

paid a geographic- and risk-adjusted rate, based on projected national per capita costs of the out-of-pocket spending limit benefit in traditional Medicare.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR AND SUPPORTING AN INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR-2 IN 2007-08

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation calling for a worldwide program of activities to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the most successful global scientific endeavor in human history—the International Geophysical Year of 1957–58. I am pleased that my colleague Representative EHLERS—the Chairman of the Environment, Technology, and Standards Subcommittee of the Science Committee—is joining me as an original cosponsor of this legislation.

Indeed, it is hard to imagine not commemorating the historic global undertaking that was the International Geophysical Year, popularly known and remembered as the IGY. Yet such may occur unless steps proposed in this resolution for an “IGY-2” in 2007–2008 are not taken soon.

The 60 nations and 60,000 scientists who participated in the IGY left an ongoing legacy that is beyond measure. Satellite communications, modern weather forecasting, modern natural disaster prediction and management, from volcanic eruptions to El Niño—they are all legacies of IGY scientific activities that girdled the globe and breached the space frontier.

The space age itself is a child of the IGY. The program of events included the launching of the first artificial satellites, Sputnik and Vanguard. The IGY also produced the path-breaking decision to set aside an entire continent—Antarctica—for cooperative study. This IGY program alone—which was permanently institutionalized by the Antarctica Treaty—made the year a scientific triumph. Six of my colleagues on the Science Committee recently returned from Antarctica and have testified to the ongoing organizational effectiveness and scientific payoff of this remarkable IGY legacy.

In a still broader context, the IGY marked the coming of age of international science. Globally coordinated activities that save millions of lives today—such as the campaigns to contain and find cures for SARS and AIDS—owe their inspiration and working model to the unprecedented number of scientists from throughout the world who banded together to implement the IGY. Scientific findings from thousands of locations, ranging from world research centers to remote field stations, were collected and organized by this global team. The result was an unprecedented range of discoveries for human benefit. The great British geophysicist Sydney Chapman, who helped conceive the IGY, called it “the greatest example of world-wide scientific cooperation in the history of our race.”

My resolution calls for an “IGY-2” that would be even more extensive in its global reach and more comprehensive in its research

and applications. After all, science never stands still. Its frontiers are continually expanding. The biological sciences, genetics, computer sciences, and the neurosciences, among others, have made tremendous advances worldwide during the half century since the IGY. At the same time, new integrative linkages are being established among mathematics, physics, the geosciences, the life sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities as well.

As a consequence, there is a coming together in the study of our planet and its diverse inhabitants whose potential scope and significance is only beginning to be perceived even among those directly involved. In addition to promoting research, IGY-2 would provide a stage for showcasing these new developments and a forum for presentation and discussion of their continually unfolding cultural as well as scientific significance.

Indeed, one of IGY-2’s most important contributions would be to enhance public awareness of global activities that provide hope and example in an era when conflict and strife occupy the foreground of public policy and public attention. George Kistiakowsky, science adviser to President Dwight Eisenhower under whose presidency the IGY occurred, said at the time: “Science is today one of the few common languages of mankind; it can provide a basis for understanding and communication of ideas between people that is independent of political boundaries and ideologies [and] that can contribute in a major way to the reduction of tension between nations.”

Those words spoken more than 40 years ago resonate with special significance today when the web of global ties among scientists is so much more extensive yet still largely unrecognized. We are catching a glimpse of its saving potential in the inspiring worldwide response of scientists and public health professionals to the SARS outbreak—a response inconceivable without the collaborative lines of communication established during the past half century. At a minimum, the work of these unsung heroes deserves greater recognition than it has received—and IGY-2 would do that.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is entirely fitting that the United States take the lead in launching an IGY-2 and that Congress provide the impetus. The IGY of 1957–58 was conceived in 1950 only a few miles from here, in Silver Spring, MD, at a dinner hosted by Professor James Van Allen and attended by scientist-friends from Europe, including Sydney Chapman. They discussed the International Polar Years that had been held at 50 year intervals—first in 1882, then in 1932. The next one was scheduled for 1982. Over a barbecue in Van Allen’s backyard, these visionary scientists came up with the idea of accelerating the schedule to a 25-year interval, which would occur in 1957, and expanding its coverage to the entire globe, so as to take full advantage of rapid advances in research and instrumentation. They took their idea to governments and scientific organizations and they made it happen. Fittingly, James Van Allen won the Nobel Prize for discovery during the IGY of the radiation belts that bear his name.

