

Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the ``Military Range Legacy Act of 2006." This bill strengthens military base clean-up programs through the use and development of new technologies, better programmatic organization, and a greater attention to the needs of the communities impacted by base closures.

I am proud that the United States has the best trained military in the world. Yet, as a result of this training, over 3,000 sites on former military ranges are contaminated with unexploded ordnance, UXO discarded military munitions, and munitions constituents. These sites, littered with still-dangerous explosives and harmful contaminants, pose health and safety risks to our communities while preventing the redevelopment of closed bases and limiting opportunities for job creation and economic growth. By passing the Military Range Legacy Act or including provisions of it in the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act and providing the necessary funding, we can achieve real progress towards making our former defense communities safer, healthier, and more economically secure.