers would be affected by the Child Tax Credit being cut in half. Their taxes would increase by an average of \$859 in 2011.

These tax increases are not for a greater good of reducing the deficit but to allow Democrats the freedom to spend more and expand the government. My colleagues seem to be living up to their moniker "Tax and Spend" Democrats. This budget is above and beyond the President's request and would amount to some \$22.5 billion in spending in 2008 alone for nondefense and nonemergency appropriations. The bill also does not include any meaningful entitlement reform—the most problematic detriment to our deficit.

This is not a plan for fiscal responsibility. This is a plan to spend the taxpayers' money flippantly. We need to be conscious of how the American taxpayers' money is spent. As Members of Congress we were sent here to look out for the best interests of our constituents and this budget resolution in not proving to do that.

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING
COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE
KRAECK FAMILY

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Kraeck family for their dedication to American soldiers. They coordinated a project to donate care packages to the troops at Fort Dix before deployment and they also shipped packages to troops overseas. The packages contained valentines, supplies and snacks, as well as encouraging words from nursery, elementary and middle school students.

The Kraeck family undertook this remarkable project as a way to remind all of us, especially those deployed in a war zone, that our admiration and gratitude for our military is limitless. The broad reach of the donations prove this point.

This impressive project united hundreds of people toward a common cause: supporting our troops. With the help of students, parents, teachers and principals, as well as area librarians, businesses, newspapers and Girl Scout troops, the Kraecks tirelessly organized the collection and distribution of Girl Scout cookies, toiletries, and snacks to the soldiers. Additionally, more than 1,000 valentines, handmade by local children, were sent expressing their gratitude, esteem, and compassion for the troops.

The Kraeck family has already shipped more than 620 boxes of Girl Scout cookies and delivered supplies to Fort Dix to be distributed before deployment. They plan to continue sending even more shipments overseas in coming months and I encourage their efforts.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate and thank Kathy, Emily and Alison Kraeck and all those involved in these noble efforts. On a personal note, as an Iraq war veteran, I especially appreciate the Kraeck family's work on this worthy project.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOIS AND
JERRY TARKANIAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lois and Jerry Tarkanian for their commitment and dedication to the Clark County community and congratulate them on being selected by the Clark County School Board to have a new middle school named in their honor.

Lois Tarkanian has been actively involved in a number of organizations dedicated to improving the lives of Nevadans. After receiving her Bachelors of Arts in education, a Master of Arts in Speech Pathology as well as a Doctorate in leadership and human behavior, a certificate in speech pathology, language, and audiology, Lois began a long and distinguished teaching career. She wanted to give more to her community and expand her knowledge as she worked as a speech pathologist, principal, central office administrator and as a college instructor both in Nevada and California. Lois has also served as a member of the Clark County Board of School Trustees for 12 years. In addition to her commitment to enriching the lives of her students, Lois has also conducted clinical work with autistic, deaf and aphasic children. Presently, Lois serves as the Las Vegas City Councilwoman in the 1st Ward, a position she has held since 2005, she also serves on the City of Las Vegas Real Estate Committee and Yucca Mountain Nuclear Repository Committee.

In addition to her professional success, Lois also has a number of philanthropic pursuits. She serves as a board member for the Catholic Charities, the Clark County Public Education Foundation, Family and Child Treatment Center for Abused Children and the Oralingua School for the Hearing Impaired. Lois has received a number of accolades as a result of her dedicated services, such as the Humanitarian of the Year by the Catholic Community Services, and the Distinguished Woman of Nevada and Citizen of the Year by the Nevada Family and Child Treatment Center.

Jerry Tarkanian played basketball for Fresno State and later earned his master's degree with honors in Educational Management. Along with his wife, they understand the importance of education and donated \$100,000 to the University of Fresno State's Madden Library and initiated the "Baskets for Books Program". In addition to his dedicated service of enriching the lives and educational experiences of students, Jerry is known for his ex-

ceptional coaching abilities. He started coaching in 1956 at San Joaquin Memorial High School. On the collegiate level, he has coached Long Beach State, Fresno State and UNLV. Jerry has spent over 38 seasons as a head coach in collegiate basketball. Not only has he taken Fresno State to NCAA Tournament appearances in 2000 and 2001, 2001 WAC title and 2002 WAC Tournament Championship, but he has led UNLV to four NCAA Final Four appearances and a national championship in 1989–1990. In 1999, Jerry was inducted into the California Community College Sports Hall of Fame. Jerry has an exemplary coaching record, having never had a losing season. Furthermore, Jerry has had 42 of his players drafted to the NBA's with 12 first round picks.

The Tarkanian's continue to support their love of education through a number of avenues, such as speaking engagements at hospitals and school rallies.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Lois and Jerry Tarkanian. Their dedication to education and the community are truly commendable and have enriched countless lives. I congratulate them on their much deserved recognition by the Clark County School District in having a school named after them. I am certain that this educational establishment will embody the education excellence that the Tarkanian's have long advocated.

IN SUPPORT OF THE GULF COAST
HURRICANE HOUSING RECOVERY
ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act (H.R. 1227). This bill is critical in providing affordable housing to low-income families affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

It is the responsibility of all national governments to prepare, plan and defend its citizens against all known and potential natural and man-made disasters. Such was the case that confronted the Bush administration in August 2005. But because of the Bush administration's lack of preparation, misplaced priorities and ineptitude, the combination of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma severely devastated the Gulf Coast to such a degree that many lives and property were lost and the effects of disrupted lives and businesses are still being felt nearly 2 years later. Frankly, the response of the administration has been unacceptably slow in the aftermath of the hurricanes and the needs of displaced residents of the Gulf Coast have been left unmet.

The Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act offers significant relief to the displaced families of the Gulf Coast. Specifically, the bill directs FEMA to be flexible in the application of its funds for the Louisiana Road Home program that provides financial incentives for people to come back and live in the State.

The bill further directs HUD and the New Orleans Public Housing Authority to engage its human and material resources to preserve the supply of affordable rental housing.

The bill incorporates an important fair housing enforcement component that makes funds