Subsequently, in 1985, Congress passed a resolution calling for a year of globally coordinated space activity in 1992, to mark the simultaneously occurring 35th anniversary of the IGY and 500th anniversary of Columbus’ voy-

age of discovery. The bipartisan resolution for this International Space Year, or ISY, was introduced by Senator Spark Matsunaga and endorsed by President Reagan. At the President’s direction, the United States led a worldwide planning effort that culminated with the implementation of an ISY in 1992 that made major contributions to international scientific cooperation, notably in the field of global environmental monitoring.

So we have both scientific and Congressional precedent for the United States to take the lead internationally in calling for an IGY-2. I urge my colleagues to join me in promoting this initiative in support of modern science and the inspiration to our troubled planet that its global outlook can provide. I have no doubt that the contributions to humanity of an IGY-2 will be remembered with gratitude both in the near future and for generations to come.

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the House Republicans’ so-called Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

This bill is more about restoring healthy profits for the timber industry, than protecting healthy forests for the American people. Given the devastating impact this bill will have on pristine public lands, a better title would be Leave No Tree Behind. That is exactly what will happen as logging companies are given a backdoor into our national forests and wilderness areas.

Of course, Republicans argue that this bill is about protecting rural communities from dangerous wildfires. Yet, there is nothing in their bill providing any help to small towns or homeowners for fire prevention. The Republicans only increase subsidies to timber companies to log forests well outside the so-called wildland-urban interface—even in wilderness and roadless areas—and not where fires pose the greatest threat.

You won’t find many forestry experts who would tell you that timber companies are able to turn a profit harvesting diseased and insect prone trees. So Republicans have devised it so that the Forest Service will pay timber companies for their service by allowing them to cut down stands of healthy trees. There is nothing in this bill that prevents the harvested trees from being ancient old growth or redwoods for that matter.

The Republicans claim their bill is proenvironment. Yet, their bill cuts out the heart of the landmark National Environmental Protection Act. It exempts the Forest Service from doing a thorough analysis of alternatives to proposed logging projects. It even creates a new Federal program to assist private landowners in getting around the Endangered Species Act that protects fish and wildlife.

Now if after all of this, you thought you had recourse in the matter, think again. This Republican bill severely restricts the right of any citizen to appeal Forest Service decisions and even undermines the power of judges to overrule the agency’s determinations. In fact, this

bill prohibits the Federal courts from halting any logging project until 45 days after it's begun.

In light of this dangerous assault on our environment and our democratic process, I urge my colleagues to vote down this bill and support the Democratic alternative. It protects our forests and wilderness areas from harmful logging. It upholds landmark environmental protections and the right of the American people, not just the timber industry, to have a say in the future of our public lands. And it puts money toward real and effective fire prevention around rural communities where it's needed most.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for our forests and vote "no" on the Republicans' sham Leave No Tree Behind bill.

INTRODUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT OF 2002

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing the Environmental Justice Act of 2002. I am proud that my colleague Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS is once again joining me as an original cosponsor of this bill.

Representative SOLIS and I first introduced this bill last year, too late for consideration in the 107th Congress. Its reintroduction today reflects our continued concern about the way federal actions have had disproportionately adverse effects on the health, environment and quality of life of Americans in minority and lower-income communities.

Too often these communities—because of their low income or lack of political visibility—are exposed to greater risks from toxins and dangerous substances because it has been possible to locate waste dumps, industrial facilities, and chemical storage warehouses in these communities with less care than would be taken in other locations.

The sad fact is that in some eyes these communities have appeared as expendable—without full appreciation that human beings, who deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, are living, working, and raising families there.

This needs to give way to policies focused on providing clean, healthy and quality environments within and around these communities. When that happens, we provide hope for the future and enhance the opportunities that these citizens have to improve their condition.

Our bill would help do just that. The bill essentially codifies an Executive Order that was issued by President Clinton in 1994. That order required all federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice considerations in their missions, develop strategies to address disproportionate impacts to minority and low-income people from their activities, and coordinate the development of data and research on these topics.

