

Washington, D.C., as well as the surrounding areas. The program allows participants to make friends with young leaders from all over the world with a focus on leadership development. At the end of the program, participants receive a certificate of completion.

Alexander is a student at West Springfield High school in Springfield, Virginia. He has been active in his school and community on issues regarding agriculture and environment. It is inspiring to see young people who are interested in educational and developmental experiences such as these.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable achievement by Alexander Hornaday and wishing him continued success in his further pursuits.

PTO LETTER

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, a fellow southern Californian recently was featured in the LA Times with respect to an issue involving one of his patents ("Defending patents takes financial toll on inventor," LA Times, June 14, 2011). In addition, this week, a letter to the editor from former Senator Birch Bayh appeared in the Congress Blog from Hill.com and referenced a letter that the former Senator recently received from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) about the very same issue.

While I am not weighing in on the merits of this particular case, the underlying issue involved should be of great concern. Therefore, I am submitting the aforementioned PTO letter.

UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE,
Alexandria, VA, June 3, 2011.

Hon. BIRCH BAYH,
Venable LLP,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. BAYH: Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of Lawrence Lockwood. The letter indicates that Mr. Lockwood filed a petition for writ of certiorari in the United States Supreme Court seeking review of the Federal Circuit's decision affirming the trial court's holding that state tort claims by patent holders against persons who file sham reexamination requests are preempted by Federal patent law. The letter asks the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to confirm that there are no procedures permitting a damages remedy for patent owners subjected to sham reexamination requests, and to state whether it sees a problem with patent owners pursuing state tort claims for such damages.

The USPTO can confirm that it does not have a procedure that offers a damages remedy for patent owners in Mr. Lockwood's position. As to your request for the USPTO's support of Mr. Lockwood's case, please understand that the USPTO cannot participate in the case without the Solicitor General, who rarely files uninvited amicus briefs at the cert stage. Moreover, any amicus brief would be due very shortly at this point, given that Mr. Lockwood has already filed his petition.

Please know that the USPTO is sympathetic to the concerns of patent owners. The agency is particularly concerned whenever a patent owner is subjected to a fraudulent re-

examination or some other form of harassment. Thus, the USPTO will be monitoring Mr. Lockwood's certiorari petition closely. At the same time, we note that the USPTO has the power to police misconduct through its Office of Enrollment and Discipline (OED). Anyone with knowledge of unethical conduct can report it to OED for investigation.

Sincerely,

DAVID J. KAPPOS,
Under Secretary and Director.

RECOGNIZING MARC SCARBROUGH OF WOODBRIDGE, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Marc Scarbrough of Woodbridge, Va., for his participation in the People to People World Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

People to People offers young leaders the opportunity to grow educationally while exposing them to new cultures. Founded in 1956 under the auspices of the Eisenhower Administration, People to People has continuously enjoyed Presidential support for its mission of instilling our nation's next generation of leaders with the international experience they will need to succeed in an increasingly global society and economy.

Marc's acceptance to the program is no small accomplishment. Academically selective, the program is built for the brightest students in the nation. From June 30–July 6, Marc participated in numerous educational activities in the Washington, D.C., area, all of which were focused on leadership development. Marc and his fellow participants gained access to areas of American government rarely seen at such a young age, and that experience will serve him well in his studies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Marc Scarbrough and wishing him continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS CALLAHAN FAMILY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my good friend and senior legislative assistant Paul Callahan and his wife Jenni on the birth of their daughter Penelope Joy Callahan. Penelope was born on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, in Alexandria, Virginia. She is welcomed home by her sister, Charlotte, and brother, Judah.

Penelope Joy Callahan is nine pounds and three ounces and 22½ inches of pride and joy to her loving grandparents, Gerald T. and Madonna Callahan of Taylors, South Carolina, and Steve and Pam Crowe of Taylors, South Carolina.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Callahan family and wish them all the best.

ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS EXPOSURE ELIMINATION ACT OF 2011

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, for decades our sons and daughters have been exposed to a chemical stew in water, food, fragrances, personal care products, children's toys, and household items. Unfortunately we do not know if this chemical stew is safe for pregnant mothers, their unborn babies, young children, or for that matter, anyone else. That is why I'm pleased today, along with Mr. MAURICE HINCHEY, Mr. GERRY CONNOLLY, Ms. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Ms. LAURA RICHARDSON, Mr. RAÚL GRIJALVA, Ms. JAN SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NITA LOWEY, Mr. BOBBY RUSH, Mrs. LOIS CAPPS, Mr. JAMES MCGOVERN, and Mr. DAVID PRICE, to introduce the "Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals Exposure Elimination Act of 2011." This bill is of enormous importance because it will arm us all with the information that we need to keep our families safe from these potentially harmful chemicals.

There are numerous alarming studies showing increasing disease rates unheard of generations before. Asthma rates have nearly tripled in the past three decades. The United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported this year that one of every six American children has a developmental disorder such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia, and mental retardation. A recent study from Korea shows that 4 percent of children have autism spectrum disorder—that is one in every 25 children!

Just this week an extensive University of Michigan study confirmed the correlation of phthalates and bisphenol A (BPA) to thyroid disruption. Thyroid hormones play a vital role in many human physiological processes including fetal and child growth and brain development, as well as energy balance, metabolism, and other functions in the nervous, cardiovascular, pulmonary, and reproductive systems of children and adults. The study confirmed previous reports associating phthalates and BPA with altered thyroid hormones.

Phthalates and BPA are high-production chemicals commonly used in plastics and other applications, including fragrances in perfumes, children's toys, and body-care products. Exposure to these chemicals among Americans is widespread, according to the CDC. Recent studies show a decline in brain development related to phthalates and BPA exposure. Chemically-induced altered thyroid function may also be involved in increased waist circumference, insulin resistance, and diabetes among adults.

Cancer, after accidents, is the leading cause of death among children in the United States. Primary brain cancer increased by nearly 40 percent and leukemia increased by over 60 percent among children 14 years and younger in the last 30 years. Childhood obesity has quadrupled in the past 10 years. Type-2 diabetes has increased drastically. There is an increase in sexual abnormalities, particularly in newborn boys. An analysis of the umbilical cords of a test group of newborns found over 200 chemicals in the blood—chemicals to

which the mother had unwittingly transmitted to her fetus.

But these problems do not end with children. These chemically-induced changes linger into adulthood. Forty-one percent of Americans will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives, and about 21 percent will die from that cancer. When we look at these trends, it becomes glaringly obvious that something in our environment is making us sick.

There is mounting evidence suggesting that these alarming public health trends are the result of chemicals in the environment that disrupt the endocrine system. Small amounts of these chemicals, or mixes of these chemicals, it has been shown, can have a huge impact on our health and ultimately American healthcare costs. As a result, health groups including the Endocrine Society, The Endocrine Exchange, and renowned scientific authorities like Dr. Fred S. vom Saal have all endorsed this bill.

The Endocrine Society, the world's oldest and largest professional organization devoted to endocrine research, found that "endocrine disruptors have effects on male and female reproduction, breast development and cancer, prostate cancer, neuroendocrinology, thyroid, metabolism and obesity, and cardiovascular endocrinology." Based upon these findings they recommended that we increase "basic and clinical research."

In addition to these troubling human diseases, we're also seeing chemically-induced changes in wildlife. In parts of the Potomac River, 100 percent of the studied male small mouth bass are intersex—meaning that they are carrying both male and female reproductive organs. We are eating these fish and we are drinking the water that they swim in. Because of this, Trout Unlimited, one of the largest fisheries conservation organizations in the country, also endorsed this bill. As I said years ago when intersex fish were first reported, this discovery should serve as our early warning telling us that something is gravely wrong.

Close to 14 years ago, Congress enacted legislation requiring the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish an Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program. To date that endeavor has focused primarily on pesticides, to the exclusion of other chemicals. The agency has been hamstrung by its use of old science and interference by the chemical industry.

This bill will facilitate increased study and regulation of endocrine disrupting chemicals. It will require that the government focus on the chemicals of most concern, to which people are exposed through drinking water, food, household items, toys, and personal care products. It will empower federal agencies with jurisdiction to consider a range of peer-reviewed scientific sources of information on toxicity, and to act quickly in regulating substances found harmful to human health.

