

seeking to appreciate its serenity and ambience only to be agitated by the pesky and noisy buzzing of aircraft overhead. In response, I introduced legislation, H.R. 482, to limit the adverse impacts of commercial air tour operations on National Parks in the State of Hawaii. My bill establishes specific guidelines, setting minimum altitudes and standoff distances, for National Parks in Hawaii. I believe certain parks must be declared flight-free, spared from intrusive noise, and maintained as calm refuges for the enjoyment of all.

I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to cosponsor my bill, H.R. 482, and establish certain flight-free zones over National Parks in Hawaii so that we may all enjoy the whole experience of visiting a National Park.

In the meantime, H.R. 717 will make several improvements upon the current situation of overflights in National Parks.

H.R. 717 requires the National Park Service to work with the Federal Aviation Administration and with the input of both the public and air tour operators, to prepare air tour flight management plans at each national park. Air tours would be prohibited unless the operators comply with the park's air tour overflight management plan. To insure that the plans are fair and comprehensive, the bill also calls for a study of the effects overflights have on park visitors on the ground.

Our National Parks should be enjoyed by all. For many, noise pollution ruins the National Park experience just as spare tires and empty soda cans littered beneath the trees would. I support cleaning up the noise at National Parks and urge immediate passage of H.R. 717, the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 1999.

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, October 1999 has been designated as National Cooperative

Month. I rise today to call attention to the thousands of cooperatives in the United States and to the thousands of Americans who benefit from membership in a co-op.

Some 40 percent of all Americans belong to a cooperative of one kind or another. Cooperatives bring people together to meet a common goal or need. There are cooperatives to provide electricity and telephone service to rural areas, cooperatives to help farmers market their goods, consumer cooperatives, and credit union cooperatives, to name but a few.

In Missouri, electric co-ops serve approximately 450,000 meters, representing over 1,380,000 people. Nearly 20 small, rural telecommunications providers have received financing from a cooperative to ensure that all rural Missourians have access to reliable telephone and other telecommunications services at an affordable price. There are also more than 1 million credit union cooperative members in Missouri.

Cooperatives allow people to band together and through the strength of numbers achieve what individuals could not accomplish alone. Members gain access to specific services, to marketing power, or to purchasing power. Unlike other businesses, cooperatives operate at cost and income that is not retained for cooperative operations is returned to the members.

In recognition of National Cooperative Month, I congratulate our nations' cooperatives for their continued service to members in Missouri and throughout the nation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1906,
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 1, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme disappointment in the

process that led to the consideration of the Conference Report for H.R. 1906 in the House of Representatives today. While I intend to vote for this legislation, the leadership in the House has chosen to ignore the wishes of this body on two counts.

First, we selected conferees, knowledgeable Members who have proven themselves in this process, who should have been allowed to represent the House during the conference on H.R. 1906. In the end, however, the conferees were shut out of the process and the final version of the conference report was developed by House leadership, behind closed doors.

Second, this House voted just last week, by an overwhelming majority, to mandate the Option 1A pricing scheme for dairy. H.R. 1402, the bill that I strongly supported and was proud to cosponsor, passed this House on September 22, 1999, by a vote of 285 to 140. While many other elements of the farm crisis were addressed in the conference report, and I am pleased that over \$8 billion has been directed for disaster assistance, why was the dairy crisis ignored? Why wasn't the issue of dairy even allowed to be brought to the table during conference negotiations? I am disappointed that H.R. 1402 is not included in the conference report. Our dairy farmers deserve more.

Mr. Speaker, despite these problems, I am pleased to announce that several special grants that are critical for Michigan agriculture will be funded again this year at their Fiscal Year 1999 levels. The following grants, many of which are executed at the world-class land grant institution in my district, Michigan State University, have been funded at their Fiscal Year 1999 levels: Improved Fruit Practices, Wood Utilization, Potato Research, Apple Fireblight, and Sustainable Agriculture. Overall, the positive provisions included in the conference report allow me to support it, but the process that brought us to this point has been deeply flawed and I am very disappointed that the House has not included H.R. 1402 in this legislation.