

Many machinations have followed, in that tortured, slow, legal sort of way. "I want to get back to federal law enforcement," said MacLean, 39, who says he has applied at a dozen local police departments, but remains jobless. "I want to go back to serving as if I had never blown the whistle before."

MacLean was a Border Patrol agent in San Clemente for six years, and a federal air marshal for four years. He has a wife and two daughters, 5 and 7. They've moved in with his parents. These days he spends time tracking the fits and starts of whistleblower-protection legislation that seems to come up every year, and die every year.

THIS TIME, MORE HOPE

Last week, a letter signed by seven congressmen and women went to President Obama, urging him to swift action on the issue of whistleblower protection for federal employees.

"Whistleblowers are our nation's best resource against fraud and abuse of the public trust," the letter says. "Legal victories for employees who have been retaliated against for blowing the whistle are almost nonexistent. We encourage you to support congressional efforts to reform the inadequate system of whistleblower protections, such as H.R. 1507. . . . In addition to these forward-looking reforms, we encourage you to take action to restore the careers of employees who were wrongly terminated or marginalized by previous administrations after blowing the whistle."

And other lawmakers are getting on board as well. There have been meetings at the White House. MacLean's documents live on the Project on Government Oversight's web site. He has his own page on Wikipedia. Officials did not rush to get back to us to discuss his case; but he has made appearances on many news programs and is not shy about pressing the righteousness of his position.

He hopes for a resolution soon.

CONGRATULATING PORTAGE NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC TEAM

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Portage Northern High School Forensic Team on its eighth consecutive state championship at the Michigan Inter-scholastic Forensic Association state finals.

Portage Northern's forensic program, led by Coach Laurel Scheidt, has a rich 44 year history with 11 state titles to its name. The team had a successful 2009 season with first-place finishes at every invitational and an excellent performance at both the district and regional competitions. At this year's state competition over 80 schools and 800 students participated. The Northern team dominated the Class A division, qualifying the maximum 28 entries to the tournament with 45 students. Northern collected a record 1,066 sweepstake points defeating second place finisher Birmingham Seaholm High School by over 330 points.

It is an honor to congratulate the entire 2009 Portage Northern Forensic Team and pay special tribute to first-place finishers Andrew Beckner, Spencer Dudd, John Kramer, Kasey McSoley, Brennan Mange, Bryce Maurer, Nich Mueller, Nathan Novaria, Brady O'Brien, Caitlin Utt, Allyson Williams and Amanda Willoughby.

On behalf of all residents of southwest Michigan, congratulations again to the Portage Northern Forensic Team, Coach Laurel Scheidt and the entire Portage Community—you are an inspiration to us all. Go Huskies!

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding the earmark I received as part of "H.R. 3082—Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2010."

Title of Project: T-9 Noise Suppressor Support

Amount of Project: \$5,100,000

Account: Air Force, Military Construction

Project Recipient: Tinker Air Force Base 3001 Staff Drive, Tinker AFB, OK 73145

At my request, \$5,100,000 was included in H.R. 3082, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2010, to fund the construction of foundations and supporting facilities for two T-9 noise suppression systems at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. This project would consist of the construction of reinforced concrete footings and slabs capable of supporting T-9 style engine testing facilities, a 20,000 gallon jet engine fuel storage and delivery system, utilities, access driveways, and a small office/restroom/break facility. Current engine test facilities are aging and unable to support the current test mission.

With the completion of the new Tinker Aerospace Complex (TAC) and the transfer of engine maintenance to this facility, construction of these test cells near the TAC will allow contiguous support of military jet engine repair, decrease maintenance downtime, and associated cost. This will allow the 76th Maintenance Wing and the 76th Propulsion Maintenance Group the capabilities to meet its mission of delivering engines on time and on cost and position Tinker AFB for increased mission capabilities in the future.

INTRODUCING THE UNITED STATES OPTIMAL USE OF TRADE TO DEVELOP OUTERWEAR AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, more than 75 percent of Americans participate in active outdoor recreation each year, experiencing America's wild lands and outdoor spaces in ways large and small. In recognition of this group, I am introducing the "United States Optimal Use of Trade to Develop Outerwear and Outdoor Recreation Act" or the "U.S. OUTDOOR Act". This legislation will reduce the high tariffs on outdoor apparel and will invest in research to shrink the environmental footprint of the American textile industry while increasing its international competitiveness.

According to recent surveys, roughly 33 million Americans went fishing last year and 56 million went hiking. Through healthy outdoor activities like bird watching, ice climbing, hiking, and bass fishing, outdoor recreation contributes \$730 billion and 6.5 million jobs to the U.S. economy.

Unfortunately, recreational performance outerwear—jackets and pants used for skiing and snowboarding, mountaineering, hunting, fishing and dozens of other outdoor activities—is assessed some of the highest duty rates applied to any products imported into the United States. While the average duty on imports is less than 2 percent, the rates on recreational performance outerwear average 17 percent, with some as high as 28 percent.

These disproportionately high tariffs were originally implemented to protect U.S. manufacturers from foreign competition, but now no longer serve that purpose. Instead, they stifle innovation and raise costs throughout our economy. In a recent report, the U.S. International Trade Commission recently found that there was no commercially viable production of recreational performance outerwear in the United States.

To better reflect this economic reality, the U.S. OUTDOOR Act will establish new tariff classifications for these products and will eliminate the disproportionately high tariffs assessed on them.

The legislation will also establish the Sustainable Textile and Apparel Research (STAR) Fund. Access to STAR Fund grants will be made available to certain non-profit organizations through a competitive process, with the overarching purpose of advancing U.S. competitiveness in lean manufacturing technologies and supply chain analysis. The STAR Fund will ultimately help the global textile and apparel industry in minimizing energy and water use, reducing waste and carbon emissions and incorporating sustainable practices into a product's entire life cycle.

Through these mechanisms, this legislation will support the outdoor industry, consumers of outdoor products, and environmental practices throughout the textile industry supply chain. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Fiscal Year 2010 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. I'd like to thank Chairwoman LOWEY and Ranking Member GRANGER for their hard work on this bill and take a moment to explain the need for this important piece of legislation.

This bill improves America's leadership in the fight against global poverty and disease. As Congress continues to debate the efficacy of our foreign aid against the backdrop of a post-9/11 world, many Americans do not make the connection between national security and development.