security enhancements of critical importance'' or ''significant threats to public health.'' However, existing SDWA programs which provide assistance to water systems have not provided assistance for continuing expenses such as operations and maintenance or personnel expenses. This legislation does not change this long-established public policy.

Finally, Title IV clarifies that EPA has discretion to act under Part D, Emergency Powers, of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) when the Agency has received information about a specific threatened terrorist attack or when the Agency has received information concerning a potential terrorist attack (but not necessarily a specific, identified threat) at a drinking water facility. In exercising this discretion, the EPA should only rely upon substantial, credible information. EPA should not interpret ''potential terrorist attack'' to mean that there is merely some possibility or statistical probability of a terrorist attack. Neither should EPA interpret a general warning, general announcement or general condition to be sufficient information of a threatened or potential terrorist attack. Specific, credible information is required, and all other elements of section 1431 must be met, including the existence of an imminent and substantial endangerment to the health of persons, that appropriate State and local authorities have not acted to protect the health of persons served by the drinking water system, and that the EPA Administrator has consulted with State and local authorities regarding the correctness of the information regarding both the specific threat and the actions which the State or local authorities have taken. The authority granted to EPA in section 1431 is a limited, case-by-case, contingent emergency power.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, December 11, 2001.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Committee on Energy and Commerce has requested that the House take up the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2001, H.R. 3448. While the bill primarily contains provisions related to the matters in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, I recognize that section 135, which amends the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. §§5121, et seq.), to require release of emergency plans, falls under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Allowing this bill to move forward in no way impairs your jurisdiction over that provision, and I would be pleased to place this letter and any response you may have in the Congressional Record when the bill is considered on the floor. In addition, if a conference is necessary on this bill, I recognize your right to request that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure be represented on the conference with respect to the provision amending the Stafford Act.

Sincerely,

W.J. ''BILLY'' TAUZIN,
Chairman.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, December 11, 2001.

Hon. W.J. BILLY TAUZIN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your recent letter regarding The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2001, H.R. 3448. As you know, this bill contains a provision related to matters in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrasturcture. Specifically, Section 135 of the bill amends the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. §§5121, et seq.), which is under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In the interest of expediting consideration of the bill, the Committee will not seek a referral of this legislation and will support your request to schedule floor action on the bill. This action should not, however, be construed as waiving the Committee's jurisdiction over future legislation of a similar nature.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP SAMUEL C. MADISON ON THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE'S CONVOCATION, HIS 61ST ANNIVERSARY AS MINISTER, AND 10TH ANNIVERSARY AS BISHOP AND CHURCH LEADER

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary leader, Bishop S.C. Madison, who is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the United House of Prayer for All People's Convocation, his 61st anniversary as minister and his 10th anniversary as bishop of the United House of Prayer. Bishop Madison is an exceptional leader who has championed the causes of eliminating poverty, inadequate and unaffordable housing, unemployment, illiteracy, economic disparities and spiritual depravation. The magnitude, depth and substance of his contributions to improve human welfare and social reform have brought him national acclaim.

The leadership of Bishop C.M. Grace, Bishop W. McCollough and Bishop S.C. Madison has had a positive impact on the growth of the United House of Prayer since its earliest existence in tents and storefront locations. Currently, under the leadership of Bishop Madison, there has been expansion to 135 congregations in 26 states. The church's massive, nationwide building program has resulted in construction of over 800 units of low and moderate income housing. These housing complexes are located in New Haven, CT; Washington, DC; Norfolk, VA; Charlotte, NC; Augusta, GA; Savannah, GA; and Los Angeles, CA. More than 100 units have been developed for senior citizens.

The extraordinary success of Bishop Madison has led to numerous honors and awards from national, state, and local organizations. Academic institutions have presented honorary degrees to him acknowledging his outstanding achievements in helping to overcome deplorable conditions that plagued people and cities. He has received Doctor of Humane Letters from the Saturday College of Washington, DC and Bowie State University of Bowie, MD.

Bishop Madison continues to demonstrate outstanding leadership, dispense an abundance of love and philanthropy and support causes for young people and the elderly. Bishop Madison's ministry promotes higher education, exercises business acumen, improves the spiritual fiber of society and maintains the United House of Prayer as a beacon of light for those who need inspiration and a safe haven from the harsh realities of life.

It is my pleasure to stand before the House to pay tribute to Bishop S.C. Madison as he marks 61 years in the ministry and 10 years of service as the outstanding role model and leader of the United House of Prayer for all people.

DEBT-FOR-NATURE AGENDA OF BANK REGULATORS AT THE FDIC AND OTS

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, in the 106th Congress, I chaired a Task Force formed by then-Chairman DON YOUNG to examine whether bank regulators at the FDIC and OTS used their powers to leverage privately owned redwood trees, known as the Headwaters Forest in California, from an individual.

The task force, which included Representatives POMBO, THORNBERRY, BRADY, and RADANOVICH, undertook an 8 month review of the debt-for-redwoods matter. We held one terribly long hearing on the subject on December 12, 2000.

In the 107th Congress, Chairman HANSEN continued work on the subject and dedicated staff to draft a staff report to summarize the evidence of the FDIC and OTS redwoods debt-for-nature scheme and conclusions drawn from the oversight work. The report exposes how banking regulators took on an unauthorized, political agenda of leveraging redwood trees.

A member of the Task Force, Representative POMBO, inserted the text of the staff report into the RECORD on June 14, 2001. Just as important as the report itself, is the collection of evidence and documents, appended to the report. Those documents validate the accuracy of information presented in the report. Today, for the benefit of my colleagues, I have put those appendices into the RECORD. The Financial Services Committee should review this information as they deal with re-authorizing the FDIC and the OTS. These entities are clearly out of control, and I want to summarize why this is so.

Bank regulators at the FDIC and OTS have very specific statutory charges. They are to recover money from the owners of banks and thrifts when the institutions fail. This system keeps depositors whole through federally-backed insurance funds and collects money from the banks' owners if they failed to properly manage the bank. I emphasize, bank regulators are to recover money.

We found boxes of evidence that clearly showed that the bank regulators at the FDIC and OTS deviated from their statutory charge and actually concocted a scheme, in concert with the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, to obtain redwood trees from an owner of the failed bank. The scheme was initiated, promoted, and lobbied by radical EarthFirst!