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HONORING OMI, WINNER OF THE MALCOLM BALDRIGE AWARD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

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Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate, Operations Management International, Inc., one of the 2000 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award winners. President Clinton presented the Malcolm Baldrige award to OMI. The award, first presented in 1988, recognizes US companies for business performance excellence and competitive improvement. It is the highest-level quality award given in the U.S.

The Baldrige Award evaluates organizations on seven performance excellence criteria: leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, information and analysis and human resource focus. This award recognizes organizations that play a major role in energizing our nation's economy and quality of life. OMI uses these criteria as a cornerstone for its "Obsessed With Quality" process. OMI is an employee-owned global leader in the management of water, wastewater and utility systems.

This is the first time that a water treatment company has won the Baldrige Award. OMI operates and maintains more than 160 public and private sector wastewater and water treatment facilities in 29 states and eight countries. Their primary services are processing raw wastewater to produce clean, environmentally safe effluent and processing raw groundwater and surface water to produce clean, safe drinking water.

"OMI began its quality journey in 1990 when we initiated our 'Obsessed with Quality' process. Winning the Baldrige Award demonstrates how our quality process continues to positively affect the millions of lives our people touch ..... My thanks to all OMI associates for a job well done," said OMI President Don S. Evans.

Mr. Speaker, OMI is helping our economy grow and is setting an example for other businesses to follow. I want to thank them and congratulate them for their continued success.