Mr. Speaker, this is a fundamental problem with our Nation's environmental laws and one reason why Americans overwhelmingly voted for reform of our environmental laws through their endorsement of the Contract with America. Two key provisions in the Republican reform package are cost benefit analysis and regulatory reform. We have seen with the superfund, clean water, pesticide, and clean air regulations a lack of consideration for cost in relation to benefit. For example, as I mentioned above Harrisburg and Lancaster, PA, have met national ambient air quality standards for 3 consecutive years. Nevertheless, these regions must comply with burdensome regulatory requirements to centralize automobile emissions inspections costing thousands of jobs across the Nation and adding Government cost and bureaucracy to the lives of many Americans. My bill is designed to ease the regulatory requirements of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments and to direct the EPA to reassess its determination with respect to the centralized program and issue new regulations governing the program.

Mr. Speaker, we all support sensible environmental laws and cherish the natural and wonderful resources of this Earth. However, when the Government spends billions of taxpayer dollars on meaningless regulations which do little to improve the health of citizens we must take the necessary action to reform these laws. I ask my colleagues to mark this historic first day of the 104th Congress by cosponsoring this legislation and begin the process of regulatory reform.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOBBYING DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1995

HON. JOHN BRYANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, a bill to reform the lobby disclosure laws and to ban lobbyists' gifts to Members of Congress.

This bill is identical to the legislation that the House of Representatives passed on September 29, 1994, by a vote of 306 to 122.

The American people need to know whether this Congress will put an end to the perception that the Congress is captivated by special interests who shower Members with gifts to win their favor.

This bill would permanently bar lobbyists from gaining access to Members of Congress by picking up their tabs for meals and entertainment and it would end subsidies for what are essentially private vacation trips.

It would also ensure that our constituents know how much is being spent to influence the decisions that we are sent here to make on their behalf by closing loopholes in existing lobby disclosure laws.

As my colleagues know, Republicans sought to block consideration of this bill last year and succeeded in killing it with a filibuster in the Senate.

But the issue of how private interests seek to influence this body can not be ignored.

I urge the Congress to pass this legislation and help to restore the confidence of the American people in this institution.

LEGISLATION PERMITTING EXPORT OF ALASKA'S NORTH SLOPE CRUDE OIL

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise to join my colleagues, Mr. THOMAS and Mr. DOOLEY, in introducing H.R. 70, legislation to permit the export of Alaska's North Slope crude oil.

For too long, the State of Alaska has been denied the opportunity to export this valuable resource. I look forward to working with the administration to move this bipartisan legislation to create jobs, to preserve a vital element of our domestic merchant marine, to raise State and Federal revenues, and to spur domestic energy production.

To put this proposed legislation in perspective, I think it would be helpful to explain the origins of current law. The export restrictions were first enacted in 1973 during the Arab-Israeli war and the first Arab oil boycott. Following the second major oil shock in 1979, the restrictions were further tightened, effectively imposing a ban on exports. Much has changed since then.

Over half of our imports now come from the Western Hemisphere and Europe. We are less dependent on the Middle East and Africa, but have shifted our purchases from Iran, Iraq, and Libya to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Today, U.S. oil supplies are ample and are more diversified. In addition, international sharing agreements are in place and the United States has filled a Strategic Petroleum Reserve with 600 million barrels of crude oil. In short, our Nation is not as vulnerable to the supply threats that motivated Congress to act in the 1970's.

While we have taken the steps necessary to reduce our vulnerability to others, we have not done enough to encourage domestic energy production. In fact, production on the North Slope has now entered a period of decline. In California, small independent producers have been forced to abandon wells or defer further investments. By precluding the market from operating normally, the export ban has had the unintended effect of discouraging further energy production. This legislation is designed to change that situation.

This proposed legislation would require the use of U.S.-flag vessels. Prior proposals would have permitted exports on foreign-flag vessels. Those bills never prospered, in part because they were opposed by the independent U.S.-flag tanker fleet that was built at considerable expense to move the crude oil to market. We have now forged common ground with the maritime industry. Our bill will help preserve this vital element of our merchant marine.