Although federal agencies have been working to implement this order and have developed strategies, there is clearly much more to do. We simply cannot solve these issues overnight or even over a couple of years. We need to "institutionalize" the consideration of these

issues in a more long-term fashion—which this bill would do.

In addition, just as the current policy was established by an administrative order, it could be swept away with a stroke of an administrative pen. To avoid that, we need to make it more permanent—which is also what this bill would do.

It would do this by statutorily requiring all federal agencies to: Make addressing environmental justice concerns part of their missions; develop environmental justice strategies; evaluate the effects of proposed actions on the health and environment of minority, low income, and Native American communities; avoid creating disproportionate adverse impacts on the health or environment of minority, low-income, or Native American communities; and collect data and carry out research on the effects of facilities on health and environment of minority, low-income, and Native American communities.

It would also statutorily establish two committees: The Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group, set up by the Executive Order to develop strategies, provide guidance, coordinate research, convene public meetings, and conduct inquiries regarding environmental justice issues; and a Federal Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, appointed by the President, including members of community-based groups, business, academic, state agencies and environmental organizations. It will provide input and advice to the Interagency Working Group.

In a nutshell, what this bill would do is require federal agencies that control the siting and disposing of hazardous materials, store toxins or release pollutants at federal facilities, or issue permits for these kinds of activities to make sure they give fair treatment to low-income and minority populations—including Native Americans. The bill tells federal agencies, "In the past these communities have endured a disproportionate impact to their health and environment. Now we must find ways to make sure that won't be the case in the future."

For the information of our colleagues, here is a short analysis of the bill:

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT

Summary: This bill would essentially codify a Clinton Administration Executive Order which directed a number of federal agencies and offices to consider the environmental impact of decisions on minority and low-income populations.

Background: On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." The President also issued a corresponding Memorandum to all federal departments and agencies further explaining the order and how the agencies should implement it to address environmental justice issues. The Order and Memorandum called for the creation of an interagency working group to provide guidance on identifying disproportionate impacts on the health and environment of minority and low-income populations, develop strategies to address such disproportionate impacts, and provide a report on that strategy. Since the order was promulgated, the affected agencies have developed reports and strategies.

Need for the Bill: Although federal agencies and offices have been complying with the Executive Order, disproportionate impacts related to human health and the environment still exist for many minority and

low-income communities. These impacts must be addressed over the long term. In addition, due to the lack of resources and political clout of many of these impacted communities, vigilance is required to make sure that disproportionate impacts are reduced and do not continue. As the effort to date has been primarily administrative based on the presidential order and memorandum, these strategies need to be incorporated into the routine functioning of federal agencies and offices through federal law.

The bill—

Requires federal agencies and offices to: include addressing environmental justice concerns into their respective missions; conduct programs so as not to create disproportionate impact on minority and low-income populations; include an examination of the effects of such action on the health and environment of minority and low-income populations for actions that require environmental analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act; create an environmental justice strategy to address disproportionate impacts of its policies and actions, and conduct and collect research on the disproportionate impacts from federal facilities.

Creates an Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group to develop strategies, provide guidance, coordinate research, convene public meetings, and conduct inquiries regarding environmental justice issues.

Creates a Federal Environmental Justice Advisory Committee composed of members of community-based groups, business, academic, state agencies and environmental organizations which will provide input and advice to the Interagency Working Group.

HATTIE McDANIEL STAMP
RESOLUTION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution urging the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee and the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp to honor Hattie McDaniel. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. McDaniel was the first African American to receive an Academy Award in 1939 for Best Supporting Actress for her performance as Mammy in "Gone With The Wind."

Hattie McDaniel was born June 10, 1895 in Wichita, Kansas. Hattie McDaniel was a pioneer in the entertainment industry and helped open doors for other black entertainers. She was the first black performer to star in her own radio program, "Beulah," which later became a television series. Ms. McDaniel had other significant roles including playing Queenie in "Show Boat," Aunt Tempy in "Song of the South," and appearing in "The Little Colonel" with Shirley Temple.

Hattie McDaniel died of breast cancer on October 2, 1952. She was the first African American to be buried in Los Angeles's Rose-dale Memorial Park Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Citizen Stamp Advisory Commission is currently considering a proposal to issue a Hattie McDaniel stamp, which is an outstanding tribute to an accomplished actress and American.