

factors, one of its chief determinants is certainty and predictability. It is for this reason that I believe we must act now to extend the critical tax relief of the last 6 years. Industry is already making operational decisions today based on the business environment of tomorrow, and it is troubling to think that, absent any signals from Washington to the contrary, they are expecting tax increases. It is also time to focus our attention on other elements of our long-term economic prosperity, and that includes America's competitive position relative to our largest global competitors. I am concerned that we have some of the highest business taxes among the top economies in the world. This is something that we must work to change if we hope to compete in the 21st century.

One of our country's most valuable assets is our workforce, and fostering the continued competitiveness of this asset is a growing challenge. This is one of the reasons I support small business expensing, both as a short-term and long-term tax policy. Workers grow and learn on the job, underscoring the critical importance of businesses keeping their doors open and expanding. Nearly two-thirds of all new job creation in the U.S. comes from small businesses. In the context of an economic stimulus, increasing small business expensing limits would help keep workers employed and even create new jobs as our country weathers an uncertain economic time.

How does small business expensing help? Second, when facing slower economic growth, and the potential for job loss, expensing frees up potentially affected businesses from spending so much of their cash flow on overhead, therefore enabling them to retain existing workers, hire new workers, and focus on expansion rather than just staying afloat. Expensing makes this possible by allowing companies to write-off 100 percent of new, otherwise depreciable assets immediately.

While my legislation would grant a short-term increase in the current law expensing limits, expensing makes for good long-term investment-focused tax policy as well. I look forward to working with others in the House and Senate to approve this measure, and continue the debate over long-term tax policies that really get at the bedrock of America's economic growth.

COMMEMORATING "MR. MENDOCINO" JOHN A. PARDUCCI FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE MENDOCINO COUNTY WINE INDUSTRY

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary grape grower, winemaker and friend on the occasion of his 90th birthday. John Angelo Parducci has been in the wine business in Mendocino County for more than seven decades.

His contributions to the wine industry in Mendocino County, as well as to all of northern California, have helped one of the region's most important agricultural products grow to international acclaim. His lifelong commitment began at an early age.

The grandson of an Italian immigrant, John Parducci is a third generation winemaker. He was born on January 22, 1918, to Adolph Parducci and Isabella Katherine Lucchetti Parducci in the same house where his mother had been born, just south of the Mendocino County line. Adolph moved his family to Ukiah, and at about the same time Prohibition began, built Parducci Winery, the oldest in Mendocino County.

In 1933, 14-year-old John accompanied 40 train carloads of grapes his family was shipping to the east coast. When he returned to Ukiah, he took part in the first of a lifetime of grape harvests. He filled jugs from magnificent 50-gallon redwood tanks, some of which still exist at the old winery. Parducci was the first to bottle and label varietal wines in Mendocino County, the first to use Anderson Valley on a label and the first to promote Mendocino winemaking around the country.

In 1937, John Parducci married the love of his life Margaret Louise Romer. They had two sons. In 1960 he took over the winery from his father and continued with his passionate and opinionated quest to make great wine at an affordable price. The original Parducci Winery was recently purchased by the Mendocino Wine Company, which continues the label.

Not one to retire, however, in 1999, John Parducci and his grandson Rich, started McNab Ridge Winery in the pristine McNab Valley, where John hunted deer, turkey, and wild pigs in his younger years. His winemaking legacy continues under the McNab Ridge and John A. Parducci Signature Heritage Series labels.

Accolades and honors have poured in over the years. In 2003 he was awarded the California State Fair Lifetime Achievement Award. He has been America's Ambassador of Wine, recognized by the Wine Institute, and named winemaker of the year by the Los Angeles County Fair, the North Coast Knights of the Vine, the City of Los Angeles, and the Texas Knights of the Vine.

Over the years John has found time to give service to the community through his membership in the Masons, Rotary and Shriners in Ukiah. In 1999 he received the prestigious Norman Lippman Award in Nashville for his community service as well as his winemaking.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, John Parducci has earned the admiration and respect of his peers and left a positive legacy for the future of winemaking not only in Mendocino County, but all across our country. For these reasons, it is appropriate that we honor Mr. Mendocino—John Parducci.

SUPPLEMENTAL MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAN BOREN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2008*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2768) to establish improved mandatory standards to protect miners during emergencies, and for other purposes:

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Chairman, I would first like to thank Chairman MILLER and the members

of his committee for their hard work and dedication to improving the safety of our Nation's mines and bringing this important issue to the forefront. As we all know, the tragic mining accidents of the last few years have made this a serious topic of national and public debate.

I am a strong supporter of increasing safety at our Nation's mines. This is why I strongly supported and voted for the MINER Act of 2006. Since its enactment, I have continued to support its complete implementation and I look forward to the mining industry reaching full compliance with its provisions.

While Chairman MILLER's bill, the S-MINER Act, aims to further strengthen mining industry safety and health standards, I have serious concerns about how this bill will affect local mining operations in my congressional district and the State of Oklahoma.

This new mining safety legislation will impose a one-size-fits-all set of safety standards and regulations upon the mining industry, regardless of a mining operation's differing characteristics or risk factors. Therefore, numerous surface mines in my district would be forced to comply with expensive Government regulations that do not enhance safety for their workers.

Fine increases and the process laid out in the S-MINER Act for evaluating and judging regulatory infractions are also matters of great concern to me. Requiring increased fines to be made in escrow, while a citation is investigated, may be reasonable for large mining companies. However, for the small mining operations in my district, this requirement would be financially crippling and is likely to precipitate the loss of valued jobs.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, it is my firm belief this new mine safety legislation comes far too soon after the enactment of the MINER Act of 2006. Currently the mining operations in my congressional district and the State of Oklahoma are working diligently to achieve full compliance with the new law. I am concerned the additional regulations and standards set forth in the S-MINER Act of 2008 will be financially overwhelming to an industry that is a vital supplier of jobs for my constituents. I believe it very well could reduce progress on implementing the achievements of the MINER Act.

It is for these reasons listed above, Mr. Chairman, I voted against the S-MINER Act when it came before the House floor for a vote. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure the future sustainability and safety of our Nation's mines, which are integral to the vitality of our Nation's energy supply and strength of the American economy.

RECOGNIZING JOHN BRENNAN FROM NEW YORK

**HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 22, 2008*

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John Brennan, a resident of my congressional district in upstate New York, and his extraordinary record of service for World War II veterans.

In the spring of 2004, John formed a committee with the goal of giving World War II veterans from Herkimer County, New York, a historic once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the