

wrong. This bill draws from the landmark decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit concerning the nature of an R.S. 2477 right of way, the meaning of unreserved federal land for R.S. 2477 purposes, and the principles governing the creation, nature, extent, use and maintenance of R.S. 2477 public roads.

Supporters of this legislation should keep in mind that the bill I am introducing today is not the conclusive end this controversy. Today's introduction marks the start of a dialogue that I hope leads to a comprehensive solution and eventually a victory for all the stakeholders; a victory that protects our public lands, the rights of property owners, and the legitimate interests of Federal, State, and local governments.

As we close the 109th Congress, let us each strive to work together to solve some of our most divisive public lands issues. Doing so requires engaging all parties through dialogue, creativity and persistence so that we may find common sense solutions that will meet the needs of the American public.

OCTOBER 3RD PROCLAIMED
"SCIENCE DAY"

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important role science plays in our society. Today, October 3, has been proclaimed "Science Day" by Missouri Governor Matt Blunt along with various mayors throughout southern Missouri.

"Science Day" is important because American innovation depends upon a strong foundation in the sciences. Statistics indicate the United States is falling behind other nations in science education. Japan, China, and South Korea produce more engineering graduates than the United States. Twenty years ago, the United States, Japan, and China each graduated a similar number of engineers. South Korea at the time graduated roughly half as many engineering graduates. By the year 2000, China increased engineering graduates by 161 percent, Japan effected a 42 percent increase and South Korea increased graduates by more than 140 percent. Meanwhile, the number of U.S. engineering graduates declined 20 percent. If this trend continues, by 2010 more than 90 percent of all scientists and engineers in the world will live in Asia.

Science and technology-related employers continue searching overseas to find qualified engineers and scientists because our Nation is simply not producing enough graduates in the engineering and science disciplines. "Science Day" aims to bring attention to this problem and encourage action among parents, teachers and community members.

Science not only offers economic and advancement opportunity, it is also fun and exciting. Inside and outside the classroom, science offers an awe-inspiring window into the origins, workings and future of our physical world. By engaging students in this intriguing subject, parents and teachers foster exploration and enable them to reach their academic potential.

I commend this effort to raise awareness of the importance of science educators. I want to

thank the staff at KFVS News for their efforts in promoting the recognition of "Science Day." By partnering with educators and community leaders, KFVS News has organized events and competitions designed to challenge students and emphasize the importance of science. On "Science Day," I join Missouri's community leaders in challenging our Nation's parents, guardians, grandparents, and other family members to do a simple science experiment with their children, to honor science teachers in their community and to recognize scientific contributions and their important roles in the future of our country.

RECOGNIZING FINANCIAL
PLANNING WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support for House Resolution 973—recognizing Financial Planning Week. Now more than ever, working families need the tools and resources to make sound financial decisions.

American families are struggling with financial burdens—from growing student loan and credit card debts to increasing interest rates. Flattened wages and negative savings rates mean that too many families have to choose between sending their children to college and saving for retirement.

The financial situation for most American families is grim. In fact in 2005—for the first time since the Great Depression—the personal savings rate of Americans was negative. Americans have depleted their savings to pay off debt and to simply make ends meet. This is a dangerous trend for Americans that must be reversed.

That is why financial planning is more critical than ever. Americans need the tools and resources to know how to save for a variety of life opportunities and situations—including retirement, college, starting a new business, and buying a first home. Many families simply need assistance with budgeting for everyday needs. I commend the financial institutions that have included in their business models financial planning assistance for their customers. These institutions help to strengthen the economic situation for our communities and families.

What is unfortunate is that this Republican Congress has done little to provide relief to struggling families. Instead, families are being squeezed—flat wages, increased costs of health care, skyrocketing prices at the gas pump, and double digit college tuition increases. In nearly every aspect of life, American families are faced with financial burdens and tough budget decisions.

Congress could benefit from better financial planning—America deserves a Government that knows how to model good budget decisions. Unfortunately, this Republican Congress has led our Government into a negative savings rate—spending and borrowing more than our Nation can afford—while passing budgets that benefit the Nation's wealthiest while short-changing hardworking, middle class families.

