

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING PENN STATE
LADY NITTANY LIONS WOMEN'S
RUGBY TEAM FOR CLINCHING
THE NATIONAL TITLE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a Penn State alumnus to congratulate the Lady Lions women's rugby team for clinching the national title. Their win this year marks the second consecutive national title and represents the team's first back-to-back titles in the program's history.

The Lady Lions defeated the Stanford Cardinals 24-7, overcoming such hardships as their lack of home field advantage and Stanford's domineering offense. The victory has drawn praise from such people as Graham Spanier, president of Penn State, and Jonathan Griffen, Stanford coach, who described them as "a national powerhouse" and "unbeatable for the next 15 years."

Deven Owsiany, a humble and skilled athlete and a rising senior at Penn State, was named the game's Most Valuable Player. As a star member of the team, Owsiany consistently lauds the dedication, camaraderie and attentiveness of her teammates. Her defensive efforts, along with the efforts of her teammates, allowed Penn State to hold the Cardinals scoreless until the last 3 minutes of the game.

Victories such as this one attest to the spirit of our youth and their potential to do great things. I extend my heartfelt congratulations and wish them luck in using their tough backline to defend the national title next year.

□ 2300

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 433, the McGovern-Obey amendment, I mistakenly recorded my vote as a "no." My intention was to record my vote as a "yes."

WATER QUALITY

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, this month, the Department of Interior and the California Department of Water Resources announced an increase in water allocation to farmers in the San Joaquin Valley. Our efforts to press the administration for more water is producing results and is already flowing to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California.

But our fight for our valley's jobs and economy is far from over. Regulations that restrict the flow of water to

our valley must be revised. I am pleased that the administration has announced its intention to revise and integrate the two biological opinions that single out valley agriculture for degrading the delta when we know that this simply is not true. All factors affecting the health of the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta must be taken into account as we move forward, including predation of invasive species and other water quality factors.

I would like to submit a letter for the RECORD from the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board that confirms the need to address water quality issues. This includes the dumping of pollutants, such as ammonia and toxic urban run-off and the impact of power plants on the ecosystem, among other things. We will win this fight, and common sense will prevail. Recognizing all of the factors impacting the delta will allow more water to flow to the valley and the rest of California.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2010.

CHARLES R. HOPPIN,
Chair, State Water Resources Control Board,
Sacramento, CA.

KATHERINE HART,
Chair, Central Valley Regional Water Quality
Control Board, Rancho Cordova, CA.

DEAR CHAIRS HOPPIN AND HART: We are writing to request that the State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board take immediate action to address ammonia discharges from wastewater facilities into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta).

As you are aware, we have long held that the single focus of regulatory agencies on water exports is misguided in that it overlooks other key stressors that contribute to the decline of fisheries in the Delta. The effect of this single focus is to punish farmers, farmworkers and communities in the San Joaquin Valley at a tremendous impact to state's economy, and in the end the fish are no better off.

Two recent studies point to Sacramento's wastewater as a significant cause behind the declining fish populations in the Delta. One study, authored by Patricia Glibert of the University of Maryland, concludes that the Delta's environmental problems are more likely tied to wastewater pollution than to water diversions, indicating that increased ammonia in Sacramento wastewater has disrupted algae production in the Delta, which rippled up the food chain to compromise fish species. Another study by Inge Werner, a toxicologist at UC Davis, concluded that threatened Delta smelt may be harmed by exposure to ammonia at levels below federal limits and that longterm exposure could reduce smelt growth and feeding activity, which would ultimately affect their breeding success.

These studies cry out for immediate action by the responsible regulatory agencies. We understand that the Regional Board has renewed Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District's wastewater discharge permit annually without substantive review since it expired in 2005. As the single largest wastewater discharger in the Delta, it is crucial that the Regional Board conducts a full and immediate review of the District's permit and that the Regional Board conditions any renewal upon upgrading the sewage treatment system to a tertiary system. Tertiary systems have been installed throughout San Joaquin Valley communities as a result of regulations imposed by the Regional Board

in order to improve water quality. We find it incongruous that the very board that has imposed tertiary treatment requirements on communities in the San Joaquin Valley, including Stockton, Modesto, Turlock and Fresno, has failed to impose similar requirements on the Sacramento District.