Finally, for those chemicals that scientists overwhelmingly agree are the most hazardous, the bill will restrict them only to uses that ensure they cannot get into human bodies. Twenty-four months after scientists find that a chemical is an endocrine disruptor, that chemical will be banned unless the industry using that chemical can ensure that it will not enter our food, our water, or our bodies.

It is time to take action. It is time we increase research on these chemical impacts. And it is time for the most dangerous chemi-

cals to be controlled. The Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals Exposure Elimination Act of 2011 will do just that.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA LAYOG OF MONTCLAIR, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Joshua Layog of Montclair, Virginia, for his participation in the People to People World Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

People to People offers young leaders the opportunity to grow educationally while exposing them to new cultures. Founded in 1956 under the auspices of the Eisenhower Administration, People to People has continuously enjoyed Presidential support for its mission of instilling our nation's next generation of leaders with the international experience they will need to succeed in an increasingly global society and economy.

Joshua's acceptance to the program is no small accomplishment. Academically selective, the program is built for the brightest students in the nation. From June 20–24, Joshua participated in numerous educational activities in the Washington, D.C., area, all of which were focused on leadership development. Joshua and his fellow participants gained access to areas of American government rarely seen at such a young age, and that experience will serve him well in his studies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Joshua Layog and wishing him continued success in the future.

HONORING JIMMY SMITH FOR HIS SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTH COAST INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jimmy Smith, chairman of the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (NCIRWMP) Policy Review Panel for 7 years, honoring his dedication to, and his achievements toward, healthy North Coast communities and ecosystems.

Mr. Smith has become known for his inclusiveness, diplomacy, and transparent leadership style through his work on the Policy Review Panel. He played a critical role in shepherding the North Coast through its first project prioritization process, helping the panel make difficult policy decisions to reduce the NCIRWMP's priority funding list from \$50 to \$25 million.

Mr. Smith led the panel through the unanimous adoption by the region's seven county Boards of Supervisors of the first and second phases of NCIRWMP. His leadership was instrumental in securing more than 70 signatories to the NCIRWMP Memorandum of Mutual Understanding.

Mr. Smith hosted the NCIRWMP's first Integrated Regional Water Management Conference, bringing more than 250 attendees to the North Coast region, representing over 50 entities comprised of local governments, tribes, legislators, agencies, watershed groups, providing a greater awareness of water management issues, watershed functions and future policy and funding opportunities.

Mr. Smith's oversight of the NCIRWMP top ranked proposals has brought more than \$41 million to the North Coast. He worked for months on behalf of the entire North Coast community during the 2008 California "bond freeze" to minimize economic impact on disadvantaged communities and to ensure that the North Coast's priority infrastructure and environmental projects were able to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize my friend Jimmy Smith for his dedication and contributions to the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and dedication to our community.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Land Conservancy of New Jersey, located in Morris County, New Jersey, in celebration of thirty years of successful land preservation.

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey was founded on July 30, 1981 by Russell W. Meyers, with the goal to preserve land and water resources, conserve open space, inspire and empower individuals and communities and to protect natural land and environment. The Conservancy has worked with 58 municipalities in 11 counties, impacting over half of New Jersey's counties, and benefiting millions of residents throughout the state. The Conservancy has established an Aresty Mapping Center to produce professional, computer generated maps used throughout the state to target open space lands for preservation.

Concerned with preserving open space and protecting New Jersey's drinking water and other natural resources, the Conservancy helped to pass the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act and the Highlands Stewardship Act in 2004.

The Conservancy has won several awards over the past 30 years, including the Take Pride in America National Award, given by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 2005. This award recognizes volunteer projects for youth organizations, corporations, and public/private partnerships among other categories.

In 2010 alone, the organization completed 27 projects and preserved over 1,364 acres of land. The Conservancy's devoted staff has worked closely with state and local government officials and agencies to make these projects possible.

This year their goal has been to preserve another 25 properties and 1,500 additional acres.