Today, I rise to support this important resolution. I will continue to work to support legis-

lation that will encourage working families to save for their futures and to ensure that working families have the resources to make sound budget decisions.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
STATEMENT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the month-long celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, we pay tribute to the Hispanic community and to the important contributions Hispanics make to America. Today the Hispanic-American community numbers some 43 million, is the fastest growing ethnic group in our country, and plays a vital part in our nation's economy, culture, and politics.

That's why I'm so proud in Congress to be a member of both the Hispanic Working Group organized by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, and of the Tri-Caucus, which is the collection of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, and the Asian Pacific American Caucus that advocate for the Latino community.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent a thriving and accomplished Latino community in the 9th Congressional District of California, where the contributions of Latino members of the community are stronger than ever.

For example, throughout the past 37 years, the Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation has empowered our community and improved the quality of life for many through an enormous range of services. Each year the foundation assists 12,000 members of the community through providing vital social services as well as enhancing opportunities for leadership development and civic participation.

Jovita Solis, the foundation's Citizenship Coordinator, came to the United States when she was quite young and has made a tremendous difference in our community. Jovita routinely volunteers her time at numerous community events to encourage and assist many permanent residents to become naturalized citizens. Jovita has an indomitable spirit that was tested when her brother was murdered only 3 years ago. Jovita came out of her brother's death with a purpose to make our community safer and to help our youths turn away from violence and crime. Jovita has spearheaded many youth initiatives to help our young people stay in school and encourage their pursuits in the arts and sports.

Another community leader creating a better world is Arnoldo Garcia. Arnoldo is the Enforcement and Justice Program Coordinator at the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR), based in Oakland, California.

The NNIRR is a national organization that serves as a forum to share information and analysis, to educate communities and the general public, and to develop and coordinate plans of action on important immigrant and refugee issues.

Arnoldo works to promote a just immigration and refugee policy in the United States and to defend and expand the rights of all immigrants

and refugees, regardless of immigration status. Arnoldo and the National Network bases their efforts in the principles of equality and justice, and seek the enfranchisement of all immigrant and refugee communities in the United States through organizing and advocating for their full labor, environmental, civil and human rights. Arnoldo recognizes the unparalleled change in global, political and economic structures which has exacerbated regional, national and international patterns of migration, and emphasizes the need to build international support and cooperation to strengthen the rights, welfare and safety of migrants and refugees.

Mr. Speaker, Individuals in my district are the motivating force behind the remarkable organizations that promote civic engagement among Latinos in the 9th Congressional District. Leaders like Marta Higuera, a Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action field representative, helps BOCA fulfill its mission of creating a coalition of interfaith congregations throughout the city of Berkeley. Marta's leadership has been instrumental in having BOCA meet the needs of the Latino community. She persuaded the Berkeley High School English Language Learners program to translate forms and documents into Spanish for parents. In addition, Marta has organized immigration town halls and fundraisers to support our community members who are in most need.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor the achievements of outstanding Hispanic Americans—like Jovita Solis, Arnoldo Garcia, and Marta Higuera—we know that celebrating the Hispanic community for just one month not enough. All Latinos deserve a real opportunity to achieve the American Dream, whether they have been here for generations or just arrived to our shores. Hispanic dreams and values are undoubtedly American dreams and values.

REGARDING THE "ACCOMPLISHMENTS" OF THE 109TH CONGRESS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am so glad my colleagues on the other side of aisle feel that they can look the American people in the eye and say "we have done enough for you this session in Congress, we have earned a vacation. It is high time for us to adjourn."

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me translate what the Republicans are actually saying: "We choose rather to go on vacation then to attend to the needs of the American people."

It seems the Grand Old Party's leadership had a grand old time this year, deciding to recess after having spent the fewest number of days in session in our lifetime.

Pitifully, in comparison to the typical American worker who spends approximately 247 days a year laboring, Congressional members will have worked less than 100.

Mr. Speaker this is not simply a "do nothing Congress" as so many of my colleagues have said before me. This is just as much a "do nothing right Congress."

And the American people understand this reality all too well. Remarkably, a recent CBS

News/New York Times poll found 75 percent of voters can't name one thing Congress has accomplished this session.

Well my friends, I can't really either. Republican priorities rolled out this session were strictly those that helped them advance politically. They chose to fritter away scarce time debating frivolous proposed constitutional amendments banning flag burning and gay marriage instead of real issues Americans at home are concerned with.

