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RECOGNIZING HARBOR TECHNOLOGIES

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, as we emerge from this lengthy recession, companies small and large are seeking to grow their businesses and become increasingly more innovative. Many are seeking to be leaders in some of the world's foremost emerging technologies. I wish to recognize a small firm in my home State of Maine that has been at the cutting edge of the composites industry since its founding 6 years ago, positioning itself well for continued future success.

Harbor Technologies, located in Brunswick, was founded during the summer of 2003 to fill the demand for environmentally friendly composite building products used for marine infrastructure. In particular, Harbor Technologies' composites are utilized in the manufacturing of docks, piers, marinas, sea walls, pilings, and other similar structures. Additionally, Harbor Technologies is using its composites to build bridge beams as an alternative to heavy steel. As we seek to improve and upgrade our Nation's roads and bridges, Harbor Technologies' distinctive fiberglass bridge beams should be at the forefront.

What makes composites so unique is its durability. While steel rusts and wood is subject to rotting, composites last longer and are easily maintained, leading to huge cost savings for both the supplier and the purchaser. Composites are also lightweight and compact; a large composite beam weighs 4,000 pounds, while similar concrete beams weigh 63,000 pounds. This allows Harbor Technologies to save on shipping costs, and reduce its carbon footprint in the process.

Just last year, Harbor Technologies tripled the size of its manufacturing space to 30,000 square feet, and added state-of-the-art pultrusion machinery to produce pilings of any length. This has allowed the company to take on considerable new work and hire additional employees, even during these difficult economic times.

Significantly, Harbor Technologies has played a critical role in developing an advanced composites cluster in the Maine midcoast region. Additionally, Harbor Technologies' president Martin Grimnes, is the founder of the Maine Composites Alliance, an organization that seeks to promote the State's leadership in several composites industries, including marine, aerospace, and automotive. Clusters, which are geographic concentrations of companies and organizations that collaborate to create specific products, represent proven tools in our Nation's innovation agenda, and Mr. Grimnes is to be commended for his steadfast determination to advance their effectiveness and utilization throughout Maine.

As a national leader in the composites industry, Harbor Technologies has made a name for itself as a reliable and trustworthy company that produces innovative, cost-effective, and environmentally sound products. And it is small businesses like Harbor Technologies that represent the brightest lights for our economy's future. I congratulate president Martin Grimnes and everyone at Harbor Technologies on their outstanding work and wish them continued success.