declaration of any monument. Moreover, three of the monuments were declared with virtually no public process. The only sign that an area was under consideration for monument status was a visit to this state by the former secretary for a short hike to which a handful of supporters and select media were invited.

Please let me review your records to verify his claim. It would be very interesting to learn what the file has to say in regard to public participation prior to each declaration in Arizona.

Other concerns I have in regard to the monuments are site specific, and I have attached for your review a list of concerns my cabinet and I have compiled on each monument. You will notice the same concern often arises with multiple monuments. Where possible, we have also listed potential solutions to the issues raised. While the solutions may not be perfect, they certainly reflect more closely the will of those who make their home in this state.

Please note before you review this list that I am not suggesting the repeal of any monument in Arizona, nor a reduction in the size of any monument. I am simply asking that boundaries and proclamation language be amended where necessary to protect the best interests of the citizens of this state, including the certainty of their water and electricity supplies, school funding, necessary roads and sound wildlife management.

I appreciate your consideration of the following and if you need any additional information, I would be delighted to provide it.

Sincerely,

JANEEDE HULL, Governor.

CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2002

SPREAD OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2341) to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow consideration of interstate class actions, to ensure that attorneys do not receive a disproportionate amount of settlements at the expense of class members, to provide for clearer and simpler information in class action settlement notices, to assure prompt consideration of interstate class actions, to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow the application of the principles of Federal diversity jurisdiction to class actions, and for other purposes.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 2341, the Class Action Fairness Act.

Our system of class action litigation is in dire need of reform. Most class action cases are national in scope and should be heard in federal court, where like claims may be combined and uniform decisions rendered. Under the current system, however, these interstate suits are often filed in state or county court, where the decision of a local judge and jury may apply to all 50 states. As a former state insurance commissioner, I am deeply troubled that a jury panel in a class action case in Mississippi or New Mexico could effectively overturn state regulations in my home state of North Dakota.

In addition, by allowing interstate class action claims to be filed in any of the thousands of local courts across the country, the likelihood is increased that a plaintiffs attorney will find at least one judge who is willing to entertain claims that the people he or she is asking to be without merit. Once a sympathetic judge is found, the plaintiffs’ attorney can leverage nationwide settlements that all too often provide little benefit to the actual plaintiffs but enormous benefit to the attorney.

As important as it is to reform class action litigation, I am concerned that this legislation could have the effect of closing the courthouse door to even meritorious class action suits. The bill places a significant new responsibility on federal courts without providing the resources necessary to carry out that responsibility. The only study on record indicates that this legislation would burden federal courts to the point that class action cases could not be heard a timely fashion. As serious as the abuses are in the current system, we cannot solve the problems with a system that creates an incentive for people who are the victims of wrongdoing.

With additional time, we could have further evaluated the workload of the federal courts and crafted legislation that would ensure that class reform did not result in class action reform. In scheduling this legislation, I regret that the majority leadership did not allow us that time. We have not heard the last of this issue. I took forward to continuing to work on this issue so that we have reform the class action system without denying the opportunity for worthy class action cases to be heard.

A TRIBUTE TO LUCIA G. REYES, 27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2002

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women’s History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation’s most notable women during the month of March and it is my honor to not only recognize women of the past but to also recognize women who are making a difference in my community. While a month of remembrance is certainly not sufficient, I am honored today to pay homage to such women. I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraor- dinary woman of California’s 27th Congressional District, Ms. Lucia Reyes. The entire 27th Congressional District joins me in thanking Lucia for her continued efforts to make the 27th Congressional District a more accepting place in which to live.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT H. STERN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Robert H. Stern, who dedicated so much of his life to serving the community in which he had lived. From his childhood up until his death, Mr. Stern spent the majority of his time preserving and improving the business district of Steiniway Street in Queens. For his many contributions within the community at large, we honor him.

The family business, “Sig Stern” was opened in the early 1920’s by Robert Stern’s father. For over fifty years it was considered the “children’s store” of Steiniway Street. After his father’s death, Robert ran Sig Stern, Inc. In 1975, Robert closed Sig Stern, and embarked onto a successful second career as a real estate broker.

Throughout his life, Robert Stern’s passion was the successful, community oriented development of Steiniway Street. Sensing that Business Improvement Districts were the salvation to commercial strips, Mr. Stern worked hard to bring the business improvement district to Steiniway Street. At the time of his passing, Robert was President of the Steiniway Street Business Improvement District. Steiniway Street and its surrounding community acknowledged a huge debt of gratitude for its past, present and future success.

This vibrant neighborhood center of commerce is part of the legacy Mr. Stern leaves