As we end this session, Republican leadership has only passed 2 of the 11 required spending bills—quite a feat when you consider that both chambers of Congress are of the same party.

If this Congress were a school, students here would certainly receive an "F."

The list of their failures reads like a laundry list almost too long for me to recount right now:

In a gross display of negligence, Congress has failed to enact an annual budget this year.

Even though for nearly a decade the federal minimum wage has remained stagnant, Congress this year has again failed to negotiate a pay raise for working class Americans. And Congress also failed to negotiate deals on vital tax breaks for college tuition costs or research and development tax credits for businesses.

In response to the profusion of the Republican culture of corruption this year, Republicans have decided to do . . . zilch. Add Congressional failure to enact lobbying reform this year to the list.

Congress has failed to achieve health insurance reform and failed to finalize nuclear negotiations with India.

In response to sky high gas prices, increased signs of global warming and even President Bush's admission that America is far too reliant on foreign oil, Congress has failed to produce a real energy plan this session. Congress packs its bags to go, refusing to mandate higher levels of fuel efficiency standards or propose incentives for consumers or product makers to utilize alternative energy sources.

Congress leaves while nearly 12 million undocumented workers are hiding in the shadows of our society. After all the hype and rhetoric of passing an immigration bill, no true immigration reform has been realized this Congress.

Is the list of things left undone too lengthy, too repetitive, and too tiresome? Am I boring this Congress? There are still many more demonstrations of what little progress this Congress has made.

And what little has been done has been done badly! Important bills are being rushed through to secure a Republican majority in the next Congress. The latest example being the tyrannical anti-terror law, allowing Congress to reinterpret international law to authorize torture. A law that despite its name, nonetheless makes our troops less safe, leaves our Nation unprotected, and successfully damages our international credibility.

Of all the bills that have actually passed this Congress, how many of them have actually improved the lives of Americans?

What do have to show our constituents back home in our districts? An unstable economy, ridiculously high health care costs and gas prices, a loss in life abroad and a loss of our basic freedoms here at home.

More than 5 years after 9/11, numerous reports have shown that the war on Iraq is hurting our Nation in the war against terrorism. Our borders still remain exposed and our first responders still lack adequate resources to respond to either another 9/11 or another Katrina.

While we spend approximately \$2 billion a week on defense, Osama bin Laden is still alive and well, and Al Qaeda is resurging in Afghanistan stronger than ever before. Iraq is engulfed in sectarian violence and civil war and has become the breeding ground for a new generation of terrorists.

The war in Iraq has stretched our resources and troops thin, leaving us exposed to potential global terrorists and nuclear threats from nations such as Iran and North Korea.

Americans, I insist that you ask this question to yourself before you go to the ballot box this November:

What has the Republican Congress done for me these last 2 years? If you can not think of a single thing, you are not alone. Please think of a new Congress that would attend to your priorities here and overseas before you select your next elected official.

THE SECURE FENCE ACT OF 2006

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6061. This bill will not improve U.S. national security and will clearly not provide for meaningful immigration reform.

I voted against the construction of a fence spanning our entire southern border in December, when the House unfortunately passed H.R. 4437, the Border Security Act of 2005. It is disappointing that the Republican leadership has chosen to spend the time debating a provision that has already passed the House, rather than go to conference and pass comprehensive immigration reform that will protect American workers and secure our borders. This House should be addressing issues like raising the minimum wage, providing health care and quality education to every child in America, and ensuring that our State and local law enforcement agencies have the resources they need to keep our streets safe. Not rehashing a border fence provision that has already been voted on in the last 12 months.

Once again, I strongly believe that Congress needs to work to secure our borders and ensure the safety of our citizens. However, this bill is inadequate and clearly will not begin to address the complicated issues regarding immigration reform. Even the small effort authorized in this bill—a 700-mile fence along our southern border with Mexico—is not fully funded. Nor does this legislation contain the resources necessary to increase the number of border security agents. This is nothing other than an election year ploy to use a serious issue that affects workers, immigrants, and our communities as a scare tactic.

America deserves immigration reform that will work. The Republicans have had months to appoint a conference committee and work out the differences between the President's approach and the bills put forward by the