

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, February 29, 2000.
HON. DON YOUNG,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1749, a bill to designate Wilson Creek in Avery and Caldwell counties, North Carolina, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis.

Sincerely,

DAN L. CRIPPEN,
Director.

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST
ESTIMATE—H.R. 1749

H.R. 1749 would designate a 23-mile segment of Wilson Creek in North Carolina as a component of the Wild and Scenic River System, to be administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Based on information provided by the Forest Service, administering the Wilson Creek segment would have no significant impact on federal spending. The river segment would remain undeveloped.

Because H.R. 1749 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

A CALL FOR THE RELEASE OF
CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONER,
DR. OSCAR ELIAS BISCKET

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, a great Cuban patriot, the physician Oscar Elias Biscet, has been sentenced to 3 years in prison by the Cuban dictatorship for peacefully demanding free elections and human rights for the Cuban people.

Dr. Biscet forms part of a new generation of leadership that has risen in the Cuban pro-democracy movement and that will play a key role in the free and democratic Cuba that is near.

Dr. Biscet's imprisonment must be condemned and his immediate and unconditional release demanded by all freedom-loving people.

A number of us here in Congress have written the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights, urging that she add her voice to the call for Dr. Biscet's immediate release. We will not cease our efforts until he and all of the other Cuban political prisoners are free.

I hereby submit for the record, Mr. Speaker, the letter sent by 13 Members of this House to U.N. High Commissioner Robinson, as well as a translation of a letter by Dr. Biscet that was written on a handkerchief and secretly taken out of Dr. Biscet's prison cell approximately 6 weeks ago. The letter was delivered to Cuban independent journalist Angel Pablo Polanco, who revealed its contents via telephone.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, February 25, 2000.
Ms. Mary Robinson,
*Office of High Commissioner For Human Rights,
United Nations Headquarters, New York,
NY.*

Dear Ms. Robinson: This is to request your urgent assistance on behalf of the Cuban human rights activist Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, who is scheduled to stand trial on February 25th, 2000 at the Municipal Tribunal "10 de Octubre" in Havana, Cuba. The Cuban dictatorship apparently plans years of incarceration for Dr. Biscet for so called crimes of "dishonoring national symbols", "public disorder" and "inciting delinquent behavior".

On October 28, 1999 Dr. Biscet held a press conference, prior to the Ibero-American Summit held in Havana in early November. During the press conference, Dr. Biscet along with other members of the peaceful opposition movement announced a march calling for the release of all political prisoners and respect of human rights for the Cuban people. During the press conference two Cuban flags were displayed in an inverted position as a sign of protest for the countless human rights violations that occur on the island. Subsequently, on November 3, 1999, Dr. Biscet was detained and taken to "Cien y Aldabo", where he was placed in a damp cell without sunlight with three common criminals.

Dr. Biscet represents the noblest of aspirations of democracy in Cuba. His efforts as the founder of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights, a humanitarian organization which promotes the respect for human rights through nonviolent means, have gained him the respect and admiration of notable human rights activists throughout the world and inspired countless Cubans to continue in their struggle for democratic change.

The Cuban regime, intimidated by the effectiveness of Dr. Biscet's message, has detained him 26 times over that last 18 months, terminated his employment and evicted him and his family from their home. He has been subjected to psychiatric examinations and has been constantly pressured to abandon Cuba.

We respectfully urge you to immediately denounce Dr. Biscet's unjust incarceration and trial and call for his immediate and unconditional release from prison. A statement of this nature would greatly serve to protect Dr. Biscet and his family from further harm by the Cuban government.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Robert Wexler,
———, Christopher H. Smith,
James A. Traficant, Jr., Dana Rohrabacher, Porter J. Goss, Peter Deutsch,
Tillie K. Fowler, Bill McCollum, Luis V. Gutierrez, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Ben Gilman.

HAVANA, JANUARY 20, 2000.

Supreme Court of Justice of the United States of America

EXCELLENCIES: I send you kind greetings. From a "tapiada" cell I write in darkness where it is forbidden to read and write. Under these conditions I pray God may grant you wisdom to make the proper decision in the case of the Cuban child Elian in order to dignify human life and liberty.

Esteemed judges: a nation must never deprive any person of freedom unless the individual becomes a danger to society, always respecting human rights. Nor may parents deprive their children of their right to life and freedom. Limits must prevail for both, nation and parents, to prevent violations of inalienable human rights.

I ask, what is life without freedom? Nothing, as without freedom life is deprived of the love of God.

"Justice exalts a nation, sin becomes its shame." Proverbs.

Magistrates, glorify humanity.

Thank you.

DR. OSCAR ELIAS BISCKET,
Lawton Foundation for Human Rights.

Note: This letter, written on a handkerchief, was clandestinely taken out of the prison at the Department of Technical investigation in Havana where Dr. Biscet is incarcerated. The letter was delivered to the independent journalist in Cuba, Angel Pablo Polanco who revealed its contents abroad via telephone.

HONORING DR. PERLITA NARVAEZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a woman who has worked hard to educate women in Bent County about preventing cancer. Dr. Perlita Narvaez works with women in her county to encourage regular checkups and comforts patients with her gentle bedside manner.

Perlita was honored by the local chapter of the Colorado Women's Cancer Control Initiative for her services to help encourage preventative measures in women's health. Perlita has been performing cancer screenings for area women for nearly two years by working directly with the Cancer Control Initiative. The Initiative encourages low-income women to call for an appointment and even offers for a volunteer to go with the woman if she wishes. This Initiative and Perlita have worked diligently to help reduce the number of women who suffer from breast and cervical cancer.

Perlita has been practicing medicine for 12 years. She has made working with women and children her specialty. Her efforts have been applauded by both patients and the Cancer Control Initiative.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute of thanks to Dr. Perlita Narvaez. Colorado is grateful for her service.