

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REFORM

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 1998

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce three bills which will reform the Endangered Species Act and restore sensibility and reasonableness to a system that has run amok. Each bill is targeted toward narrow problems of the Endangered Species Act.

The Fair Process Reform bill will ensure open and equal access to information relied upon by Federal agencies when making decisions on endangered species. Perhaps the single worst complaint I have heard about the current Federal system is that the people who are directly affected by government decisions and bear the burden and cost of compliance are left out of the decision process. From their point of view it is "taxation without representation". Landowners are now stuck with paying the cost of preserving species; yet, they do not have access to the same information held by the Federal government and their input is ignored.

My bill includes provisions for an open access to the public for scientific studies and underlying study data. It also replaces the secret listing process with an open hearing so landowners can participate in the decision making process, and landowner representatives can cross-examine agency personnel and experts. My bill also includes provisions to improve the scientific basis of government decisions such as a minimal information requirements for petitioners, peer review of multiple scientific studies used to support listing or government action, and economic impact analysis of its actions required for listings.

The Fair Land Management Reform bill will ensure that the government pays for obligations it imposes on landowners. This bill includes a provision to compensate landowners for significant government takings. Rural landowners like farmers bear most of the burden for protecting species that society wants to protect; yet, these landowners are the least able to bear that burden. It has become too easy for so-called environmentalists to make "someone else pay" for environmental causes. It's time for society to step up and pay for environmental causes. It's time for society to step up and pay for what it wants.

I also include a provision that limits the mitigation requirements that can be imposed by government. Without proof of any actual species on the land, the Federal government can and does routinely require a landowner to "mitigate" for land use by purchasing other land to relocate or otherwise create habitat for species. Often, several acres of land must be bought for every one acre a landowner wants to use. It doesn't stop there. A landowner must often manage the new "biology project" for the government by putting up fences and hiring biologists for years to look after the

habitat. My bill would limit how much mitigation the government can require.

The Liability Reform bill will stop unfair government penalties against landowners. Rural landowners are frustrated enough at having their lands confiscated for government use. It adds insult to injury when no species are even on the land, yet the government continues to impose these onerous burdens and even the threat of penalties of landowners. Criminal and civil penalties should be limited to actual and intentional takings of an endangered species, not accidental or hypothetical ones. Moreover, if the government knows of a violation occurring, it should warn landowners and give the opportunity to correct the violation through mitigation or repair. My bill includes provisions to do this. My bill also includes "Safe harbor" and "No surprises" provisions to end the string of broken promises and added obligations put on landowners by the government.

The Endangered Species Act needs to be reformed now. My bills are a fair and balanced response to the tragic failures of the current system. I look forward to presenting my bills at House hearings and rapid passage of these bills.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE DEFIANCE HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND OF CLASS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE 1999 TOURNAMENT OF ROSE PARADE

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding group of young men and women from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The Defiance High School Marching Band of Class.

On January 1, 1999, the Defiance High School Marching Band of Class will be participating in a very special event. On that date, they will be participating in the 1999 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. This is truly a wonderful experience and quite an accomplishment for these talented young people from Ohio's Fifth District. Each January, the parade takes place in conjunction with a plethora of activities surrounding one of the most celebrated athletic contests in all of sports and entertainment—the Rose Bowl.

Historically speaking, the Rose Bowl, the "Grand Daddy of Them All," pits the Big Ten Champion against the winner of the PAC Ten. And, in future years, could very well be the site of college football National Championship Game. I cannot think of a better script than to have the DHS Marching Band of Class in attendance for the entire experience surrounding the Rose Bowl and Tournament of Roses Parade.

The pageantry comradery, pomp, and ceremony that encompass the Rose Bowl and the Tournament of Roses Parade, truly makes

these two enjoined events among America's most wholesome and celebrated gatherings. I cannot think of a more representative, respected, and talented group of young men and women to be Northwest Ohio's ambassadors to the 1999 Tournament of Roses Parade and the Rose Bowl.

