

(November 13, 2006) Honoring Tom Benson on Receiving the Piper Award for Excellence in Business

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2006

- Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tom Benson, recipient of the 2006 Charles E. Piper Award for exceptional business achievement. Mr. Benson is currently the owner of the World's Largest Laundromat in Berwyn, IL and also serves as president of the Berwyn Development Corporation. His outstanding leadership, receiving both local and national acclamation, has greatly impacted the local community and its businesses.

- Since 1999, Benson has owned the World's Largest Laundromat--a business that is technologically innovative and community centered. After a devastating fire in 2004, he rebuilt the facility and powered it with state-of-the-art solar energy, which significantly saves financial and energy resources. The World's Largest Laundromat is as an exceptional model of a cost-effective, energy conserving business--the best of both worlds.

- Tom Benson's resourcefulness and visionary outlook extends to the social atmosphere of his laundromat as well. Aside from a spacious interior and 15 flat-screen TVs, the facility offers free wireless access, free pizza on Wednesday nights, and hosts many special events. Additionally, the World's Largest Laundromat has a reputation for promoting community programs that encourage education. One program, Read to Ride, awards bikes to children who read books during the summer.

- On November 4, 2006, Benson was presented with the Charles E. Piper Award for his efforts and positive influence on the Berwyn business community. It is my privilege and pleasure to congratulate Mr. Benson on this award and acknowledge his contributions to the community. His unique approach, dedication, and determination serve as an inspiration to the business community, as well as all citizens.