Brent’s ability to get into the trenches has been a true motivating factor toward emphasizing a team atmosphere in our office. Speaking of team efforts, included in the long list of Brent’s accomplishments one of his greatest assets is his running ability and knowledge thereof, which has helped Team Gordon successfully win the Capital Challenge six consecutive years.

He has been a staff’s advocate, too, and the House is a better place to work because of his tenure.

Brent was instrumental in establishing a fitness program for staffers. He helped begin a program of assisting new offices in setting up—thereby easing the transition to Congressional life for new staff. Every staffer and former staffer who worked with or under him praised his leadership, his calmness, and his ability.

I have heard Brent explain his long tenure in this way, “I came in, I put my head down, I did my work; when I looked up twenty-one years had passed.” With well earned accolades and a long list of good memories in hand Brent will end his era of congressional service on November 15, 1998.

On that day, the House of Representatives will lose a strong and capable resource and veteran, his colleagues, both past and present, will lose a friend and mentor and I will lose a Chief of Staff, the likes of which come along once in a lifetime—if one is as lucky as I am.

It is with sincere thanks and gratitude that I say goodbye and good luck to Brent Ayer.

**Republican Education Achievements**

**HON. BOB SCHACHER**

**OF COLORADO**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, October 20, 1998**

Mr. BOB SCHACHER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to clarify what has been done in the 105th Congress regarding the many education issues facing our schools today. Work on education reform has now been completed, and I want to update my colleagues on the accomplishments of the Republican Congress, and the challenges of the future.

During this Congress, we approved 22 major education initiatives, including: the Reading Excellence Act (H.R. 2614), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (P.L. 105-17), a school nutrition bill (H.R. 3874), A+ Education Savings Accounts (H.R. 6246), a quality Head Start bill (S. 2206), a charter schools bill (H.R. 2616), and the Dollars to the Classroom grants (H.R. 3248). In addition, we are sending $1.1 billion to the States to fill teaching needs. These Republican initiatives will send more Dollars to the classroom, honor State and local authority, promote quality in our Nation’s schools, and increase parental involvement and responsibility. These common-sense reforms will foster excellence in our Nation’s schools while limiting Washington’s control of the classroom.

Unfortunately, President Clinton, despite his rhetoric, has politicized and hampered our attempts to improve schools. The President has threatened to veto the Dollars to Classroom Act, which would send $2.7 billion directly to public schools, prepaid college tuition plans, and bilingual education reform. In addition, the President has already vetoed safe schools legislation, a teacher testing bill, and our A+ Education Savings Accounts proposal. These actions clearly demonstrate Clinton’s desire to thwart real reform and local decision-making. I will continue to support the President and his administration in their plans to complicate and stifle our efforts to lead this country in a new direction for the 21st Century. Although much still remains to be done, I remain optimistic for the future. With vision, focus, and input from the people of this great country, we will empower our Nation’s children, parents, and teachers to achieve their greatest potential.

**Karen Thorndike—First American Woman to Sail Single-Handedly Around the World**

**Hon. Norman D. Dicks**

**OF WASHINGTON**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, October 20, 1998**

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday when I was home in my congressional district, I had the great pleasure of meeting a Washington State native who became the first American woman to sail single-handedly around the world. In a heroic voyage that took her just over 2 years, Karen Thorndike fought off serious illness and the relentless elements of nature to become the first American woman to sail around the globe unassisted on her 33,000-mile journey. She set a remarkable example of perseverance and determination as she piloted her 36-foot yacht “Amelia” around the five great capes of the world: Cape Horn, Cape of Good Hope, Cape Leeuwin, South East Cape of Tasmania, and South West Cape of New Zealand. I was proud to be in Port Angeles, WA, yesterday as the Mayor and City Council proclaimed October 19, 1998, as Karen Thorndike Day in honor of this courageous woman. It was a great day for Port Angeles, and I wanted to share with my colleagues in the House of Representatives the text of the proclamation that Mayor Gary Braun presented on behalf of the City Council, so that Karen Thorndike can serve as an example of courage, determination, and perseverance.

