

come to an end. To achieve this result, it is far better to use peaceful measures and end the longstanding violence. Thus, we must embrace Leyla Zana for risking her life for the Kurdish people, not through violence, but through peaceful and democratic activism.

So, Mr. Speaker, I salute those who are fasting today in support of the freedom of Leyla Zana. And I say to the Government of Turkey: in the name of humanity, free Leyla Zana.

THE COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT  
PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1997

**HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague, NITA LOWEY and I are introducing the Community Employment Partnership Act [CEPA] which is designed to encourage the not-for-profit community to increase their participation in the national initiative to move more than 2 million Americans from welfare dependency into productive work. Through CEPA, not-for-profit employers, for the first time, will be allowed to participate in the work opportunity tax credit hiring incentives that are currently available to for-profit companies which hire entry-level workers.

During the last Congress, when we enacted welfare reform, we embarked on a bold new initiative to move millions of able-bodied welfare recipients into the work force. At the time we understood this new initiative, many of us realized that if the private sector were to provide jobs for those leaving the welfare rolls, they would need an incentive to offset the added costs of hiring, training, and retaining a category of people who face significant obstacles to succeeding in the workplace. These obstacles include problems with minimal job skills, low self-esteem, and little, if any, work history. In order to encourage for-profit employers to hire welfare recipients, I strongly supported the enactment of the work opportunity tax credit which is designed to offset the added costs involved.

Unfortunately, at that time, we did not develop a mechanism for extending these hiring tax incentives to the nonprofit community. In many cases, the largest employers in inner-city and rural communities, where most welfare recipients reside, are nonprofits such as hospitals, universities, museums, and community-based organizations. That they are not eligible is ironic since many nonprofit employers view as part of their primary mission service to those on welfare. As a result, nonprofits are often more acclimated to working with hard-to-employ individuals than their for-profit brethren. Another advantage of making not-for-profit employers eligible for WOTC is that they often provide full-time jobs with a career path, and generally offer their employees benefits.

In addition, numerous stories have come to light regarding the time and financial burden faced by welfare recipients who must travel long distances from their homes in the inner city or in rural America to the suburbs where most new jobs are becoming available. For the welfare recipient, who generally does not have a car, this means long and costly trips on public or privately organized transportation.

The long hours that newly employed welfare recipient must be away from home requires them to string together unreliable and often expensive day care arrangements, including relying on family members, friends, and day care centers. Allowing not-for-profit organizations eligibility for tax credits would, for those recipients able to find employment in their communities, significantly reduce the travel burden and in turn, help to reduce the critical day care problems faced by those hoping to move from welfare to work.

Despite the ideal match between the mission, location, and type of jobs offered by not-for-profits, they have not participated in the welfare to work initiative to the extent we would like because insufficient resources have been made available to them to help offset the added costs involved in hiring those on welfare. CEPA would help to overcome this obstacle by reducing the largest tax burden faced by not-for-profits—the payroll tax—by allowing them to offset their total Federal payroll tax burden by any work opportunity tax credits earned for hiring an eligible worker. The Community Employment Partnership Act would: Track the existing eligibility standards for the work opportunity tax credit; and provide not-for-profits with a graduated tax credit against their total Federal payroll taxes of 20 percent versus 25 percent under WOTC from the date of hire for the first \$6,000 in wages paid an eligible worker by a not-for-profit for those who work at least 120 hours and to up 399 hours; and 30 percent versus 40 percent under WOTC from the date of hire for the first \$6,000 in wages paid an eligible worker by a not-for-profit for those who work at least 400 hours.

The reduction in the credit amounts equalize the value of the credit between nonprofit employers and for-profit employers. This is because under WOTC, the amount of the employer's wage deduction is reduced by the amount of the credit which has the effect of reducing the value of the tax incentive to the for-profit employer.

The credits would be taken against a not-for-profit employer's quarterly payroll tax liability.

A payment to the Social Security trust fund would continue to be treated as having been made on the date it is ordinarily made.

Both Congresswoman LOWEY and I strongly believe that the enactment of the Community Employment Partnership Act is important if we are to enlist the not-for-profit community into providing good jobs to the millions of Americans who will be coming off the welfare rolls in the coming years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE  
BROWNFIELDS RECLAMATION  
ACT OF 1997

**HON. LOUIS STOKES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Brownfields Reclamation Act of 1997. This bill is good for the American people and good for the country.

The Brownfields Reclamation Act of 1997 creates jobs, improves the health and safety of the American people, promotes economic development, and cleans up the environment.

One of the most critical environmental and economic problems facing our Nation's cities and rural communities today is the tremendous difficulty in redeveloping abandoned industrial and/or commercial sites and properties, due to many years of environmental contamination.

Not only have we found cleanup costs to be high, the potential liabilities for past contamination discourage prospective purchasers and developers from investing in the renewal of abandoned urban and rural properties. This compounding situation contributes dramatically to joblessness and poverty across the Nation.

As such, contaminated properties also end up contributing to suburban sprawl, compromised health and safety, and exacerbation of the problems associated with job loss, frustration, despair, and poverty in rural and urban America. This national concern has come to be known as the "Brownfields problem."

Mr. Speaker, my legislation, the Brownfields Reclamation Act of 1997 will enhance efforts of State and local jurisdictions to improve their physical environments. It will reduce the public health risks from exposure to contaminated sites. And, it will promote economic development and growth by increasing business and employment opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, while we still have a long way to go with regard to restoring neighborhoods and communities, the Brownfields Reclamation Act of 1997 represents a giant step forward in the revitalization of our cities and rural areas that have been adversely impacted by contaminated sites and related properties.

This bill reaffirms our Nation's commitment to revitalized communities across this country. I look forward to working with my colleagues, the administration, community organizations, and others to ensure that this critical legislation, the Brownfields Reclamation Act, is enacted into law.

IN HONOR OF KENNETH  
BLOOMHORST FOR HIS ENDURING  
SYMBOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to pay tribute to Kenneth Bloomhorst for his contribution to environmental protection in this country. Mr. Bloomhorst has the distinction of having created the symbol that represents the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Created over 25 years ago, his work remains the symbol for the Agency that is recognized around the country and in many parts of the world for the protection of the environment and our Nation's health. Mr. Bloomhorst, who was vice president and art director for an Indianapolis advertising agency, MWB, Inc., illustrated the seal and his firm contributed it to the EPA.

On October 18, 1971, then President Richard Nixon signed Executive Order No. 11628 to establish a seal for the EPA and provided the following description of Mr. Bloomhorst's creation.

"A flower with a bloom which is symbolic of all the elements of the environment. The