In June 1994, the Department of Energy issued a comprehensive report that concluded Alaskan oil exports would boost production in Alaska and California by 100,000 to 110,000 barrels per day by the end of the century. The sooner we change current law, the sooner we can spur additional energy production and create jobs on the west coast and in Alaska. In fact, Energy Secretary, Hazel O'Leary is reported as saying in today's Journal of Commerce, which I would like to submit for the RECORD, ''I have been strongly in favor of lifting that ban since I have been back in Government. You will see us carrying the initiative and supporting the lifting of the ban.'' I look forward to working with Secretary O'Leary and administration toward that end.

Mr. Speaker, as we enter a new era in the House, we have an opportunity to enact bipartisan legislation that will create jobs, help preserve our merchant marine, spur energy production, and raise State and Federal revenues. I urge my colleagues to work with me to enact this vital legislation as quickly as possible to achieve these objectives and to enhance our energy security.

[From the Journal of Commerce, Jan. 4, 1995]

O'LEARY PLANS PUSH TO END EXPORT BAN ON ALASKAN OIL

WASHINGTON.—U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary said she plans to push this year to repeal the ban on exports of Alaskan North Slope oil.

Mrs. O'Leary also said she believed a broad coalition supporting the ban's repeal was forming late in the last congressional session.

''I have been strongly in favor of lifting that ban since I have been back in government,'' Mrs. O'Leary said. ''You will see us carrying the initiative and supporting the lifting of the ban'' in 1995, she said.

Deputy Energy Secretary Bill White has said the department will work on legislation to lift the 20-year-old law that keeps Alaskan North Slope oil from Pacific Rim markets.

Efforts by Alaska's congressional delegation to repeal the ban died late in the last session.

President Clinton also has indicated he supports the concept of repealing the ban, but that the administration was weighing the issue.

According to an Energy Department study, allowing the oil exports would generate jobs and revenue.

But some West Coast lawmakers opposed lifting the ban, partly fearing higher gasoline prices as less Alaskan oil would move to domestic ports.

Labor groups also have opposed lifting the ban because the oil would no longer be forced onto U.S.-flagged vessels, but could be carried on international vessels to overseas ports.

There have been proposals to require that the exported oil still be carried on U.S.-flagged vessels, but that could raise international trade problems, U.S. officials have said.

A QUESTION OF MURDER

HON. RANDY ''DUKE'' CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to call my colleagues' attention to a recent commentary from the News Reporter of San Marcos in the 51st District of California.

My constituent, D.J. Skinner Ross of San Marcos, raises some interesting questions about the recent tragic double murder of the Smith children in South Carolina. I urge my colleagues to read ''A Question of Murder,'' as it offers a unique perspective on this sad case and on the larger issue of ethics in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I commend ''A Question of Murder'' to the House and ask that it be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this point.

A QUESTION OF MURDER

I'm a little confused regarding some people's stand on murder; specifically the murder of defenseless children.

The nation, perhaps the world, is horrified and incensed over the killing of the little Smith boys. To learn that the killer was their own mother was almost more than all of us could bear. Many were, and still are, threatening to murder her!

Here is where I'm confused: (1) Where are the ''Women's Rights'' groups? (2) Where are the ''Freedom of Choice'' groups? (3) Where is the politically powerful ''ACLU''?

Mrs. Smith could use your support during the terrifying, lonely time in her life. Mrs. Smith could use some of the ACLU's legal backing.

After all, her side of the story is not different now than it would have been five years and seven or eight months ago—or even as recently as nineteen or twenty months ago: these babies were interfering with the life style she wished to follow. They were a nuisance. They were fathered by a man she didn't love. (A little like ''rape'', don't you agree?)

So I ask all the ''Rights'' groups, ''Where are you now?''

Before these little boys were given names and toys and birthday parties, you would have pounded your fists on your podiums and shouted obscenities at anyone who would dare to say she did not have the ''right'' to take their ''right to live'' away from them.

Where is your courage to defend her now? Nothing has really changed. Those little boys hearts were beating in their mother's womb every bit as strongly as they were in the cold ''womb'' of that car's back seat. Their cries for help would have been as soundless in her womb as they were in that sinking car.

The only difference between this murder and the murder of abortion is the sweet defenseless babies killed in the mothers womb drown in the amnionic fluid. These sweet, defenseless little boys drowned in the fluid of a cold, murky lake.

So I ask, ''In cases such as these, exactly whose ''Rights'' have been wronged?

DANIEL NELSON, VETERAN TEACHER EARNS IMPORTANT SCIENCE AWARD

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, right after the election I heard some great news about a gifted teacher in our 22d Congressional District, and I looked forward to this opening day of the 104th Congress to share it with you.

