Hon. Larry Combest, Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Chairman: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1504, the Plant Protection Act, authored by our colleague Congressman Canady. This bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Agriculture and additionally referred to the Committee on Resources, among others.

After reviewing the amendments to the bill, I have no objection to its going forward and will support the Committee on Resources being discharged from further consideration of the measure. As you note in your letter, this action is not intended to waive jurisdiction over this or similar provisions. I would also ask you to support the Committee on Resources request to be represented on any conference on this bill, or a similar measure, if one should become necessary. Finally, I ask that you include our exchange of letters on H.R. 1504 in the Committee on Agriculture’s report on the bill or in the official file of the bill.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to help expedite consideration of this bill. I appreciate your cooperation and that opportunity to help expedite consideration of this committee on Agriculture’s report on the bill or exchange of letters on H.R. 1504 in the Committee on Resources request to be represented on any conference on this bill, or a similar measure, if one should become necessary.

Sincerely,

Hon. Robert Menendez

HON. LARRY COMBEST
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Chairman: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1504, the Plant Protection Act, authored by our colleague Congressman Canady. This bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Agriculture and additionally referred to the Committee on Resources, among others.

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Sincerely,

Hon. Robert Menendez

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Charles Meier of Oakville, Illinois. Charles was recently inducted into the Illinois Jaycees Recruiters Hall of Fame.

He was inducted for his successful efforts to recruit many new members into the club during his 21 years as a Jaycee. His recruitment efforts have brought in new members from an area that extends from Steelville and Waterloo to Interstate 64.

I want to congratulate Charles on receiving such a prestigious honor. I wish him the best as he continues to serve.

IN HONOR OF THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF BAYONNE ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Concerned Citizens of Bayonne (CCB) on its 30th anniversary. Founded in 1970 by Frank P. Perrucci, CCB was established as an instrument for concerned citizens to take action on a variety of national and state issues. CCB is a perfect example of the influence that a civic organization can have on our political system. This organization levels the playing field, providing ordinary citizens with the opportunity to affect the political process, reducing the disproportionate influence of special interest groups.

The CCB supports several community organizations and charities: the Bayonne Hospital Cancer Treatment Center; the Windmill Alliance; Deborah Hospital, the Bayonne PAL; Bayonne Little League; Bayonne Babe Ruth Baseball; the Bayonne Family YMCA Day Care Center; and Bayonne for the Battleship New Jersey, Inc.

CCB actively supports fines and jail terms for ocean dumping, opposes self service gas stations in New Jersey, and has opposed extreme wrestling exhibitions in Bayonne.

Committed to helping its community, CCB is a strong advocate for senior citizens, conducts activities for the veterans at the East Orange V.A. Hospital, and has been a participant in Toys for Tots for the past thirty years.

In 1990, on its 20th anniversary, CCB established the Frank P. Perrucci Scholarship Award, and in 1995, on its 25th anniversary, established the Frank P. Perrucci Civic Achievement Award to recognize extraordinary individuals who have volunteered their time and efforts for important causes.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Concerned Citizens of Bayonne
for its commitment and active participation in our political system and for its contributions to our community. I especially want to thank Frank Perrucci, his wife Jean Perrucci, and CCB President Joanne Kosaskowski.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC (WERI)

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the University of Guam Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific (WERI) on their twenty-fifth anniversary. WERI is the only regional water research institute dedicated to the needs of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Formally established in June of 1975, WERI has since sought solutions to technical problems associated with the location, production, distribution, and management of freshwater resources—an extremely essential function for the island communities it serves. One of fifty-five water research institutes authorized by Congress in the U.S. through the Water Research Act of 1964, WERI has expanded from a one-person operation in 1975 to a staff today of fifteen people conducting research, training, and information dissemination for Guam and the Western Pacific. They have continually strived to foster and promote research, training, technical assistance, outreach, awareness, information sharing, and dissemination.

Partially funded by the federal government, WERI provides a wide array of services to the University of Guam and the people of the Pacific insular region for a fraction of what independent consultants would charge. Their research program covers all the costs for materials, equipment, supplies, computers, audio visual, and field trip expenses required by 17 graduate and 4 undergraduate courses at the University of Guam. In addition, WERI conducts a number of professional training workshops throughout the region each year. During the past three years, their faculty has published over 65 reviewed journal articles, abstracts, and technical reports while carrying on 33 separate funded research and training projects. This is in addition to their regular university teaching commitments. Constructed through a matching federal grant, the WERI analytical laboratory is totally self-sustaining. As the knowledge base created by WERI is actively sought by various government agencies and offices on Guam, it generates a significant portion of its operating expenses. The governor’s office, the Guam Legislature, various local commissions, the private sector, the media and the local community constantly rely on WERI’s technological expertise. Consequently, the 24th and 25th Guam Legislatures set up two annual special appropriations for them to manage water monitoring and data collection on the island. Their reputation is such that the United States Geological Survey continues to rate WERI as one of the top water institutes among the state and Territorial institute programs.

I extend my congratulations to the individuals who have contributed to the valuable progress and success of WERI. The dedicated staff who deserve our recognition include WERI director, Dr. Galt Siegrist; faculty members Drs. Shahram Khorosrowpanah, Leroy Heitz, Gary Denton John Jenson, and Mark Lander; Charles Guard of the research faculty; laboratory manager Harold Wood; laboratory assistants Crispana Herrera and Lucrina Concepcion; staff hydrogeologist John Jocson; and staff members Norma Blas and Dolores Santoso.

WERI has made valuable contributions to the people of Guam and the Pacific region. Their work for the past twenty five years, has led to better planning, more efficient allocation and protection of our valuable water resources. On behalf of the people of Guam, I commend and congratulate the faculty and staff of the University of Guam Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific for their excellence and join in celebrating their 25th anniversary.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce my legislative proposal by Vice President GORE that would outlaw the practice of purchasing or selling Social Security numbers.

Last year, a man named Liam Youens was stalking a 21-year old New Hampshire woman named Amy Boyer. Youens reportedly purchased Amy Boyer’s Social Security number from an Internet Web site for $45. Using this information, he was able to track her down, a process that he chillingly detailed on an Internet Web site that he named after his target. Finally, last October; this demented stalker fatally shot Amy Boyer in front of the dental office where she worked. Afterwards, he turned the gun on himself.

This terrible tragedy underscores the fact that while the Social Security number was originally intended to be used only for the purposes of collecting Social Security taxes and administering the program’s benefits, it has over the years evolved into a ubiquitous national personal identification number which is subject to misuse and abuse. The unregulated sale and purchase of these numbers is a significant factor in a growing range of illegal activities, including fraud, identity theft, and tragically, stalking and even murders.

Today, if you open up a bank account, apply for a loan, buy insurance, get a credit card, sign up for telephone service or electric or gas utility service, you are almost invariably asked to provide a merchant with your Social Security number. Over the years, this number has become a key to verifying a person’s identity. As a result, it has become increasingly clear that there are growing and serious privacy concerns associated with the Social Security number. And these concerns are aimed at addressing these broader privacy problems.

Social Security numbers are an essentially important personal identifier that many online and offline businesses wish to obtain about consumers. Consumers can use their Social Security numbers to claim benefits, or your habits. I have sponsored or co-sponsored separate legislation, H.R. 1057, H.R. 3320, H.R. 3321, and H.R. 4380, which are aimed at addressing these broader privacy problems.

We need to take this action now if we are going to fully protect the public’s right to privacy by preventing sales of Social Security numbers. That is why I am pleased today to introduce the Social Security Privacy Protection Act of 2000 (S. 1500), which is aimed at addressing these broader privacy problems.