

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4200) to improve the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to promptly implement recovery treatments in response to catastrophic events affecting Federal lands under their jurisdiction, including the removal of dead and damaged trees and the implementation of reforestation treatments, to support the recovery of non-Federal lands damaged by catastrophic events, to revitalize, Forest Service experimental forests, and for other purposes:

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Chairman, I regret that I could not be present today because of a family medical emergency and I am in opposition to the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act (H.R. 4200).

This bill misses the point. In the face of the President's drastic budget cuts to State and local wildfire assistance programs, including a 30 percent cut in the State Fire Assistance program, which directly funds local community fire risk reduction planning and projects, this bill seems wholly inappropriate. Instead of providing the necessary tools to mitigate future fires to the 11,000 high risk communities around the country threatened by wildfires, this bill "expedites" or "streamlines" the timber salvage process for the logging industry following a catastrophic event. It is unnecessary and unwise to weaken existing laws meant to protect public participation and the environment, when the authority and ability to recover and restore forests after fires, floods, or other disasters is not being prevented. Our communities deserve better. I urge my colleagues to oppose the underlying bill.

FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4200) to improve the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to promptly implement recovery treatments in response to catastrophic events affecting Federal lands under their jurisdiction, including the removal of dead and damaged trees and the implementation of reforestation treatments, to support the recovery of non-Federal lands damaged by catastrophic events, to revitalize Forest Service experimental forests, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Chairman, I cannot support this bill in its current form.

H.R. 4200 focuses on actions to be taken after a "catastrophic event," defined as any one of various natural disasters or events.

For Colorado, this misses the point—our most pressing issue is the increased likelihood of severe wildfires that endanger human life and property (and municipal water supplies) resulting from a combination of increased fuel stocks (itself the result of various causes, including past fire-suppression policies), drought, and widespread insect infestations.

So, what we need is accelerated action to reduce hazardous fuels in the "red zones" before the communities that adjoin or intermingle with the forests are confronted with severe wildfires—not legislation that aims at speeding salvage or restoration after the damage has been done.

The bill also has serious flaws. I will not attempt to list them all, because they have been discussed at length in today's debate. But I think it is worth emphasizing that while it is doubtful that the legislation is necessary anywhere it seems clear that there are certain lands to which it should not apply, including (1) National Conservation Areas and National Recreation Areas; (2) lands that have been recommended for wilderness by the President; (3) wilderness study areas; (4) BLM-designated areas of critical environmental concern; (5) lands recommended for wilderness in a Forest Service or BLM land-management plan; (6) the Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area in Colorado; (7) the Bowen Gulch Protection Area in Colorado; (8) the Piedra, Roubideau, and Tabeguache Areas in Colorado; (9) the James Peak Protection Area in Colorado; and (10) the Arapaho National Recreation Area in Colorado. Further, I think the bill should include language to make clear that it will not change the requirement of section 103(d) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, which requires that at least 50% of the fuel-reduction funds must be used for projects in the wildland-urban interface—the "red zone" lands.

In the Resources Committee, I offered an amendment to make those changes, and also supported amendments offered by other Members. Unfortunately, those amendments were not adopted.

Similarly, I voted for the Rahall, DeFazio, Insee, and Udall of New Mexico amendments when the House considered the bill earlier today.

Regrettably, however, the House did not agree to revise the bill as proposed in those amendments. And because I think the bill should not be enacted without those changes, I must vote against it.

FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4200) to improve the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to promptly implement recovery treatments in response to catastrophic events affecting Federal lands under their jurisdiction, including the removal of dead and damaged trees and the implementation of reforestation treatments, to support the recovery of non-Federal lands damaged by catastrophic events, to revitalize Forest Service experimental forests, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Chairman, protecting our environment is one of the most important jobs I have as a Congressman. Unfortunately, the legislation before us today would hurt, rather than protect, our forests by speeding up destructive logging projects in national forests impacted by natural disturbances.

H.R. 4200 would limit critical environmental reviews and excludes the public from the decision making process. Basic protections for streams, critical wildlife habitat, old growth forests, roadless areas, fragile soils, and other essential natural resources would be removed under this legislation.

Science suggests logging harms damaged forests and impedes their recovery, and can actually increase the likelihood and severity of future forest fires. A study by researchers at Oregon State University has shown allowing forests to recover naturally after a fire increases forest regeneration and decreases the risk of future fires.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation. Congress can and must do a better job protecting our environment. We simply will not have a world to live in if we continue our neglectful ways.

FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4200) to improve the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to promptly implement recovery treatments in response to catastrophic events affecting Federal lands under their jurisdiction, including the removal of the dead and damaged trees and the implementation of reforestation treatments, to support the recovery of non-

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Federal lands damaged by catastrophic events, to revitalize Forest Service experimental forests, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Madam Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4200, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act.

Rather than aid in a speedy recovery after a natural disaster, this bill is itself a disaster for the environment.

Forestry experts have repeatedly expressed concern about the harmful effects of salvage logging, yet Republicans choose to ignore sound science and insist on implementing environmentally irresponsible logging policies. Contrary to what Republicans and their campaign contributors in the logging industry would like you to believe, research shows that post-fire logging actually impedes forest regeneration, causes erosion and degrades water quality.