Daniel A. Nelson, technology teacher in the Shenendehowa Central School District, was named Environmental Science Teacher of the Year by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

The award is really no surprise to many of Mr. Nelson's former students, many of whom have gone on to distinguished engineering or science careers. Not is it a surprise to anyone else who knows him that he was quick to share the glory, indeed, to bestow it all, on his students. Dan Nelson has been a selfless, dedicated teacher at Shenendehowa for 26 years, and he's one of the reasons the school is recognized as one of the best in the Northeast.

Those of us who struggled through science courses in high school can appreciate a teacher who makes science courses come alive. That' what Dan Nelson has been doing for a long time, and that's why he is such a deserving recipient of this major award.

He has found a way to get students to apply their math and science skills in a hand-on manner, and to solve problems in a creative way. Many of his students have won State awards for projects assisted and inspired by Mr. Nelson.

Mr. Speaker, let us today add our own tribute to this remarkable teacher, Daniel A. Nelson of the Shenedehowa Central School District.

THE VOTING RIGHTS OF HOMELESS CITIZENS ACT OF 1995

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as the 104th Congress convenes today, I am pleased to introduce the Voting Rights of Homeless Citizens Act of 1995. The purpose of this legislation is to enable the homeless, who are citizens of this country, to vote. This bill would remove the legal and administrative barriers that inhibit them from exercising that right. No one should be excluded from registering to vote simply because they don't have a home. But in many States, the homeless are left out. That is not right. That is not fair. That is not the way of this country.

During this century, we have removed major obstacles that prevented many of our citizens from voting. Not too long ago, people had to pay a poll tax or own property to vote. Women and minorities were prohibited from casting the ballot.

Before the civil rights movement, there were areas in the South where 50 to 80 percent of the population was black. Yet, there was not a single registered black voter. In 1964, three young men in rural Mississippi gave their lives while working to register people to vote. Many people shedded blood and many died to secure voting rights protection for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is very fitting to introduce this bill today because 30 years ago today, on January 4, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson proposed that we ''eliminate every remaining obstacle to the right and opportunity to vote.'' Eight months later, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law, making it possible for millions of Americans to enter the political process.

Our Nation has made progress. But we still have a long way to go to make sure that every citizen is properly represented on Capitol Hill, in the State house, on the city council and on the county commission. I have dedicated my life to ensuring that every American is treated equally and that everyone has the right to register and vote. I ask my colleagues to join me in opening the political process to every American, even those without a home. I urge my colleagues in the House to join with me in cosponsoring and supporting passage of the Voting Rights of Homeless Citizens Act of 1995.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will help to significantly improve the standard of health care provided for our nation's veterans, specifically those residing in South Texas.

This bill authorizes the establishment of a new veterans' medical facility in South Texas. Under the provisions of the bill, the Administrator of the Veterans' Administration (VA) is granted the authority to acquire and construct a medical facility on a suitable site in the Rio Grande Valley in order to more effectively deliver needed medical services to the growing number of South Texas veterans. I am honored that Congressman DE LA GARZA and Congressman TEJEDA, a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, are also original cosponsors of this bill.

While significant strides are being made in improving both the quality of health care and medical facilities available to our nation's veterans, significant shortfalls still exist in certain areas. The combination of the growing number of patients served by South Texas VA facilities along with the demographic ''aging'' of the veteran population is leading to a situation where existing medical facilities are being stretched beyond capacity. Already, patient usage of the VA medical facilities in South Texas has increased. Additionally, the number of elderly veterans in the State of Texas continues to grow, as does their need for medical care. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that South Texas also receives a steady number of elderly veterans who annually reside in South Texas during the winter months due to the warm climate.

The overburdened state of the veterans' health care system in South Texas becomes apparent when veterans from the Rio Grande Valley, in particular from my District, must travel over 10 hours to reach the closest Veterans' Administration hospital. A number of these veterans are physically incapable of driving these distances, and many do not have family members to transport them to these facilities.

Our nation's veterans deserve the finest health care services available, and the creation of a medical facility in the Rio Grnade Valley will be a significant and much needed step towards meeting this obligation. The construction of a medical facility in South Texas is the first step in addressing the critical health care needs of veterans in South Texas.

BRONCHIO-ALVEOLAR CARCINOMA LEGISLATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation that will