

In addition to being a major employer itself in Sonoma and providing support services to other local businesses, the Nelson family has been an active participant in community organizations and events. Primary beneficiaries have been the Hanna Boys Center and Sonoma Valley Hospital. The companies have also been sponsors or supporters of the Sonoma Jazz Festival, the Charles Schwab Cup Champion's Tour event at Sonoma Golf Club, the Sonoma Wine Harvest Auction and Festival, the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association annual walk, the Blood Bank of the Redwoods annual blood drive, the Valley of the Moon Boys & Girls Club and the Valley of the Moon Teen Center and the Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance.

Madam Speaker, local businesses in the small communities throughout our two Congressional districts are much more than employers. They are the backbone of a support system for projects, non-profit organizations and civic events that would not be successful without their involvement. No organization better exemplifies this commitment than the Nelson Family of Companies. It is therefore appropriate for us to honor Chairman Gary D. Nelson and his leadership team and employees, both past and present, for their great work throughout the years.

HONORING RICHARD LACOSSE ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Richard (Dick) LaCrosse on his induction into Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. A resident of Escanaba, Michigan, Mr. LaCrosse will be honored at the U.P. Labor Hall of Fame Induction Banquet on October 11, 2008. I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring Mr. LaCrosse on this momentous occasion.

Richard LaCrosse began his career in 1969 when he went to work at Mead Paper in Escanaba, Michigan. He joined United Paperworkers International Union, UPIU, Local 110, which is now United Steelworkers, USW, Local 2-21. Dick LaCrosse quickly became actively involved in his local union and soon became a shop steward. He was appointed to the position of Chief Steward and vice president in June 1978 and was elected president of the local union in January 1981. In August 1983, he was appointed to the position of international representative.

During his 25 years with the International Union he served at one time or another as: a member of the Delta County Trades and Labor Council; member of the Board of Directors of the Upper Peninsula Labor/Management Council, including a term as its president; chairman of the Niagara of Wisconsin Jointly Trusted Pension Plan; trustee of PACE International Union's Pension Plan; member of the Board of Directors of the Upper Peninsula Private Industry Council; treasurer of the Upper Peninsula Safety Council; member of the Governor's Task Force on Education;

member of Michigan's School to Work Committee; member of the Delta/Schoolcraft Education Advisory Development Board; member of the UPIU/Scott Paper Joint Advisory Committee; steward of the Representatives and Organizers Union; member of the Advisory Planning Committee of Northern Michigan University's Labor Education Division; planning commissioner for the city of Escanaba; member of the Delta County Economic Development Alliance Board; member of the USW/SCA Joint Advisory Committee; executive board member of the Michigan and Wisconsin State AFL-CIO. Mr. LaCrosse has also been a guest instructor on labor issues at Northern Michigan University, Bay de Noc Community College and several area high schools.

In 2003, at the first convention of PACE International Union, Mr. LaCrosse was elected vice president and regional director of Region 10, which was the largest region in PACE. In 2005, PACE International Union merged with the United Steelworkers of America to become the USW International Union, the largest industrial union in the nation. On March 1, 2006, he was installed as international vice president with responsibility for national paper bargaining in the newly merged union. Mr. LaCrosse retired from the USW on March 1, 2008.

Madam Speaker, Richard LaCrosse has spent a career advocating for the rights of his colleagues. Dick's years of service have no doubt made an impact on countless workers across the country. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring and thanking Richard LaCrosse as he received a well-deserved induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame.

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF THE MAGHREB

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am placing in the record today the summary of an exceptionally important study on improving the global and regional economic immigration of the Maghreb.

This study was a collaborative effort of Ambassador Start Eizenstat and Dr. Cary Clyde Hufbauer. It highlights the critical importance of U.S. involvement in building a prosperous and stable Maghreb.

A draft of the full report is posted on-line by the Peterson Institute for International Economics at www.iie.com.

PROSPECTS FOR GREATER GLOBAL AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN THE MAGHREB: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PETERSON INSTITUTE, IFPRI, AND IEMED

On May 29, 2008, the Peterson Institute for International Economics held an event to announce the results of a number of studies that examine, from both a macroeconomic and sectoral perspective, the barriers to and potential benefits of economic integration among the countries of the Maghreb, as well as between the region and the broader world economy. The two macroeconomic studies were performed by the Peterson Institute and the International Food Policy Research Institute ("IFPRI"). The sectoral studies were performed by the European Institute

for the Mediterranean ("IEMED"). A final Report will be published in October 2008.

The studies generally show that integration among the countries of the region would yield increased trade and investment. Greater increases in trade and investment, however, would come from such regional integration combined with stronger links between the region and the global economy. The studies also demonstrate the importance of reducing non-tariff barriers to trade and investment, as well as the pursuit of regulatory harmonization to create a more positive investment climate. Finally, the experts from the three institutes who presented their findings offered specific policy recommendations for the United States and European Union, as well as sector-specific recommendations for the regional economy.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

The core objective of closer ties between the United States, European Union, and the Maghreb is to transform the Maghreb economies, including by encouraging new industries and services, new jobs, and increased rates of growth. The United States and European Union should work with the Maghreb countries to enhance integration through bilateral trade or investment agreements or in companion agreements.

Aid for Technical Assistance and Capacity Building: The United States and European Union can help improve the business climate in the Maghreb by assisting with the acceleration of reforms. Such aid could encourage the harmonization of investment and regulatory regimes throughout the region to the highest standards provided for in bilateral trade agreements, promote sector-specific investment and regulatory reforms, assist in the development of transnational networks for transportation and energy infrastructure, and provide the best technology for ensuring that cross-border shipments can be processed efficiently and securely.

Tariffs: The United States and European Union could work with their Maghreb partners to negotiate lower tariffs, or no tariffs, on selected products imported from other Maghreb countries.

Rules of Origin: In the European Union's Euro-Med Partnership, Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia apply full cumulation between themselves and diagonal cumulation with the other pan-European countries. This approach could be extended to Libya and Mauritania. The United States and its Maghreb partners, building on the U.S.-Morocco free trade agreement, could negotiate agreements similar to the Qualified Industrial Zone ("QIZ") program with Jordan and Egypt or allow for the cumulation of inputs across the Maghreb.

Encouraging Sectoral Cooperation: The United States and the European Union could focus on how they can best stimulate regional cooperation at the sectoral level. Possible areas for collaboration with the countries of the Maghreb are highlighted below.

SECTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The countries of the region, with the support of the United States and European Union, should work together to increase intraregional integration in the major sectors of the regional economy, which include energy, banking, transportation, and agriculture and food.

Energy: It is not clear whether each Maghreb country will be able to mobilize, on its own, the necessary means to meet increased energy demands that will accompany increased regional population and economic growth. Consequently, a regional response is necessary. First, the flow of energy through