

The people of Colorado have every right to be proud of the Trivetts. On behalf of the people of Colorado, I thank you both, Roy and Judy, for your hard work and service to the Pueblo community. We are all very proud of you.

IN HONOR OF KENNETH E. BROWN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kenneth E. Brown, a distinguished Ohio entrepreneur a former recipient of the Northern Ohio Live 1999 Award of Achievement for Neighborhood Revitalization.

Since graduating from the Levin College of Urban Affairs in 1989, Kenneth B. Brown founded Progressive Urbana Real Estate. As the broker and president of this self-financed enterprise, he transformed the one-person storefront in Tremont to a 21-agent, six-person staff in a renovated, company-owned building in Ohio City.

Kenneth Brown is being honored with the Alumni Special Achievement Award for his dedication and collaborative work in the Tremont Ridge Project. This undertaking uses the grid of the original 20-foot-wide housing lots plotted just after the Civil War to maintain the historic pedestrian nature of the neighborhood.

there are now 39 homes completed—bungalows and colonials priced between \$130,000 and \$150,000 and featuring elegant 10-foot ceilings, loft balconies, hardwood floors, fireplaces, two-story living rooms, above-ground English-style basements, and rooftop decks. When completed, Tremont Ridge will total 60 units, including townhouses and scattered sites. Kenneth Brown's commitment not only beautifies the city, but also allows neighborhoods to benefit from the project, with homeowners able to apply for interest-free loans to rehabilitates their own homes.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Kenneth E. Brown for his service to the community in maintaining a beautiful historical site.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to a family health emergency in Los Angeles, I was not present during the House's consideration of the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill, last week. However, I was recorded as voting on an amendment to this bill offered by Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. The mistake was fortunately caught by the diligent staff of the Minority Leader. Nevertheless, members should be aware that although the digital voting system used by the House of Representatives is very reliable, it is not perfect. I have been assured by both the Chairman of the Committee on House Administration and the Clerk's Office that they are thoroughly investigating the incident and that it

does appear to be a true statistical anomaly which is unlikely to occur again. I would like to thank the Chairman and the office of the Clerk for their quick attention to this matter as well as the staff of the Minority leader, who first discovered this error and brought it to the attention of the Clerk. Finally, while I was mistakenly recorded as voting "aye" on the amendment, had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4635) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Hinchey-Waxman amendment and to express my opposition to the anti-environment provisions contained in the bill and its report.

Mr. Chairman, it seems as though we go down this road every year—fighting riders and report language designed specifically to stop the Environmental Protection Agency from advancing the protection of human health and the environment.

Just a few short weeks ago, the Majority claimed to have adopted a policy of no anti-environmental riders in appropriations bills. Unfortunately for human health and the environment, this is not the case. Instead, the Majority has determined to place anti-environmental provisions in the Committee Report. This amendment is necessary to undo that harm.

Mr. Chairman, I am particularly concerned that the report accompanying this bill would prohibit EPA from removing contaminated sediments from rivers and lakes, even where such removal has been thoroughly studied and is the correct response. Contaminated sediments pose huge risks to human health and the environment.

Mr. Chairman, we all know that there are two sites that drive this issue every year—the Hudson River and Fox River—which are both heavily contaminated with PCBs.

This broad language will stop or delay cleanups not only at these two sites, but also at 26 other sites in 15 states. It is time to stop interfering with EPA protecting human health and the environment, and support the Hinchey-Waxman amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I also am deeply troubled by language in the bill that would prevent EPA from spending any money to advance the process of developing and implementing the program for Total Maximum Daily Loads, or TMDLs.

The TMDL program is the final phase of the Clean Water Act. It is the mechanism by

which we will fulfill the promise made to the American public in 1972 to make the Nation's waters fishable and swimmable.

The opposition to the TMDL rule is badly misguided and fueled by an unwillingness to achieve water quality in a fair and timely manner. The TMDL process is the most effective, most rational, and most defensible way to achieve water quality. Let me describe it.

First, states identify those waters where the water quality standards that the states developed are not being met.

Second, states identify the pollutants that are causing the water quality impairment.

Third, states identify the sources of those pollutants.

Finally, states assign responsibility for reducing those pollutants so that the waters can meet the uses that the states have established.

We have made great improvements in water quality through the treatment of municipal waste and industrial discharges. But these point sources are no longer the greatest source of impairment. Nationally, the greatest problem is nonpoint sources, and now, nearly 30 years after the Clean Water Act, it is time for the states to get all sources of pollution to be part of the solution.

Mr. Chairman, while the TMDL process may be complicated in its execution, it is the most fair and efficient way to clean up the Nation's waters. The TMDL rule is not a perfect rule. Many have criticized it, including some in the environmental community. However, the majority of the environmental community supports going forward. The Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies supports going forward. I am attaching letters that demonstrate this support. I hope that EPA does in fact move forward, and that the harmful language in the bill is eliminated.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support for the Hinchey-Waxman amendment and submit the following communications for the RECORD.

JUNE 19, 2000,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE. On behalf of the organizations listed below, we are writing to you in strong opposition to an anti-environmental rider on the FY 2001 VA-HUD appropriations bill regarding the Clean Water Act's TMDL program, which may go to the House floor as early as today. Our organizations have consistently opposed all anti-environmental riders, and we urge you to oppose this and other such anti-environmental riders on appropriations bills this year.

The section of the VA-HUD Sub-Committee report, under EPA-Environmental Programs and Management, attempts to use a rider to interfere with EPA's rulemaking process and guidance on the Clean Water Act. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) are part of the Clean Water Act's strategy for attaining and maintaining water quality standards in polluted waters. They require that states identify all sources of pollution that impair the uses of waterbodies, such as drinking, swimming or aquatic habitat. Once identified, the TMDL process is a way to ensure that responsibility for reducing the pollution is fairly allocated. The conservation community considers this rider an attack on a key opportunity under the Clean Water Act to clean up our nation's waterways. Furthermore, we have serious concerns about Congress' interference with the rulemaking process with a rider.

Moreover, Committee report language encourages EPA to revoke a Clean Water Act guidance document issued by the agency's