

Over the past half century thousands of people have participated in the Chapter's "Outings" programs, which includes over 6,000 hikes, nature walks, backpacking journeys, canoe trips within the Chapter and elsewhere in California, as well as hundreds of trail building projects and other service activities.

Madam Speaker, it is difficult to imagine what this area would be like without the Redwood Chapter's passionate resolve to protect the land and life that sustains us. What if there was no wilderness retreat in our coastal headlands? What if our cities were merged in endless sprawl? What if our pure rivers and streams were diverted, degraded and disrespected? We can be thankful that is not the case, and largely because the members of the Redwood Chapter have been such effective advocates for the environment.

So today, Congresswoman WOOLSEY and I congratulate the members of Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club on their achievements in their first fifty years. And we look forward to the Chapter's continued active participation in public policy debates and to hearing their member's loud, clear, reasoned voice for a healthy, vibrant, natural world.

HONORING THE REDWOOD CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, together with my colleague MIKE THOMPSON, I rise today to congratulate the more than 10,000 members of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Named after Sequoia sempervirens, the Coastal Redwood, whose greatest forests are along the North Coast, the Chapter remains true to the visionary environmental ethic of Sierra Club founder, John Muir, striving daily to preserve and protect our lands, waters and wildlife.

The Redwood Chapter, founded in 1958, is one of the earliest regional entities of the Sierra Club. With 6 local Groups in 9 Northwestern counties, it is a potent force for the environment.

Over the years, the Redwood Chapter has marshaled grass roots forces to focus on forest preservation, protection of our spectacular coast, free-flowing rivers and verdant watersheds, sustainable growth management, endangered species protection, and the multifaceted challenge of global climate change. The Chapter played a strong supporting role in Sierra Club national initiatives to protect national environmental treasures like the Grand Canyon while safeguarding our water and air, and battling environmental rollbacks.

Within the Chapter's 25,000 square miles, it has been particularly effective, playing major roles in the creation of the Redwood National Park, design and construction of the Coastal Trail, designation of Federal wilderness areas, including the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel, Snow Mountain, Yuki Sanhedrin, Cache Creek, King Range and Cedar Roughs Wildernesses; designation of numerous State and Federal designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, including portions of the Smith, Klamath, Gualala, Black

Butte and Eel Rivers; preservation of the 7,400 acre Headwaters Forest; implementation of conservation management strategies on public lands; and development of recovery strategies for endangered and threatened species, including the marbled murrelet, the spotted owl and coastal salmon.

In recent years, legislative achievements include the passage of the Cache Creek Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 2005. I am especially grateful for the Redwood Chapter's support for Congressman THOMPSON's Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act, which was enacted in 2006, and my Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act, which was passed by the House this year.

Members of the Redwood Chapter have also had a profound influence on local politics and policies, through its participation in initiatives to protect open space and agricultural lands, create trails and community separators, protect coastal forests, provide new low carbon transportation alternatives and promotion of smart growth management and climate protection.

The Club also has played a vital educational, service and recreational function. Over the past half century thousands of people have participated in the Chapter's "Outings" programs, which includes over 6,000 hikes, nature walks, backpacking journeys, canoe trips within the Chapter and elsewhere in California, as well as hundreds of trail building projects and other service activities.

Madam Speaker, it is difficult to imagine what this area would be like without the Redwood Chapter's passionate resolve to protect the land and life that sustains us. What if there was no wilderness retreat in our coastal headlands? What if our cities were merged in endless sprawl? What if our pure rivers and streams were diverted, degraded and disrespected? We can be thankful that is not the case, and largely because the members of the Redwood Chapter have been such effective advocates for the environment.

So today, Congressman THOMPSON and I congratulate the members of Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club on their achievements in their first 50 years. And we look forward to the Chapter's continued active participation in public policy debates and to hearing their member's loud, clear, reasoned voice for a healthy, vibrant, natural world.

TRIBUTE TO THE BOONE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' TENNIS TEAM

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 31, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great achievement by the Boone High School Girls' tennis team in Boone, Iowa. BHS won the 2008 Iowa Class 2-A State High School team championship.

The Toreadors completed a perfect season with a record of 15-0. In addition, senior MaryPat McMullan is the class 2-A Girls State Singles champion, and the Toreador doubles team of Maggi Schutte and Traci Moglestad is the Class 2-A third place doubles finisher. The example set by these young ladies and their coach, Shawn Latimer, demonstrates the

rewards of hard work, dedication and determination. They scored victories on the court and have positively represented their community and school off it as well. Their triumph is an honor that we all can admire and be proud of.

I am honored to represent the members of the BHS varsity girls' tennis team: MaryPat McMullan, Maggi Schutte, Traci Moglestad, Lindsay Greiner, Hannah Worall, Julia Stockhausen, Corinne Frei, Jordan Foster, Leah Redeker, Rachel Hinds, Emily Boehm, Audrey Reinken and their coach, Shawn Latimer in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in Congress join me in congratulating the Toreadors on their State championship and wishing all these young ladies continued success in their future endeavors.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly supported H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008. Buried in the provisions of this bill, however, in section 3082, on page 680, is an expansion of the Gulf Opportunity Zone to two additional counties in Alabama. One of these counties is nearly 300 miles from the coast. This section doesn't have much to do with housing.

This expansion is designed to provide a subsidy for National Steel Car, a Canadian rail car manufacturer. This subsidy is unnecessary for two reasons. First, the plant is already under construction and will be operational by this time next year. Second, Alabama was under a contractual obligation to provide the subsidy itself if Congress did not.

The United States has a domestic rail car industry, with plants and facilities around the country. In fact, one borders my district, and it recently laid off over 100 employees because of the economic pressures on the industry. That company also has a facility in Alabama, but it won't benefit from this tax provision.

In Congress, we often talk about not picking winners, of letting the market make these decisions rather than the Congress, of leveling playing fields rather than tilting them. But here we picked a winner. We held a secret bidding process and a Canadian company won, despite the fact that they would have made this investment anyway. The longer we pursue this method of doling out tax breaks, the harder real reform will be.

The legislation I introduce today will ensure that these Alabama counties are able to benefit from the expanded GO Zone. The legislation also ensures, however, that taxes paid by the domestic rail car industry do not go to subsidizing their competitors and that we remove this rifleshoot from the tax code.