

consideration the bill (H.R. 5972) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5972. While this is not a perfect bill, it will fund important transportation and housing projects creating well-paying jobs across this country.

I am pleased that this bill provides a much-needed increase to Amtrak, which will greatly help Amtrak accommodate growing ridership and develop intercity passenger rail. It also continues to invest in the FAA's NextGen air traffic control modernization effort, which will help to keep our public airspace safe and reduce flight times. The Community Development Block Grants program is also fully funded helping local governments to address housing and social service issues unique to their communities. It also fully funds the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program, providing the nearly 70,000 homeless veterans with long-term housing when they need it.

However, I want to express my deep disappointment that this bill does not provide any funding to high speed intercity passenger rail or the TIGER program. Both of these programs have proven to be successful and play an integral role in bringing our infrastructure in to the 21st Century. At a time when you have labor and business—the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and AFL-CIO—calling for stronger investment in our infrastructure, it is shortsighted that we not provide this necessary funding. We cannot continue to compete with our neighbors abroad if we are not improving and growing our infrastructure. My colleagues in the House, on the left and the right, have called for a jobs package and this funding could have been that first step.

I am disappointed at the lack of funding for critical housing programs. This bill drastically cuts funds to the Project-Based Section 8 voucher program that provides rental assistance to approximately 1.2 million low-income families. Furthermore, there is no funding for programs that would help rebuild blighted communities. Not only would eliminating blight and rebuilding neighborhoods create jobs, but they would also rejuvenate communities in areas like Southeast Michigan that were hit so hard by the collapse of the housing market and the economic recession.

Taken as a whole Mr. Chair, H.R. 5972 will make needed investments in our transportation and housing infrastructure, but more must be done. As our bridges, roads, sewers, buildings, and neighborhoods crumble, we cannot afford to underfund critical programs that rehabilitate and rebuild. We cannot move in to the 21st century with 20th century investments. I call on my colleagues to pass a strong surface transportation reauthorization that will fix this oversight of needed funding and put Americans across the country back to work bettering our neighborhoods and communities.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN JOHNSON

### HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of one of my constituents, John Johnson, President and CEO of Alice Hyde Medical Center in Malone, New York. John's time as a public servant in the North Country and hospital administrator reflects an enduring commitment to our community and to improving the access and quality of healthcare for the people of Northern New York.

After graduating with a Bachelor's of Science degree from SUNY Plattsburgh in 1971, John went on to rise through the ranks of the Franklin County Probation Department to become its Director in 1977. He later worked as Franklin County Manager in 1984 until he joined Alice Hyde as an Associate Director in 1990. He soon became the Executive Vice President of the Acute Care Facility, the Outpatient Health Center, and the Adjacent Skilled Nursing Facility. John went on to become President and CEO of Alice Hyde in 1994 where he has served till recently.

Under John's tenure as President and CEO, the AHMC has established five health centers and opened cancer, hemodialysis, ambulatory and orthopedic and rehabilitation centers. In 2009, AHMC was recognized as the Organization of the Year by the Malone Chamber of Commerce for its efforts to pursue innovative medicine, growth, and community programs.

I had the privilege to serve with John on the Plattsburgh State University College Council where he exemplified his community commitment. While I am saddened by the departure of John as President and CEO of AHMC, his work will continue to have an impact for years to come. I congratulate John on his retirement and wish him all the best in the many years ahead.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 28, 2012, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 442, "yea."

#### IN HONOR OF MIKE SEDELL

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of my close personal friend Mike Sedell, who is retiring next week as the City Manager of the City of Simi Valley, California.

Mike and I have worked together for 33 years. When I was first elected to the Simi

Valley City Council, he was Simi Valley's Deputy City Manager under then-City Manager Lin Koester. When I was elected to Congress in 1986, he came to Washington, DC, to serve as my first Chief of Staff. After three years in Washington, he returned to Simi Valley as Assistant City Manager, becoming City Manager in 1995.

Mike and I are not just professional associates. We are personal friends and have continued to be personal friends in the 17 years since he left my employ. Not a week goes by that we don't connect to discuss a federal issue, or a local issue, or our respective families.

Mike began working for the people of Simi Valley in 1972 as a California State University, Northridge, intern and subsequently served the City in a variety of assignments. He first worked as Simi Valley's Personnel Administrator and Community Services Coordinator, which included working on the Neighborhood Council Program, the Youth Council, and Youth Services. In 1975, he was asked to become part of the City Manager's office.

Once in the City Manager's Office, Mike effectively supervised several programs, including public affairs, media relations, City Council/staff relations, governmental affairs, labor relations, transit system operations, and elections.

When Lin Koester left Simi Valley to become the Chief Administrative Officer for Ventura County in 1995, the City Council unanimously appointed Mike as City Manager, a position he has held since.

In addition to serving as Simi Valley's City Manager, Mike periodically teaches an Intergovernmental Relations Seminar in the Master's Degree program in Public Administration at Cal State Northridge, and has served as past Chair of the Board of Directors of Interface Children and Family Services of Ventura County.

With his contacts developed over the years in both Washington and Sacramento, Mike is often called upon by Simi Valley, and occasionally other cities, to assist whenever a legislative or intergovernmental crisis occurs. Mike also works with Sacramento and Washington legislators on budget issues affecting Simi Valley and other California cities, and he has been a key player in developing the final funding formula for local agencies, and crafting complex intergovernmental agreements.

His liaison work between the City and The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library has been instrumental in forming a strong operating bond between the Library and the City, and Mike was proud to be a member of the coordinating team that put together the local events for the funeral of President Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Sedell has spent a lifetime in public service at the local and federal level. He has steered the City of Simi Valley through many difficult times with great success and his expertise is recognized and sought after by many other government officials. I know my colleagues join my wife, Janice, and me in thanking Mike for his lifetime of public service and in wishing our good friends Mike and his wife, Judie, the best in retirement.