

and dedicated woman who has worked to foster and continue our Nation's founding principle—that all men and women are created equal.

THE CLEAN WATER STATE  
REVOLVING LOAN FUND

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 23, 2007*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it was brought to my attention that on last Friday—during the customary exchange between Majority Leader HOYER and Minority Whip BLUNT—the gentleman from Missouri had some questions regarding the “substantive” nature of my subcommittee's business on last Friday.

As the recently elected Chairwoman of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, I have come to the floor to address the gentleman's inquiries.

From the onset, I want to make it clear to the gentleman from Missouri that I empathize with his disgruntlement over our current work schedule.

However, I also want the gentleman to understand that I will not sit idly by and allow the escalation of the gentleman's disgruntlement to come at the expense of my subcommittee and the good work of the committee members.

The Water Resources Subcommittee has the broadest agenda of any of the Transportation Subcommittees, covering Corps of Engineers' projects and authorities, EPA's Clean Water and Superfund Programs, Brownfields, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Saint Lawrence Seaway, and programs carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Last Friday, with a standing room only crowd, the Subcommittee returned to some of the unfinished work of the previous, Republican-led Congress—particularly, reauthorization of the highly popular Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund program.

This is the same program that, despite bipartisan efforts, was blocked from floor consideration by Republican leadership last Congress due to various objections to certain wage provisions.

The Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund program is a powerful partnership between EPA and the States. It allows States the flexibility to provide funding for projects that will address their highest-priority water quality needs.

The program allows Federal, State, and local agencies to leverage limited dollars. Moreover, loans for such water infrastructure projects also tend to stimulate local economies by encouraging commercial development and construction and creating good paying jobs.

As a result of this, the Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee will be moving forward on a pro-environment and pro-infrastructure agenda.

Over the coming weeks my subcommittee will be introducing legislation aimed at reauthorizing a series of long overdue Clean Water Act program provisions and water infrastructure bills aimed at restoring and maintaining confidence in our Nation's water resources.

Regrettably, over the past six years the current Administration has presided over the slow, but steady, dismantling of the public's confidence in our water resources. Inadequate budgets, the easing of regulatory safeguards, and misguided priorities have brought about a dramatic reversal in national water quality trends.

We have not enacted a Water Resources Development Act since this President has been in office. This is ridiculous!

Adequate investment in our Nation's drinking water infrastructure has also been woefully neglected. Two years ago the EPA conducted a survey of the needs of public water systems. The survey estimates that public water systems need to invest \$276 billion on drinking water infrastructure improvements over twenty years to comply with drinking water regulations and to ensure safe water.

Without a renewed commitment towards investment from all parties, in less than a generation, the U.S. could lose much of the gains made possible by the Clean Water Act.

State and local governments can not tackle these enormous challenges alone. The Federal Government must be a willing and able partner and the time to act is now. The Federal Government must renew its commitment to ensure the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of our Nation's water supply.

We owe future generations no less.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT  
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2007*

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act of 2007.

Make no mistake; H.R. 5 is a bad bill which does not live up to its title. In fact, this legislation provides no assistance to help future and current students attend college. Instead of helping increase attendance, this legislation seeks to reduce interest rates for those making payments on their student loans. This is a worthy goal. But this legislation accomplishes this by taxing private lenders, ultimately reducing the number of lenders willing to participate in the student loan program.

H.R. 5 provides a short-term reduction in interest rates for students who received federally guaranteed subsidized loans while they were attending college. In order to pay for this required rate reduction, this legislation forces private lenders to reduce their rates below market value. Additionally, this legislation doubles the tax imposed on these lenders by increasing the lender origination fee from .05 percent to 1 percent.

Over the course of this debate we have heard stories from Members of Congress about how the ability to go to school greatly added to their quality of life. I agree wholeheartedly that there are numerous benefits to attending college. However, not one of those Members of Congress would have had greater access to college if H.R. 5 had been in effect when they were undergraduates, because this bill does nothing for aspiring students.

Finally, I think it is important to note that we have a very competitive private marketplace

providing student loans. When the government places mandates reducing their ability to compete—we all lose by driving competitors out of the marketplace. H.R. 5 directly targets the Federal family education Loan industry, dealing a devastating blow to the industry that has helped millions of students go to college.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation and work toward a bill that will actually help college students realize their goals of furthering their education.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MICKEY  
PEABODY

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 23, 2007*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Mickey Peabody for her many years of service and leadership to the City of Oakdale and the community of Stanislaus County. On January 19th, friends and colleagues will hold an event to express sincere gratitude and to congratulate Mickey as she receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oakdale Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to her history of great community involvement, Mickey will be thanked for her years of devotion to the Stanislaus County Commission for Women, Childcare Planning Council, Mental Health Board, Commission on Aging, Citizens Against Substance Abuse, Oakdale Fights Back, and the California Senior Legislature—along with many other agencies and commissions.

In addition to this Lifetime Achievement Award, Mickey has received awards that include Outstanding Woman of the Year, Outstanding Senior Citizen, and Woman of Distinction. Additionally, Mickey has earned a leadership award from the California Public Health Consortium and the National Center for Small Communities.

Mickey has a past filled with great instances of charity and compassion, and she will undoubtedly continue this same community devotion in the years to come.

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Mickey Peabody for her many years of service and philanthropy. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing her many years of continued happiness and success.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE HAPPY HOOLIGANS

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 23, 2007*

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, on January 16, I joined the Happy Hooligans and the North Dakota Air National Guard in celebrating their 60th Anniversary. This unit—the 119th Fighting Wing, now rechristened the 119th Wing—has served our nation for the better part of the last century, and their dedicated commitment to our Nation's defense will only continue in the coming years.

I can remember being at the Capitol on September 11th and one year later, being at