Mr. Speaker, the DHS Marching Band of Class is just that—a class organization. From the students who work and train so hard, to the parents and teachers who assist them along the way, the Defiance High School Marching Band of Class is world-class, and in a category all to itself. I urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to the Defiance High School Marching Band of Class, and in wishing them the very best at the 1999 Tournament of Roses Parade. We are very proud of your honors and achievements. Good Luck!

POUDRE VALLEY HOSPITAL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, during the most recent district work period, the Poudre Valley Hospital opened its doors with an invitation to speak with administrators and view the first-rate care the hospital provides to the residents of Fort Collins.

Built 70 years ago, the Poudre Valley Hospital has grown with the community to become a regional medical provider with 27 staff specialties, 1,888 employees, and a multitude of special services serving communities in northern Colorado, southern Wyoming, and western Nebraska. The hospital maintains a Level 2 regional trauma center, a regional heart center, a regional neurosciences center, and a regional orthopedic program in addition to standard hospital services. Through affiliations with smaller clinics throughout its service region, the hospital is able to provide comprehensive care to many people. As a non-profit entity, Poudre Valley also sustains community programs for the poor, the elderly, and the general population.

While proud of the success and growth experienced by the hospital, administrators are frustrated by the Medicare system which comprises 42% of their business. Not only does the Medicare system provide inadequate reimbursement, its labyrinthine regulations make it difficult to work within the system. Regulations and supplemental information bound in black books fill the administrator's cabinets. Additionally, government workers and intermediaries often have different interpretations of the rules or no clear answers at all to the hospital's questions.

Medicare must be reformed. The burdens and inefficiencies of Medicare must also remind us that any attempt to socialize any other facet of health care must be resisted. There is a better way.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

In spite of these difficulties, Poudre Valley Hospital continues to provide a great service to Fort Collins and the surrounding area. Additionally, I would like to thank Army Hall, Carl Smith, and Lesley Fagerberg for their time and for their commitment to the health care profession.

TRIBUTE TO WANDA WASHINGTON
HOPKINS

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from the great state of Missouri, the Honorable WILLIAM L. CLAY, in saluting an outstanding businesswoman and good friend, Mrs. Wanda Washington Hopkins. On Thursday, September 17, 1998, the National Federal of Black Women Business Owners will honor their fellow board member as she prepares to retire after a distinguished career of 31 years with Philip Morris Companies, Inc. We have been privileged to have known and worked with Wanda for most of her career with Philip Morris Companies, and are especially proud to have this opportunity to highlight her many achievements with our colleagues.

Born June 6, 1997, in New York City, New York, Wanda joined Philip Morris Companies in 1967. During her profession, she has held the positions of sample distributor and urban affairs assistant, rising to her current position of Specialist, Public Programs, which includes managing the Philip Morris corporate exhibit.

Prior to joining Philip Morris Companies, Wanda worked for the District of Columbia and Federal governments, as well as for Howard University. In addition, she worked for the Washington Teachers Union along with several laws firms in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

Wanda's professional and personal life has been dedicated to helping to enrich the lives of the disenfranchised, and to ensuring that children, born not of privilege, have every opportunity to pursue his/her dreams through higher education. She has served as the social conscience of Philip Morris Companies in seeing to it that hundreds of thousands of the company's corporate profits have been directed to programs to benefit educational excellence, and to uplifting communities once bereft of hope. And that's just her corporate influence.

In her personal endeavors, she has for years been involved in numerous business, professional, and social organizations. One in particular, the Justice, Unity, Generosity, and Service, Inc. club, or J.U.G.S., Inc., a non-profit organization that awards scholarships and benefits handicap children, has been near and dear to her heart. Over the years, she has worked selflessly to raise funds for this organization. Because of her efforts and commitment to the kids, children who were once written off, can now look forward to programs designed to help them reach their potential, beyond the expert's expectations.

In addition to her work with the J.U.G.S., she is a member of the National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners, the National Association of Market Developers, the NAACP and the National Urban League.

