

serves both to increase the safety of air travel while protecting the rights and needs of air traffic personnel. Recent events at the Pittsburgh International Airport near my district in western Pennsylvania showcase the difficulties which can inhibit maintaining a high degree of air traffic safety in our country.

The development of a new procurement system will help to ensure that air traffic personnel obtain proper safety equipment in a more timely manner. The reduction of the often overwhelmingly burdensome Federal procurement rules will increase safety effectiveness as well as guard against increased costs, waste, and abuse. As I am always concerned how legislation will affect the working men and women in Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District, I am pleased that H.R. 2276 explicitly states that new FAA personnel systems would not be exempt from whistleblowers protection laws, laws prohibiting discrimination or strikes, workers and unemployment compensation, retirement, labor-management relations, and life and health insurance laws. The air traffic workers in my district support this legislation, and eagerly anticipate its enactment so that they will be able to maximize their ability to maintain the high level of air traffic safety that is absolutely necessary.

I would like to conclude my remarks with words of encouragement for removing the Federal Airport and Airway Trust Fund from the unified Federal budget. As a cosponsor of H.R. 842, the Truth in Budgeting Act, I was disappointed to find that off-budget provisions were deleted from the final language of the bill. As a cosponsor, I encourage my colleagues to support final passage of H.R. 2276 today, and I look forward to debating the merits of H.R. 842 in the near future. Revitalizing the FAA will benefit travelers, air traffic personnel, and the efficiency and effectiveness of the overall safety of air travel.

HONORING ELLA MILLER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Ella Miller for her tireless efforts in working with the children of Fairfax County in the 11th Congressional District of Virginia. She will be honored on March 16, 1996, at the Hunter Mill District Republican Committee's recognition dinner for African-American community-based organizations.

Mrs. Miller was born in 1880, a mere 15 years after the end of the Civil War to parents who were former slaves in rural southern Tennessee. She was unable to attend school, but recognized the value of education and gained what knowledge she could at night from her siblings who did attend school.

After leaving Tennessee, Mrs. Miller relocated to Cincinnati, OH, where she worked as a domestic for two families until she reached the age of 107, after which time she decided to retire and moved to Vienna, VA, where she lives with her niece. She is now 115 years of age and continues to be active.

Mrs. Miller, expressing a desire to share her life's experiences, visits with students at elementary schools in Fairfax County, VA, where she has become a symbol of "Living History"

to all of the fortunate children she has touched through her reflections on history, famous people she has met, and her messages about faith, obedience, caring for others, and belief in oneself. She is a living example that you are never too old to learn.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring Mrs. Ella Miller for all she has done for our children and wish her the best of luck for her future endeavors.

CONCERT FOR DEMOCRACY: TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI, REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 1996, Representative and Mrs. Benjamin Lu of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington, DC, will host the Music for Democracy Concert at the Kennedy Center. This concert is a celebration of the Republic of China's long journey toward complete democratization.

The Republic of China's democratization has been rapid and total. Over the last 8 years, President Lee Teng-hui has presided over economic and political liberalization, the free election of the National Assembly, three elections of the Legislative Yuan, the Republic of China's Parliament, and the election of the Governor of Taiwan Province and mayors of Taipei and Kaohsiung, culminating in the Republic of China's free and direction election of the President of the Republic of China on March 23, 1996.

President Lee Teng-hui is one of four Presidential candidates on the March 23 ballot. Regardless of the outcome of this election, President Lee Teng-hui must be complimented and respected for his unwavering determination to bring total democracy to his country. He alone has brought to fulfillment the dreams and aspirations of the Chinese people for a free and open society.

I wish to extend our best wishes to Representative and Mrs. Lu and to all the Chinese people living in the Republic of China. These are indeed trying times for them, but democracy, as always, will most certainly prevail over any adversity.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, important new research by University of Minnesota ecologist David Tilman has confirmed what many know instinctively—biodiversity is a critical element of environmental and ecological health. Dr. Tilman worked in conjunction with botanist David Wedin and Johannes Knops, and recently published the results of an important plant study in the scientific journal *Nature*.

In Dr. Tilman's recent study, researchers in Bethel, MN planted 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, or 24 species of prairie plants in plots measuring 3

meters square. The plots received equal watering and weeding. The results showed that the more diverse a given plot was in terms of species the more productive the plants were. The plants in diverse plots were also better able to withstand stresses such as extreme weather or drought. The bottom line, according to Dr. Tilman, is that regional and global ecosystems must be diverse in order to thrive and produce benefits such as filtering water, enriching the soil, and purifying our air.

We in Congress must recognize the important policy implications of this significant plant study. If Congress superimposes clearcutting and similar harvest practices in our forests and public lands and permits replanting of limited species, the forests will lose their biodiversity and our forest ecosystems will become less and less productive. The current moratorium on the listing of new species under the Endangered Species Act could have a further devastating effect on available biodiversity, and ecosystems will become less durable and productive. Those policy actions, which disregard science, could have severe consequences for us and future generations. We need to follow good science and stewardship today for tomorrow.

I am including with this statement a copy of a recent article printed in the Minneapolis Star Tribune describing Dr. Tilman's research and its implications. I urge all my colleagues to read this informative article.

[From the Minneapolis Star Tribune]
BIODIVERSITY IS ROOT OF ENVIRONMENTAL GROWTH

(By Tom Meersman)

University of Minnesota ecologist David Tilman just keeps growing things. And he just keeps learning more about the inner workings of nature in the process.

His latest findings, published today in the international scientific journal *Nature*, indicate that growing a variety of plants and grasses in a given area is much better for the environment than having only a few species.

While prevailing wisdom might dictate that one or two types of plants in an area would thrive because of minimal competition, Tilman's research shows the opposite: Different plants don't compete so much as they complement each another and function as a community.

Tilman has been studying native Minnesota grasslands for the past 13 years on university land at the Cedar Creek Natural History Area near Bethel, about 35 miles north of the Twin Cities. It's one of 18 sites in the nation where scientists conduct long-term ecological research.

In his latest study, Tilman worked with botanist David Wedin, of the University of Toronto, and Johannes Knops, an adjunct faculty member in ecology at the University of Minnesota.

In 1994 the researchers and their summer interns planted 147 plots, each 3 meters square, with one, two, four, six, eight, 12 or 24 different prairie plants, chosen randomly from a pool of 24 species. The plots had homogeneous soils, were watered equally and were weeded from elevated boardwalks at regular intervals. Last summer the team measured how productive the plants were in various plots and what had happened to the soil chemistry.

The results, Tilman said, show that "plots that are more diverse can hold more of the nutrients and sustain the fertility of the soils." Plots that had few species were not as productive, he said, and their soil lost important nutrients.

What this means, he said, is that diversity—having a large number of different