These studies confirm that ammonia wastewater discharges are a large part of the problem in the Delta. Reducing ammonia discharges needs to be part of the solution, along with the other key factors that are contributing to the environmental decline in the Delta. We call upon the Regional Board to take immediate action to correct this problem.

Sincerely,

JIM COSTA,
Member of Congress.
DENNIS CARDOZA,
Member of Congress.

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER
QUALITY CONTROL BOARD,
Rancho Cordova, CA, June 24, 2010.

Congressman JIM COSTA,
U.S. Congress, Washington, DC.
Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA,
U.S. Congress, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMEN COSTA AND CARDOZA: Thank you for your letter addressed to State Board Chair Charles Hoppin and Central Valley Water Board Chair Kate Hart, dated June 9, 2010, concerning ammonia discharges into and affecting the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. We appreciate your interest in this issue and look forward to working with you—and all interested parties—as we pursue real solutions for the problems facing the Delta. This letter is being sent over my signature instead of Ms. Hart's because your letter specifically addressed the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant NPDES permit which is a pending item before the Central Valley Water Board. Chair Hoppin's response will be sent to you under separate cover.

As you know, the California Water Boards have been aggressively engaged in this topic for several years. The boards have undertaken, sponsored, or participated in several studies to examine the acute and chronic toxicity associated with elevated levels of ammonia/ium to the Delta ecosystem. Some of these studies have focused specifically on toxicity with respect to Federally and State-Listed endangered and threatened species. The studies are designed to determine if elevated ammonia levels may be inhibiting the food web upon which pelagic and salmonid species of the Delta depend. Some of those studies are being concluded, while others are ongoing.

The Central Valley Water Board anticipates conducting a public hearing in December 2010 to consider a permit renewal for the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. Regional Water Board staff has met frequently with the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and many other stakeholders to evaluate the impacts of the discharge. Agencies using downstream waters have been active participants in these meetings. In considering the available information and preparing for the hearing, Regional Water Board staff developed issue papers on human health and aquatic toxicity and circulated them for public review and comment. The issue papers help identify concerns, crystallize issues, and provide information to assist the permitting process and to educate stakeholders.

Our evolving understanding of the myriad stressors affecting the Delta will be a key issue in the Central Valley Water Board's consideration of the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant permit. The Central Valley Water Board will do everything it reasonably can to complete this

process as quickly as possible and in full compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act and California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Both Acts require discharge permits to be protective of human health and the Delta ecosystem.

The Water Boards are committed to the use of sound science to guide regulatory decisions. We are following the National Academy of Sciences review last fall of the federal agencies' "biological opinions" related to the Delta smelt and the Chinook salmon, and similar scientific review efforts by Federal and State agencies. The State Water Board recently concluded three days of testimony on flow criteria for the Delta ecosystem. As part of the flow criteria proceeding, the State Water Board heard extensive scientific and expert testimony on flow and other factors, including ammonia that impacts the Delta ecosystem. The scientific information from these proceedings will be used in future proceedings to protect and restore the Delta.

The same commitment to sound science guides the Central Valley Water Board's development of the draft permit for the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. The recent studies by Doctors Glibert and Werner are part of a large body of research being reviewed for permit development. Central Valley Water Board staff has met with both Dr. Glibert and Dr. Werner to understand the application of their respective studies.

The Central Valley Water Board greatly appreciate and value your concern and interest in this matter, and we look forward to working with you and other federal and state elected officials in trying to resolve the complex water quality challenges facing the Delta today. Many challenges remain ahead, and these challenges can only be overcome by the collective resolve of all parties to work toward a common good and collectively beneficial result. As the Sacramento Bee Editorial Board opined on May 21, 2010, such an effort "would be far more productive than continuing with the current pattern of finger-pointing and scientific cherry-picking."