In recognition of her many years of distinguished professional service and contributions to society, Wanda has received numerous awards and honors, including the Shiners Award for Professional Excellence, the National Association of Business and Professional Women's Clubs Yellow Rose" citation, the National Business League Presidential Citation, and the West Coast Black Publishers and Association President's Award. This summer, at the NAACP's annual National Convention, Wanda became the first individual to receive the organization's Exhibitors' Special Recognition Award. She is also the recipient of the National Urban League's Herbert H. Wright Medallion.

Wanda Washington Hopkins is a woman of savvy intelligence and tremendous warmth and integrity. Over the years, she has consistently demonstrated the utmost professionalism and paved the way for other young women aspiring to make it corporate America. She has been an outstanding role model and mentor to many young women, and she can take great pride in knowing of the enduring contributions she has made in helping to empower other African American professional women through the corporate maze.

Married to Everett Hopkins, she is the mother of seven children, one of whom is now with the angels, but who lives on her heart and in the hearts of family and friends. She is also the proud grandmother of four.

Mr. Speaker, it gives us great pleasure to have this opportunity to publicly recognize the tremendous accomplishments of this distinguished human being. She is a beautiful person, an individual that we are proud to call our friend. Throughout her many years with Philip Morris Companies, Wanda has probably spent about 85% of her time traveling from city to city, exhibiting at one exhibit site after another. As she prepares to embark on a new chapter in her life, we ask first that you join us in extending to her a well-deserved rest. Second, please join with us in extending to her, Everett and their extended family our best wishes for continued success, excellent health, and an abundance of prosperity in the years ahead.

THE PALOS VERDES PENINSULA
LAND CONSERVANCY: CELEBRATING A DECADE OF DISTINGUISHED EFFORT TO PRESERVE UNDEVELOPED LAND ON THE PENINSULA

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 1998

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy for a decade of resolute effort to preserve, restore, and protect acres of undeveloped land on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in California's 36th Congressional District.

As a result of their efforts, the Conservancy has successfully preserved for future generations nearly 260 acres of narrow, lush canyon and sweeping ocean vistas that comprise the

Peninsula landscape. These acres, acquired through gifts, purchases and voluntary easements, are now protected and will remain forever available for enjoyment and inspiration. Residents and guests alike will continue to live side-by-side with some of the most scenic natural beauty found anywhere in Los Angeles County, if not our State.

As important to preservation, the Conservancy also maintains a commitment to restoring natural habitat and sustaining native wildlife. Their programs include organizing volunteers to clear out non-native plants, gathering seeds to nurture and then returning the seedlings to the land. And, in cooperation with the school district, all third grade students study the geology and natural habitat of the Peninsula, then walk to a site near their school to see, first hand, the plants, animals and rocks they studied. For the other residents, the Conservancy provides monthly docent-guided nature walks to explore more intimately the habitats with which they co-exist.

Looking toward the future, the Conservancy has targeted an additional 1,000 acres for preservation and conservation. In addition, with the help of an investment banking company, work will continue to develop innovative conservation finance tools to help resolve inevitable natural resource—land use conflicts. This conservation finance approach promises to become a major factor in land conservation efforts nationwide.

The success of the Conservancy rests on a foundation of visionary, dedicated volunteers from the local community. But I also commend the participation of local city, county, state and federal governments officials; the donors of land, time and talent; local publications, and civic groups and private foundations. Their efforts have magnified the success of the Conservancy.

Over the past ten years, sizable patches of open space has been saved to ensure the survival of plants and wildlife and, equally important, enhance the quality of life for the people of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. As the Congressional representative of the Peninsula, and resident, I salute the Conservancy's achievements and join with them in working to secure success which future generations will enjoy.

PRINCIPAL BETSY DUMPH AND
HUDSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, during the recent district work period, Principal Betsy Dumph opened the doors of Hudson Elementary School and shared her experience as the principal of this small town school.

Hudson Elementary serves children from the area around Hudson, CO, including other smaller towns, family farms and ranches. This thriving, brightly decorated school shares some of the challenges of its urban counterparts and some distinctions, too.

Principal Dumph has worked hard to assemble a strong staff of professional educators. Unfortunately, Colorado's tenure system has proven an obstacle to this effort. She told my