

Anthony Mazzochi was a working class intellectual and a renaissance man. While the country underwent unsteady and unpredictable periods over the last several decades his vision and optimism remained unwavering. Anthony Mazzochi embraced the human spirit in its totality and invited people to join in fighting for justice. Countless have joined and will continue to join as his indelible and inspirational legacy lives on. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Anthony Mazzochi.

RECOGNITION OF THE DOMINICAN
AMERICAN NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Dominican American National Roundtable as it celebrates five years of serving the interests of the Dominican community living throughout the United States.

During its first five years, the Dominican American National Roundtable has assisted the Dominican community living in the United States with immigration issues and voter registration drives. It has also established a Dominican internship program, opened its permanent office in Washington, DC, and held five national conferences. In the future, the Dominican American National Roundtable plans to host varied events throughout the country such as Dominican American Business Legislative meetings, and, of course, their annual conference. The Roundtable is also putting together the Dominican Leadership Institute.

I also take this opportunity to recognize the President of the Dominican American National Roundtable, Margarita Cepeda-Leonardo, 1st Vice President, Sid Wilson, 2nd Vice President, State Senator Juan Pichardo, and all the former Presidents, Vice Presidents and current and past members of the Dominican American National Roundtable Board.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Dominican American National Roundtable for its tremendous achievements with the certainty that it will continue to make valuable contributions to the Dominican community. I join the Dominican community in the United States in applauding its continued successes.

H.R. 11, THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in today in support of H.R. 11, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Reauthorization Act, which we are considering today under suspension of the rules.

It is a shame that Congressional leadership allowed any lapse in the authority to write new flood insurance policies by the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA) under the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA). However, I am relieved that the lapse in authority, which began December 31, 2002, is shortly coming to an end. Thousands of my constituents are mandatory and voluntary participants in the NFIP, and they deserve the convenience of renewing and beginning new policies without interference from Congressional inaction.

I would like to commend FEMA and the underwriters for the efforts that they have made to reach out to homeowners and warn them of the problem and lead them to solutions. Hopefully, the Senate will take up this legislation immediately and send it to the President, and Congress will not allow this situation to occur again. The NFIP is an absolutely critical program for my constituents and millions of other homeowners, with flooding causing billions of dollars of damage nationwide every year. Since affordable flood insurance is not a sustainable business for the private insurance industry, it is essential that Congress support the NFIP.

Mr. Speaker, we need to come together and take care of business for the millions of Americans who live in the floodplain or other flood hazard areas. It is our duty to ensure the smooth operation of the National Flood Insurance Program, and we have already delayed too long. I urge my colleagues to suspend the rules and approve H.R. 11, the National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, regarding the vote on the rule for the unemployment insurance, had I been able to vote, I would have voted "no." I was on the floor at the time of the vote but was unable to vote within the time allotted.

DO NOT TRANSPORT GEMS LANDFILL POLLUTANTS TO CCMUA

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the legislative intent of the Comprehensive Environment Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and specifically on the cleanup of a Superfund site in my district, the Gloucester Environmental Management Services (GEMS) landfill (EPA Facility ID NJD980529192).

I strongly oppose the transport of pollutants from the GEMS landfill through sewer lines to the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA). I continue to believe that the only responsible option is for the GEMS Trust to build an on-site treatment facility that can treat the contaminated water to the highest standards possible. Further, I call on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and CCMUA to step up and protect the public interest by insisting on on-site treatment, and only on-site treatment of the con-

taminants in the landfill. According to a letter from EPA Region 2 Administrator Jane Kenney dated November 25, 2002, the CCMUA is under no legal obligation to accept contaminants from GEMS. As such, I continue to urge the CCMUA heed the call of the local community and reject any discharge from GEMS.

The intent of Superfund is to hold polluters responsible for cleaning up the damage they have caused to a community. There is no plausible reason that a publicly financed municipal utility authority should be involved in the remediation process. Furthermore, committing the CCMUA to the long term burden of processing unpredictable wastewater is inconsistent with New Jersey's efforts to meet federal Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) initiatives as prescribed in the Clean Water Act.

Proponents of the CCMUA treatment option cite water quality tests that satisfy permit requirements for discharge to the CCMUA. I believe that this testing is inadequate evidence to send the GEMS pollutants off-site. It is likely that the customary "grab samples" will miss radioactive "spikes" and that the heavier radio isotopes will flocculate in the sludge, which is destined to be sent back into a community as part of the state's controversial "beneficial use" land application sludge policy. It is also predictable that under current testing and notification procedures, there will be a significant lapse of time from when a problem is detected, its source is determined, the flow to the sewer plant halted, and byproduct recipients are notified. I am convinced that this testing and monitoring regime will not fully protect the community.

Insufficient review has been given to the synergistic and cumulative effects of discharges to CCMUA. Needless to say, any costs related to the disruption of the CCMUA system, environmental impairment and legal defenses, will immediately be a pass through cost to the CCMUA rate payers and ultimately, to New Jersey taxpayers in general. This is a risk that I am not will to pass on to my constituents.

The GEMS Landfill has exposed our community to hazardous material for almost 50 years. Today, approximately 38,000 of my constituents live within a three mile radius of the GEMS Landfill, some as close as 300 feet. Unfortunately the community has not been adequately involved in the decision making process. Many of my constituents have contacted me with their concerns about GEMS and to outline their difficulty in obtaining information about the remediation.

Although the landfill has been closed for 22 years, amazingly we are still grappling with how to cleanup the site. The GEMS Trust should not get away with a band aid solution to a major environmental hazard. My constituents have suffered long enough. I sincerely hope that the EPA, NJDEP and constituents meet the responsibility they have to the public and to public health by supporting the construction of a treatment facility that will contain the pollution and treat it on-site rather than spread it around the community by sending it to the constituents. If, however, they do not do so, I am prepared to pursue any avenue necessary—including legislation or litigation or both—to block this unwelcome and risky plan.