As if facilitating the destruction of forests wasn't enough, this bill also weakens existing laws meant to protect our entire environment. In the case of a catastrophic event, H.R. 4200 allows for the removal of timber salvage while ignoring the National Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Water Act, and key provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

The exemptions contained in this bill are entirely unnecessary. The Forest Service is currently completing the removal of timber salvage, on national forests impacted by Hurricane Katrina with existing environmental guidelines and authorities for such practices. H.R. 4200 isn't needed and it is merely another attempt by Republicans to dismantle landmark environmental laws.

Finally, H.R. 4200 provides no protection for roadless areas, nation recreation areas, national conservation areas or wilderness study areas, thus putting many of our valuable public lands at risk.

I believe we have more reason to be concerned about the damage this bill will cause than the potential damage caused by actual natural disasters. H.R. 4200 is nothing short of disastrous for our national forests and public lands and I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

RECOGNIZING LEROY AND
BARBARA SHATTO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Leroy and Barbara Shatto of Osborn, Missouri. They are the owners of Shatto Farms Milk Company, a family owned and operated business in Northern Missouri. Recently, Leroy was selected as the 2006 Missouri Small Business Person of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration.

Through hard work and the assistance of a Small Business Administration loan, the Shatto family has developed a very successful business. The Shatto Farms Milk Company produces "pure" milk with no added hormones, in a variety of flavors. The milk has grown quickly in popularity and is available in local grocery stores in Missouri and Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Leroy and Barbara Shatto. Their

entrepreneurial spirit and innovation in milk production are remarkable. I commend them for the achievement and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF BOB GRIES RECIPIENT OF THE CLEVELAND SPEECH AND HEARING CENTER'S INAUGURAL DANIEL D. DAUBY AWARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Bob Gries, upon being named the recipient of the 2006 Daniel D. Dauby Award, presented annually by the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center of Cleveland, Ohio.

Since the 1930s, Mr. Gries and his family have been unwavering champions of support and advocacy for individuals and families who are impacted by hearing, speech and deafness issues. His leadership and volunteerism is evidenced throughout our Cleveland community, especially in the outstanding programs, services and awareness campaigns that originate from the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center.

The Gries and Dauby families are connected not only by bloodline, but also by their collective sense of commitment to community involvement. Daniel Dauby, for whom the award is named, was born deaf. His father was Nathan L. Dauby, general manager for the former downtown May Company Department Store, a position he held for nearly 50 years. Mr. Gries is the nephew of Daniel Dauby, and his work serves to keep Daniel's legacy alive and relevant to the thousands of individuals whose challenging world is filled with hope, joy and the potential to soar far above the walls of silence.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude of Mr. Bob Gries, up in being named the Daniel D. Dauby Award recipient. Mr. Gries' unwavering commitment and volunteerism, focused on advancing the services and programs offered at the Cleveland Speech and Hearing Center, continues to have a profound and positive impact on the lives of children, adults and their families who face daily challenges in a hearing world, giving them the practical resources to dream, achieve and succeed. I wish Mr. Gries and his entire family an abundance of health, peace and happiness, today and always.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WOMEN'S CITY CLUB OF NEW YORK ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Women's City Club of New York, a non-partisan, non-profit civic association that shapes public policy through teaching, advocacy and citizen engagement. This august in-

stitution is celebrating its 90th anniversary this month, and I salute its remarkable success in working to achieve fairness, equity and inclusion for all New Yorkers.

Since its founding in 1915 by suffragists and social reformers, the Women's City Club of New York has drawn upon the skills and qualifications of its pool of volunteers to identify, analyze and increase awareness of current and emerging trends in public policy, develop a carefully reasoned platform on key issues, and educate and empower the public at large through a variety of informational programs and publications. Its membership works in concert with advocacy and community based organizations to effect meaningful change for the better in our government! and our society.

From its origins in women's suffrage movement, Women's City Club members have honored women's hard-fought right to vote by helping the public become more informed and better educated about the political and governmental issues of the day. Throughout the long and proud history of the Women's City Club, its members have fulfilled a critical mission by helping New Yorkers understand and scrutinize all aspects of their municipal government and to become active in policy debates and the political process. The Women's City Club also achieved remarkable success in educating and enlightening elected officials, thus playing an instrumental role in shaping responsible government and public policies.

Today, Women's City Club members continue to effect change at the city, State and Federal levels. Its members informed engagement has earned the Women's City Club the respect of the government officials, opinion-makers in the news media, and civic activists of all stripes. Members of the Women's City Club of New York have rightly been dubbed reasoned citizen-advocates who know the way to City Hall.

Today, the Women's City Club is ably led by its president, Blanche E. Lawton, and its operations effectively managed by Paulette Geanacopoulos, LMSW. Through its network of committees and task forces, the Women's City Club continues to educate and inform its members and the public at large and help keep New York's municipal government a role model for cities around the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me recognizing the enormous contributions to the civic life of our Nation's greatest metropolis by the Women's City Club of New York.

WOMEN IN THE IRAQ WAR: A DIFFERENT KIND OF MOTHER'S DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD an article published in the Washington Post of April 18, 2006 "Limbs Lost to Enemy Fire, Women Forge a New Reality" and to offer my heartfelt gratitude and good wishes on Mother's Day to the women serving in the United States Armed Forces who have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan and come home with life-changing physical or mental injuries. Some of these women might not be mothers themselves yet; some may