

clauses. In essence, the savings clauses state that none of them give the FERC any new authority. They confirm that once PUHCA repeal takes effect, the FERC will continue to apply existing utility rate regulation to public utilities within formerly registered holding companies under PUHCA of 1935.

Particularly, Section 1275(a) states if a state commission disagrees with the allocation of costs of non-power goods or services provided by an affiliate organized specifically for that purpose, typically a service company, either the state commission or the holding company system may ask the FERC to resolve the allocation issue. The FERC will then make a determination of the proper allocation of such costs under the standards contained in the section, but only at the request of a State commission or a holding company system. The FERC has no authority to review or approve such cost allocations absent such a request. Section 1275(b) merely states that both the FERC and the State commissions retain whatever rights they now have to review cost allocations from service companies among public utilities for rate-making purposes.

H.R. 1964 THE HIGHLANDS
CONSERVATION ACT

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1964, the Highlands Conservation Act, introduced by my colleague, Mr. RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN.

I am very pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Highlands Conservation Act, which is an important step forward in our ongoing effort to save New Jersey's precious open space and enhance the quality of life for residents. New Jersey is the most densely populated State in the Nation, which is why it is so important that we think ahead and recognize the importance of preserving our remaining acres of open space. By protecting the 2 million acres of the Highlands, which extend through our neighboring states as well, we are creating an environmental legacy for future generations, safeguarding our area's drinking water, and ensuring that our children and our children's children have places to explore and opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors.

The Highlands Conservation Act is a testament to the foresight of the bill's author, Congressman RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN, who recognizes the importance of saving New Jersey's open space. I have seen Congressman FRELINGHUYSEN's commitment to the preservation of undeveloped acres firsthand as a colleague of his on the House Appropriations Committee. He worked in a bipartisan fashion to garner support for his measure. Congressman FRELINGHUYSEN's leadership to protect the Highlands will truly help New Jersey live up to its namesake as the Garden State.

Getting Congress to authorize \$100 million for the preservation of the Highlands would be a victory for our quality of life and the environment, but also a victory for New Jersey's taxpayers who will be spared from having to pay for the full cost of these preservation efforts. I am pleased that I was able to help get this bill onto the floor today and I look forward to

working with Congressman FRELINGHUYSEN on the Appropriations Committee to preserve New Jersey's open space.

HALF A LOAF FOR AMERICA'S
DISABLED VETERANS IN ELIMI-
NATING DISABILITY TAX

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this session I signed the discharge petition to force a vote on legislation that I co-sponsored (H.R. 303) which would have repealed altogether an antiquated law from the 1890s that prevents disabled veterans from receiving concurrently both military retirement and veterans' disability benefits. In response to that parliamentary procedure, the Republican Leadership finally relented and included a plan in the FY 2004 Defense Authorization Conference Report that will be phased in over ten years and would provide greater benefits for approximately 245,000 disabled veterans—only half of those who see their retirement benefits reduced or eliminated under current law.

This is a good step forward and I surely would have voted in favor of this plan had it been brought to the House floor as a free-standing bill. Unfortunately, the Republican Leadership folded it into the \$400 billion Defense Authorization Conference Report, which I voted against for several other reasons. Now that this legislation has been enacted, it is incumbent upon this Congress to do more than provide half a loaf. We need to pass additional legislation in the next session of Congress to cover the remainder of our nation's disabled veterans who are unfairly left in the predicament of having to pay this de facto "disability tax".

On January 21, 2001, President Bush said, "America's veterans ask only that government honor its commitments as they honored theirs. . . . In all matters of concern to veterans—from health care to program funding—you have my pledge that those commitments will be kept. My Administration will do all it can to assist our veterans and to correct oversights of the past."

I couldn't agree more. I will actively support additional legislation in the next session of this Congress to ensure that none of the 4,263 veterans in New Jersey who currently receive military retirement benefits will have their disability payments reduced commensurately because they remain subject to the so-called concurrent receipt prohibition.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RE-
TIREMENT OF NAVAL CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE SPE-
CIAL AGENT ROD MILLER

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my appreciation to Special Agent Rodney Miller of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service for his 32 years of service to his

country, and to salute him on the occasion of his retirement from the ranks of federal law enforcement.

Special Agent Rod Miller was born and raised in Linton, Indiana, which is in the heart of Indiana's 8th Congressional District. The son of an Army veteran who was awarded the Purple Heart during World War II and who himself worked as a Navy employee for some 30 years thereafter, Rod spent time as a life-guard and paperboy in Linton before graduating from Linton High School in 1966. He enrolled at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, and completed two years of study before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force in 1969. After a four-year stint in the Air Force, including over a year spent in Vietnam, Rod returned to Terre Haute and completed his undergraduate studies, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology in 1974. Shortly thereafter, he began coursework at the same school to obtain a Master of Science degree, also in Criminology.

In May 1975, Rod commenced what would become a long and illustrious career as a Special Agent with the Naval Investigative Service (NIS)—the predecessor of today's Naval Criminal Investigative Service—at NIS Resident Agency Great Lakes. There he learned the basics of criminal investigation, and proved himself to be a talented and driven law enforcement professional.

In 1978, Rod opened a new NIS office in Crane, Indiana, where the Navy conducts some of its most important research, development, and engineering of surface ship combat systems. He also took this opportunity to conclude his studies at Indiana State University, finishing his thesis and earning his Master's degree in 1979.

Following his NIS service in his home state of Indiana, Rod was assigned to the NIS Resident Agency in Guam from 1980 to 1982. He demonstrated continued leadership and investigative acumen in Guam, where he received a meritorious award from the Drug Enforcement Administration for his role in a significant international drug smuggling investigation, and was made an honorary Police Officer with the Guam Department of Public Safety for the support he provided to that department. He was rewarded with a supervisory role at the NIS Resident Agency in Portsmouth, Virginia, where he was appointed to the position of Assistant Special Agent in Charge in 1982.

For the next 21 years, Rod served with distinction in supervisory roles at a host of critical Navy locations—from 1984 to 1985, as the Special Assistant to the NIS Regional Director in Norfolk; from 1985 to 1986, as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the fraud unit at NIS Resident Agency Norfolk; and from 1987 to 1988, as the first Special Agent in Charge of the new NIS Mid-Atlantic Regional Fraud Unit.

In 1988, Rod was appointed to be the first Special Agent in Charge of Operation Ill Wind, one of the most significant defense procurement fraud investigations in our nation's history. This joint investigation ultimately resulted in the conviction of 46 individuals and six defense corporations, and yielded fines and penalties in the amount of some \$190 million.

Rod's professional success continued in the wake of his involvement in Operation Ill Wind. In 1989, he was appointed the Special Agent in Charge of the new NIS Regional Fraud Unit based in Los Angeles, California. And, when