

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the distinguished career of Douglas Meade and the outstanding public service he has given to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 45 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, February 7, 2008, I was unavoidably detained in my Congressional district. I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 32: "yes," on Ordering the Previous Question; rollcall No. 33: "yes," On Agreeing to the Resolution; rollcall No. 34: "yes," on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Con. Res. 283; rollcall No. 35: "yes," on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4848; rollcall No. 36: "yes," on Agreeing to the Amendment; rollcall No. 37: "yes," on Agreeing to the Amendment; rollcall No. 38: "yes," on Agreeing to the Amendment; rollcall No. 39: "no," on Motion to Recommit; rollcall No. 40: "yes," on Passage of H.R. 4137; rollcall No. 41: "yes," on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 947; rollcall No. 42: "no," on Agreeing to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5140.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WATERFRONT BROWNFIELDS REVITALIZATION ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Waterfront Brownfields Revitalization Act. This bill will authorize a much-needed grant program to assist communities that are overcoming the unique challenges of waterfront brownfields and foster innovative approaches to remediation.

America's industrial heritage was established along the banks of its rivers, lakes, and coasts. Our Nation's vast and interconnected natural water system helped provide the power that fueled our rise to international prominence, and allowed us to move our manufactured goods efficiently to all corners of the country. However, that legacy also includes many decades of environmental contamination on the waterfront. Abandoned factories, dilapidated mills and underutilized ports can be found along the shores of many metropolitan areas. As localities seek to reconnect with

their waterfronts and revitalize their downtowns, brownfield barriers threaten to derail community efforts to create jobs, promote recreational opportunities, restore the ecology, increase tourism, and grow their tax base.

Waterfront brownfields present challenges beyond typical environmental assessment and cleanup projects. Hydrology, water quality, wetlands, endangered species, habitat, dredged materials, flooding, environmental infrastructure, navigation, and other considerations must be carefully addressed so as not to exacerbate existing site contamination. Typically, waterfront brownfields require the involvement of multiple governmental agencies. As such, waterfront brownfields require special attention and resources to overcome their larger hurdles.

In my own district, the city of Rochester, NY, is currently working to revitalize its beautiful waterfront, while attempting to cope with the unique challenges that waterfront brownfields present. The city is undertaking a major community revitalization strategy to redevelop its port and waterfront area into a mixed use development, which will include housing, commercial, retail, and educational uses, enhanced recreation, new parks and open space, and improved public access to Lake Ontario, the Genesee River and the surrounding ecosystem. However, because the Port of Rochester was used extensively for industrial purposes from the late 1800s into the first half of the 20th century, significant environmental remediation will be required prior to redevelopment.

Initial investigations have found that more than 10 acres of the site contain up to several feet of slag from a former iron works. Portions of the site are impacted from petroleum releases and unsuitable fill materials. Old Genesee River deposits on the site and bank sediments have been shown to contain high levels of heavy metals cadmium and silver as well as pesticides and furans. The marina must also be dredged. Before the waterfront reuse can proceed, the Port of Rochester must first address an estimated \$500,000 in environmental assessment issues related to contaminated sediments, beneficial reuse of sediments, groundwater contamination, and waste characterization related to the construction of the marina—and an unknown level of remediation.

Madam Speaker, Rochester is not alone in facing these types of complicated and expensive challenges to redevelopment. Cities all across the country are dealing with similar roadblocks as they try to engage incorporate waterfront real estate into their redevelopment plans, from Yuma, AZ, and Portland, OR, in the west, to Savannah, GA, and Philadelphia, PA, in the east, and almost everywhere in between where lakes and rivers exist.

My bill recognizes that the Federal Government can be an effective partner to communities interested in reconnecting with their waterfronts. Specifically, this legislation would authorize the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish a waterfront brownfields pilot demonstration program to provide localities and other eligible entities with up to \$500,000 to assess and clean up waterfront brownfields. The bill would also establish an interagency taskforce on waterfront brownfields restoration to identify barriers and potential solutions to waterfront brownfields revitalization, and seek methods for Federal interagency collaboration on such projects.

As cities across the country struggle to thrive in a changing global economy, and as our domestic manufacturing continues to diminish, it is imperative that Congress do all that it can to help these cities redevelop and succeed. Industrialization and manufacturing helped make this country the power that it is today, but as manufacturing has moved overseas it has not only taken jobs and changed the economic base of many industrial cities, it has also left behind decades of contamination. This legislation will give these cities the support they need to redevelop in an environmentally safe way, and utilize their waterfront as an incredible economic asset.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I wish to share the perspectives of former Congressman Don Bonker on his distinguished colleague during his service in the House, the Honorable TOM LANTOS.

Tom Lantos was an extraordinary person in so many respects. The only member of Congress to survive the Holocaust, his passionate commitment to human rights, a widely respected authority on foreign policy, and one who worked closely with every administration, regardless of party, and world leaders to insure that democracy, not tyranny, reign in our lifetime.

There was also the extraordinary personal side of Tom Lantos. His confinement and courageous escape from a Nazi-operated forced labor camp in Szob, Hungary, led to his befriending the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who gave him safety in his Budapest apartment and eventual freedom and relocation to the United States.

Mysteriously, Raoul Wallenberg disappeared behind the Soviet Union, never to be heard from again. But Tom and his wife, Annette, never forgot the man who saved their lives, and the 40,000 others whose lives were spared because Raoul Wallenberg, at high personal risk, issued fake passports that enabled them to leave the country.

I first met Tom Lantos before he came to Congress in 1978. As chairman of the subcommittee on human rights, it was suggested I talk to Annette Lantos about the fate of Raoul Wallenberg. Both Annette and Tom gave eloquent testimony before my subcommittee. Later, Tom Lantos wrote and passed resolutions and had a statue placed in the U.S. Capital honoring Raoul Wallenberg. The teenagers from Budapest have spent a life-time honoring the man who saved their lives.

For many years, I traveled with the Lantos' all over Europe, including, to Russia, Romania and Hungary. They were committed first and foremost to the cause of human rights and strengthening democracies, especially in the countries of the former Soviet Union. There was no more eloquent voice or effective champion on these issues than Tom and Annette Lantos, a true legacy that will endure for generations to come.