

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FT. BERTHOLD OIL AND GAS  
LEASING BILL, S. 1069

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 24, 1998*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for S. 1069. I want to thank Chairman YOUNG for his personal attention to this bill and for his assistance in bringing it to the floor for immediate consideration.

The Fort Berthold Indian Reservation has been working for years to develop partnerships with the oil industry to explore the development of oil and gas resources on its lands. The Fort Berthold Reservation covers about 1 million acres of land in the middle of the proven oil-rich Williston Basin. There has been active oil and gas exploration and development on the lands surrounding the reservation, but the tribe and its members have been able to participate in this activity in a very limited way. The tribal government is eager to explore oil and gas development on tribal lands and their prospects for receiving leasing activity are very good.

Economic development should be a top priority in Indian country. Unfortunately, our Federal policies hinder the creation of new economic development opportunities on our Nation's Indian reservations. The bill before us aims to address a provision in Federal law that unnecessarily hampers economic development efforts on the Ft. Berthold reservation in North Dakota.

Currently, Federal law requires that 100 percent of all tribal members with ownership in an allotment agree to the leasing of that allotment. Some of the allotted land tracts on the Ft. Berthold reservation are owned by up to 200 individuals. So if one of these owners will not sign the lease, the exploration cannot proceed. This requirement makes it virtually impossible for tribes and its members to pursue this type of economic development, even if a vast majority of allottees are supportive. The requirement shuts Indian oil development down cold.

The legislation would allow a leasing agreement to move forward if more than 50 percent of those with an interest in specific allotted lands agree. It is narrowly drawn so as to only apply to the Fort Berthold Reservation. The legislation is strongly supported by the tribal council and the Interior Department.

The economic implications of this legislation for the Ft. Berthold Reservation are enormous. This legislation will help Indian people on Fort Berthold achieve economic self-sufficiency. Additionally, I believe the legislation, which is so particularly important to the tribe at issue, may also serve as an example that we might follow later on. And so as we help the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, I believe that we may be doing a favor for all Indian reservations that might be interested in exploring mineral leasing activity in the future. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank all in the majority and minority for helping us bring this matter forward.

HONORING THE WALT DISNEY  
COMPANY—THE 1998 MAYNARD  
JACKSON AWARD RECIPIENT

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 24, 1998*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to The Walt Disney Company for being honored by the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) with the 1998 Maynard Jackson Award. The Walt Disney Company received this important award because of its work to ensure minority contractors equal access to contracting opportunities.

The NAMC is a non-profit trade association that was established in 1969 to address the needs and concerns of minority contractors. While membership is open to people of all races and ethnic backgrounds, the organization's mandate, "Building Bridges-Crossing Barriers," focuses on construction industry concerns common to African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans. The Association is active in 49 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands.

The Walt Disney Company's commitment to diversity in its contracting practices earned them this national honor. The company does business with more than 1500 minority-owned and women-owned businesses. Since Disney launched its Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program 16 years ago, it has increased spending with minority-owned and women-owned businesses fifty-fold.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all of my colleagues, join me in applauding The Walt Disney Company for the work they have done to receive this prestigious award.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 22, 1998*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4059) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment, and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this bill and would like to commend the work of both the Chairman, Mr. PACKARD, and the Ranking Member, Mr. HEFNER. Further, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the work and friendship of Mr. HEFNER. He is truly one of our finest members and it has been my distinct honor to have served with him in this body. The Committee has done an

outstanding job in crafting a bill which addresses both the military needs and quality of life concerns for the men and women in our armed services. Make no mistake, our military personnel deserve the best that we in Congress can offer, and this bill takes many of the necessary steps required to improve the quality of life for our military families. The focus this bill places on family housing, child development centers, medical facilities and treatment centers is critical if we are going to continually recruit and retain our best people. While this bill does not meet every deficiency in our military facilities, it continues the approach of budgeting for the highest priority needs of our armed services. Additionally, I believe it represents a firm commitment by this Congress to our men and women in uniform to continue our efforts to improve their living and working conditions.

Further, I would like to express my appreciation to the Committee for their quick response to fund the Continuous Processing Facility at Indian Head. As many of you know, an accidental explosion damaged a portion of this building in February. Although my funding request was unexpected, the Committee responded to this priority by providing funds for a facility which in the long run will be more efficient and flexible in meeting the Defense Department's energetics requirements. Lastly, I would like to thank the Committee for supporting the Administration's request for the replacement of the Annealing Ovens Facility at Indian Head. This new facility will function in a more efficient fashion and address important environmental concerns in my district. Again, I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING GISELE AND HECTOR  
GOLDMAN

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 24, 1998*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Gisele and Hector Goldman, residents of Riverdale. They were married on March 28, 1948 and have given much to their community in their life together. They raised three children, sending them to local schools for their education. They are also founding members of the Riverdale Jewish Center. Every community needs people such as Gisele and Hector Goldman. What they give is stability, a sense of the continuance of life from generation to generation and that while we as individuals may change, the community goes on, offering to its children a sense of belonging, of being part of something larger and nobler. I ask that all of us who believe in love join me in wishing Gisele and Hector congratulations on their first 50 years and many more years of love and togetherness.

• 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.