

FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN
VIETNAM

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 334, which I introduced yesterday. This resolution calls for the release of 118 Vietnamese citizens who have been arrested, detained or harassed for signing the Manifesto on Freedom and Democracy in Vietnam.

The manifesto is a peaceful, non-violent declaration demanding political freedom and respect for Vietnam's citizens.

House Resolution 334 also directs the Secretary of State to establish a "Countries of Particular Concern" list to condemn the government of Vietnam and other countries for engaging in particularly harsh human rights violations. Vietnam's ongoing denial of its citizens' fundamental human rights and political liberties is unacceptable.

I introduced H.R. 334 to mark the 3-year anniversary of the original signing of the manifesto and to raise awareness of the Vietnamese Communist government's failure to improve its human rights record.

In May we will honor the 15th anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day. I urge my colleagues to stand up for human rights and to join me in this resolution.

DETROIT FREE PRESS WINS
PULITZER PRIZE

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Detroit Free Press for winning journalism's most esteemed award, the Pulitzer Prize, in the category of Local Reporting. Through old-fashioned hard work and investigative journalism, reporters Jim Schaefer and M.L. Elrick helped to secure their newspaper's prize by uncovering evidence which revealed endemic corruption at Detroit City Hall.

The Free Press's journalistic prowess and integrity provided a needed check to government power and corruption, a tradition which is firmly rooted in America's great tradition of a free press. The reporting of Schaefer and Elrick, and their work in uncovering the truth for the people of Detroit, is something that this entire country can be proud of.

Regardless of all of the ways that the media have changed in recent years, one thing that will never go out of style in America is the ability of a free press to keep the public accurately and honestly informed about its government.

Congratulations to the Detroit Free Press. You make us all proud, and you

truly exemplify the spirit of the first amendment.

WATER FOR THE WORLD

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest environmental threats in the entire globe is the supply and quality of water.

In honor of the 39th annual Earth Day Celebration, I'm proud to introduce the Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2009. The purpose of this act is to empower the United States Government to respond to the pressing environmental, poverty and security threats presented by mismanagement and shortage of global fresh water.

Today, one-fifth of the world's population relies on fresh water that's either polluted or inadequately supplied. The lack of safe drinking water and sanitation remains the world's greatest health problem, accounting for 2 million deaths and half the illnesses in the developing world.

The bipartisan "Water for the World Act" builds upon the framework of our 2005 Water for the Poor Act, expanding United States foreign assistance capacity, elevating sustainable water and sanitation policy, and investing in low-cost, high-impact solutions.

There are lots of things that divide us here in Congress, but one of the things that brings us together is a commitment to make the world and its environment better. And I deeply appreciate the leadership of my colleagues, Congressmen DONALD PAYNE, WAMP, ROHRBACHER, BOOZMAN and BURTON in joining me on this Earth Day to enact this important legislation.

LOUISIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE
PATRICK WILLIAMS COMPLETES
226-MILE WALK TO
BATON ROUGE

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Louisiana State Representative Patrick Williams, who recently completed the 226-mile walk from Shreveport, Louisiana, a major city in my district, to the State capitol in Baton Rouge to raise awareness for autism and childhood obesity.

Autism is a serious developmental disability in the United States, with one in 150 children likely to have some form of this disability.

Representative Williams also brought attention to a serious factor affecting childhood obesity—nutrition in the home, especially among poor families.

And let me say parenthetically that for every obese child, we very likely have a future diabetic.

After completing his walk, Representative Williams made a promise to talk to Congress and the U.S. De-

partment of Agriculture to promote healthy eating in regards to food stamp recipients, as well as encouraging them to buy more fruits and vegetables.

As a family physician, I couldn't agree more, and look forward to working with Patrick Williams to find solutions to both of these medical issues.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENT CAUCUS

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on Earth Day, as a member of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Caucus, the so-called Green Dogs, to talk about the importance of investing in clean, renewable energy to help build a new green economy.

Investing in homegrown American renewable energy will create thousands of new American jobs that cannot be shipped overseas. In my State of Nevada, a thriving renewable energy industry will help diversify our local economy, which we so desperately need. Whether it is the researcher in the lab developing new generation biofuels, or the electrician on the roof installing solar panels, these jobs will stay right here in the United States.

We are currently losing clean energy jobs and market share to China, Germany, Korea and other countries, but now we have the opportunity to make a real difference. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that we make the investments necessary today to help create clean energy jobs for tomorrow.

UNREASONABLE RENEWABLE
ENERGY REQUIREMENTS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat leadership is moving forward on the change that they've promised. Last week, the EPA, Environmental Protection Agency, moved forward to regulate carbon dioxide emissions under the Clean Air Act, with or without congressional consent.

This week the Committee on Energy and Commerce is holding hearings on cap-and-tax legislation. And this is what we're learning. The renewable energy requirements in the bill are entirely unrealistic.

Currently, 3 percent of our electricity that is generated is by renewable energy, and the chairman's bill is mandating 25 percent by 2025. That would require 20,000 megawatts of renewable energy to come online every year until 2025. That is far above what the projections are, the government-generated projections.

So our question is, are we saddling our States and our energy consumers