

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see this legislation come to the floor today that will extend critical tax credits for renewable energy while not adding to the Federal deficit.

The Production Tax Credit, PTC, in particular, has been instrumental in promoting the creation of a renewable energy industry. An extended PTC will provide more market certainty, and expanding the PTC to include solar, open-loop biomass, geothermal, and small irrigation power will ensure that all renewable energy sources can benefit. We must have an extension of this key tax credit before the current credit expires at the end of 2008, and this bill will extend it to the end of 2011.

The bill also authorizes \$2 billion of new clean renewable energy bonds, CREBS, for public power providers and electric cooperatives. This is a critical tool, especially for Colorado's rural co-ops and municipal utilities.

But this bill would also benefit families who want to invest in renewable energy. The bill would extend the credit for residential solar property for 6 years and increase the annual credit cap, currently capped at \$2,000, to \$4,000. And it would expand the definition to include residential small wind equipment and geothermal heat pumps so that consumers have more options.

Of course, the cheapest kilowatt of energy is the one you don't use, and energy efficiency also has a key role in addressing our energy needs. This bill will extend the tax credit for energy efficiency improvements to existing homes. It will also extend the energy efficient commercial buildings deduction for 5 years and the modification and extension of the energy efficient appliance credit for 3 years.

Rising gas prices are forcing many Coloradans to dip into their savings just to make ends meet. This bill will help families reduce their fuel bills by providing between \$4,000 and \$6,000 in tax credits toward the purchase of fuel-efficient, plug-in hybrid vehicles. It will also help address long-term fuel cost concerns by expanding production of homegrown fuels, including creating a new production tax credit for cellulosic ethanol produced from domestic, non-food feedstocks such as switchgrass, corn stover, sawdust, and paper pulp, as well as an extension of the tax credits for biodiesel and renewable diesel.

I supported the energy bill that the House passed last year, which included many of these important tax provisions. But, for the lack of just one more vote in the Senate, these provisions were not included in the final bill that the President signed into law.

I hope today we can move this bill forward and promote positive change that will benefit rural communities, save consumers money, reduce air pollution, and increase reliability and energy security.

I strongly encourage my colleagues in the House to vote for this needed legislation, and

also encourage quick action in the Senate so that we may move it to the President's desk.

A TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPEIAL CONVENTION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the United States Pharmacopeial Convention on the inauguration of its expanded headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. Since 1820, the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention has established standards for drugs, both manufactured and compounded, and more recently for foods, including dietary supplements and food ingredients. These standards are developed by hundreds of volunteer experts from all over the Nation and the world.

The U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention plays a vital role in our Nation's efforts to promote public standards and help ensure the integrity of our Nation's food and drug supply. The organization's standards are widely recognized in the United States and around the world because they are authoritative, science-based, and developed through a transparent and credible process with established integrity. For this the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention's work is recognized truly as the "standard of quality".

Since the 19th century, Congress has continually enacted laws that bring United States consumers the best, the most beneficial and the safest food and drugs in the world. These laws tie the Food and Drug Administration and the United States Pharmacopeial Convention together as premier public health bodies. They support the enterprising spirit of our Nation's citizens who have brought forth an abundance of life-saving drugs.

Recent incidents at home and abroad demonstrate the continued importance of protecting the public and ensuring our drugs and food are safe. The U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention deserves our thanks for its efforts to protect the health of our families. From the medicines that heal our Nation's people to the food that nourishes us, the organization is working to ensure our safety.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention and recognize it for its commitment to public health. It is with great pride that I congratulate the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention for its work over 188 years and encourage its volunteers in continuing their exemplary standards-setting activities in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING ANNA NOVIKOVA FOR HER SERVICE AS A CONGRESSIONAL PAGE

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anna Novikova, a young woman

from Illinois' Eighth District who I was proud to sponsor as a Congressional Page for the 2007 fall session.

Anna, who currently lives with her family in Palatine, Illinois, stands as an example of what can be accomplished through a combination of hard work, enthusiasm, and determination.

Born in Russia as the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Anna immigrated to America at age 5. Since that time she has taken full advantage of the myriad opportunities available to those of us who are lucky enough to come of age in America. She has excelled academically, mastering the English language at an early age, participating in her primary school's Gifted Child program, and winning the prestigious American Legion Award for writing.

At Palatine High School, she participates in the Foreign Language Honor Society and placed as top sophomore in the Illinois Math League contest. In addition to these intellectual accomplishments, Anna is a talented pianist, a member of her school's choir and newspaper, and a dedicated athlete, running on the varsity cross country and track teams. Appropriately, she was nominated to Palatine High School's A-Team for achieving excellence in Athletics, Activities, Arts and Attitude.

When Anna applied to come to the House of Representatives as a page, she told me that she wanted to do so not only because of the unique opportunity to take part in our democratic process, but also in order to give back to her country. She certainly held up her part of the bargain, serving honorably as a Congressional Page while excelling within the academic curriculum at the Page School.

At the Page Departure Ceremony at the end of her term, Anna received awards that demonstrate two of her most apparent attributes: intelligence and dedication. She was honored for her performance in the classroom—particularly her expertise in economics—with the Ronald Weitzel Award, which is awarded to one page each term who demonstrates excellence in social studies. She was also recognized as having perfect attendance this semester at the Page School.

At the close of her term as a page, Anna said that the firsthand view of Congress has not disillusioned her about our political process. Rather, she feels incredibly lucky to have spent her days on the floor of the House of Representatives, heard our impassioned debates over SCHIP in person, and been present when the Dalai Lama addressed Congress. She came to Washington interested in trade, immigration, and gay rights, and is leaving passionate about the same issues but with more nuanced views on them.

Anna said while she has loved her time as a Congressional Page, she is also excited to return to Illinois to resume her extracurriculars that benefit others, including leading her school's chapter of Students for Obama in an effort to engage her fellow students in the political process. In the future, she plans to work in the public sector either as a diplomat or in some aspect of domestic politics.

Upon completing her term as a Congressional Page, Anna added another impressive accomplishment to her record. Just as importantly, she did so while maintaining something that many Americans often take for granted—optimism, hope, and belief in the potential of our democratic system.