Very truly yours,

PAMELA C. CREEDON,
Executive Officer.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

OUR AMERICAN FLAG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CRITZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this July 4th as the 234th anniversary of our great country and also as the 50th anniversary of the Stars and Stripes that fly above our Capitol and across our Nation today. On July 4, 1960, the red, white, and blue flag rose high above our Nation as an emblem of our national pride and freedom, representing the now 50 States that came together to form a more perfect union.

Old Glory originally came to be by an act of the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. It is marked in the

journal of the Continental Congress "that the flag of the United States be made of 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

From this day forward, the symbol of our great Nation was born. The flag itself was not produced until the late 18th century, characterized by the famous circle of 13 stars representing the 13 original colonies of Delaware, the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island.

Although not enunciated by any act of Congress, the colors of the flag have come to have a special meaning. In a report written by Secretary of the Continental Congress Charles Thomson, the colors and the seal of the United States are defined as: white, signifying purity and innocence; red, hardiness and valor; and blue, signifying vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Through the centuries of its existence, the flag has undergone a number of changes. The first went into effect after the signing of the Flag Act of 1794 by President George Washington. This act of Congress changed the number of stars on the flag to 15 to accommodate for Kentucky and Vermont, the newly admitted States into the Union. It also called for 15 stripes to go on the flag, the only official flag not to possess 13 stripes.

The Flag Act of 1818, signed into law by President James Monroe, the last Founding Father to serve as President, set the common standard for today's flag. It pronounced that all official United States flags must have 13 stripes to represent the original 13 colonies and one star to represent each State in the Union.

The final change to our Nation's great emblem of freedom came by an Executive order issued in 1959 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. It announced the addition of Hawaii into the Union and also prescribed the arrangement of the stars in nine rows staggered horizontally and 11 rows of stars staggered vertically.

More than 1,500 designs for the new flag were submitted to the White House. It was a 50-star flag created for a class project by a young man named Robert Heft that would become adopted by our country. Young Robert, a 17-year-old student from Lancaster, Ohio, originally received a B minus for the project. Our Nation received a new symbol of our freedom.

As stated by law, on July 4 of the following year, the flag was hoisted up and now stands as the great emblem of our Nation. It is with purity in our hearts that every American, especially our valorous servicemembers here at home and abroad, look to the red, white, and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

As we all celebrate our Nation's birth this Fourth of July, I would like to re-

flect upon our independence, our values, and what it means to be an American as a fitting tribute to the 50th anniversary of the current flag of the United States of America.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5585

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as cosponsor from the bill H.R. 5585.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE WAR THAT'S NOT A WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, in January 1991, we went to war in the Middle East against Saddam Hussein, Iraq's dictator who was our ally during the Iran-Iraq war. A border dispute between Kuwait and Iraq broke out after our State Department gave a green light to Hussein's invasion.

After Iraq's successful invasion of Kuwait, we reacted with gusto and have been militarily involved in the entire region 6,000 miles from our shores ever since. This has included Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia. After 20 years of killing and a couple trillion dollars wasted, not only does the fighting continue with no end in sight, but our leaders threaten to spread our bombs of benevolence on Iran.

For most Americans, we are at war, at war against a tactic called terrorism, not a country. This allows our military to go anyplace in the world without limits as to time or place. But how can we be at war? Congress has not declared war, as required by the Constitution, that is true. But our Presidents have, and Congress and the people have not objected. Congress obediently provides all the money requested for the war.

People are dying. Bombs are dropped. Our soldiers are shot at and killed. Our soldiers wear a uniform; our enemies do not. They are not part of any government. They have no planes, no tanks, no ships, no missiles, and no modern technology. What kind of a war is this anyway, if it really is one? If it was a real war, we would have won it by now. Our stated goal since 9/11 has been to destroy al Qaeda.

Was al Qaeda in Iraq? Not under Saddam Hussein. Our leaders lied us into