**Proclamation in Recognition of Karen Thorndike Day**

Whereas, Karen Thorndike, the first American woman to solo circumnavigate the globe, is a native of Washington State; and whereas, This American pioneer in her 36-foot yacht “Amelia”, survived winds and waves of terror south of the five Great Capes of the world: Cape Horn, Cape of Good Hope, Cape Leeuwin, South East Cape of Tasmania, and South West Cape of New Zealand; and whereas, Karen Thorndike is the seventh woman in the world to sail alone in open ocean around the globe; and whereas, Karen Thorndike overcame serious illness off the Falkland Islands, and completed her historic journey of more than 33,000 nautical miles by returning to San Diego, California on August 18, 1998, two years and two weeks after departing San Diego; and whereas, Karen Thorndike became a role model for youth and adults all over the world by her inspirational example of perseverance against the relentless elements of nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GARY BRAUN, Mayor, on behalf of the City Council of Port Angeles, do hereby proclaim October 19, 1998, to be “Karen Thorndike Day” in Port Angeles in recognition of her extraordinary journey in which she became the first American woman to solo circumnavigate the globe. GARY BRAUN.

**Minnesota’s Fair Farm Prices Now Petition**

**Hon. David Minge**

**OF MINNESOTA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, October 20, 1998**

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to commend all the Minnesotans who have signed the “Fair Frum Prices Now” Petition. I have received petitions which were signed by thousands of farmers and citizens of rural Minnesota communities. These people have come to Congress with a simple request: that they be given a fair price for their hard work. They have asked that their elected representatives answer their petition by uncapping and raising the marketing loan rate, by extending the terms of the marketing loan, and by making crop insurance coverage more effective.

Unfortunately, this outpouring has not been adequately heard by Congress. Although the Omnibus Appropriations Conference Report, which will be voted on this evening, does provide a substantial agricultural disaster package, it does not make the changes which these farmers have requested. Uncapping the marketing loan rates would have given producers more flexibility in handling the fiscal roller-coaster that these families have faced and will continue to face in the coming years. Providing more effective crop insurance would give farmers another important tool in their tool box with which to combat the inherent and uncontrollable risk of their business. Regardless of the long-term benefits to farmers of these requests, the crop insurance program and the marketing loan program remain the same.

Again, I commend the citizens of rural Minnesota who have spoken out about their need to have fair prices for the commodities which they produce. I agree with their request and regret that our leaders in Congress have not heard their plea.
certain antimicrobial substances in food contact applications. Historically, such substances were regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as food additives and were approved by that agency under Section 409 of the (FFDCA). With the FQPA definitional changes, such substances now fall within the term “pesticide chemical” and are subject to regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 408 of the FFDCA.

Since the passage of the FQPA in August 1996, these shifts in regulatory jurisdiction have led to delays in the processing of petitions for clearance of certain antimicrobials under the FFDCA. In the interim, in addition to the losses to the companies with pending petitions, the American public is losing the economic and environmental advantages that these products may offer. An amendment similar to the proposed technical correction was considered in October 1997, late in the conference on the FDA Modernization Act (FDAMA) but was deferred for later consideration. In the Conference Report, however, the conference urged the interested parties to pursue a new vehicle to achieve resolution of this jurisdictional issue.

The technical correction made by H.R. 4679 does not place any use of a substance from regulation as a pesticide under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Thus, any use of an antimicrobial in the manufacture of packaging for both food and non-food applications that is a pesticidal use under FIFRA would, in addition to FDA review as a food additive, continue to be subject to pesticide registration under FIFRA. Moreover, the proposed legislative language does not affect FDA’s existing jurisdiction over antimicrobial substances (with the exception of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide) used in or on processed food, which are not “pesticide chemicals” under the FFDCA.

H.R. 4679 would achieve the following:

1. Consistent with its traditional broad regulatory authority over food products and processing, FDA would have authority under FFDCA Section 409 to regulate as food additives—

Those antimicrobial substances used in or on food, or water that comes into contact with food, for which substances are used where food is prepared, packed or held for commercial purposes.

Most antimicrobials used as food contact substances, such as those used in the manufacture of food contact packaging, FDA would have authority under FFDCA Section 409 to regulate as food additives—

Thus, it is Congress’ intent that EPA, in deciding under FIFRA whether to grant, amend, or cancel a registration for an antimicrobial pesticide that poses a human dietary risk, shall take such action only if EPA determines that the risks from such residues are not inconsistent with the safety standard in FFDCA sec. 408. Additionally, Congress intends that, in granting, modifying, or canceling a tolerance for a pesticide chemical residue under section 408, EPA consider exposures to substances regulated under section 409 where applicable.

Overall, the technical correction made by H.R. 4679 presents an opportunity to reverse a change that Congress did not intend to make and allow companies to bring these beneficial antimicrobial products to market without further unnecessary delay. Importantly, shifting regulatory jurisdiction over certain antimicrobial uses of FDA will continue to ensure public health protection provided by the FFDCA.