

same time we would encourage the sending of representatives of independent international bodies, including parliamentarians. If they were to find that Tibetans in Tibet are happy, we would readily accept it.

The spirit of realism that prevailed under Mao's leadership in the early 1950s led China to sign the 17-point agreement with Tibet. A similar spirit of realism prevailed once more during Hu Yaobang's time in the early 1980s. If there had been a continuation of such realism the Tibetan issue, as well as several other problems, could easily have been solved. Unfortunately, conservative views derailed these policies. The result is that after more than six decades, the problem has become more intractable.

The Tibetan Plateau is the source of the major rivers of Asia. Because it has the largest concentration of glaciers apart from the two Poles, it is considered to be the Third Pole. Environmental degradation in Tibet will have a detrimental impact on large parts of Asia, particularly on China and the Indian subcontinent. Both the central and local governments, as well as the Chinese public, should realise the degradation of the Tibetan environment and develop sustainable measures to safeguard it. I appeal to China to take into account the survival of people affected by what happens environmentally on the Tibetan Plateau.

In our efforts to solve the issue of Tibet, we have consistently pursued the mutually beneficial Middle-Way Approach, which seeks genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people within the PRC. In our talks with officials of the Chinese government's United Front Work Department we have clearly explained in detail the Tibetan people's hopes and aspirations. The lack of any positive response to our reasonable proposals makes us wonder whether these were fully and accurately conveyed to the higher authorities.

Since ancient times, Tibetan and Chinese peoples have lived as neighbours. It would be a mistake if our unresolved differences were to affect this age-old friendship. Special efforts are being made to promote good relations between Tibetans and Chinese living abroad and I am happy that this has contributed to better understanding and friendship between us. Tibetans inside Tibet should also cultivate good relations with our Chinese brothers and sisters.

In recent weeks we have witnessed remarkable non-violent struggles for freedom and democracy in various parts of North Africa and elsewhere. I am a firm believer in non-violence and people-power and these events have shown once again that determined non-violent action can indeed bring about positive change. We must all hope that these inspiring changes lead to genuine freedom, happiness and prosperity for the peoples in these countries.

One of the aspirations I have cherished since childhood is the reform of Tibet's political and social structure, and in the few years when I held effective power in Tibet, I managed to make some fundamental changes. Although I was unable to take this further in Tibet, I have made every effort to do so since we came into exile. Today, within the framework of the Charter for Tibetans in Exile, the Kalon Tripa, the political leadership, and the people's representatives are directly elected by the people. We have been able to implement democracy in exile that is in keep with the standards of an open society.

As early as the 1960s, I have repeatedly stressed that Tibetans need a leader, elected freely by the Tibetan people, to whom I can devolve power. Now, we have clearly reached the time to put this into effect. During the forthcoming eleventh session of the fourteenth Tibetan Parliament in Exile, which

begins on 14th March, I will formally propose that the necessary amendments be made to the Charter for Tibetans in Exile, reflecting my decision to devolve my formal authority to the elected leader.

Since I made my intention clear I have received repeated and earnest requests both from within Tibet and outside, to continue to provide political leadership. My desire to devolve authority has nothing to do with a wish to shirk responsibility. It is to benefit Tibetans in the long run. It is not because I feel disheartened. Tibetans have placed such faith and trust in me that as one among them I am committed to playing my part in the just cause of Tibet. I trust that gradually people will come to understand my intention, will support my decision and accordingly let it take effect.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember the kindness of the leaders of various nations that cherish justice, members of parliaments, intellectuals and Tibet Support Groups, who have been steadfast in their support for the Tibetan people. In particular, we will always remember the kindness and consistent support of the people and Government of India and State Governments for generously helping Tibetans preserve and promote their religion and culture and ensuring the welfare of Tibetans in exile. To all of them I offer my heartfelt gratitude.

With my prayers for the welfare and happiness of all sentient beings.

10 March 2011  
Dharamsala

#### TAIWAN'S EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

#### HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2011*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to the continued exclusion of the Republic of China (Taiwan) from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

As we have witnessed far too often, Taiwan is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, having the natural environment of a subtropical island. In 2009, Taiwan was devastated by Typhoon Morakot. In just two days, a total of 2,500 mm of rain fell in Central and Southern Taiwan, the heaviest rain in over 50 years. Floods and landslides caused severe loss of life and property. Extreme weather events such as these, coupled with rising sea levels caused by global warming, are endangering Taiwan's environment and survival.

The fact that Taiwan is unable to use the resources of the UNFCCC seriously cripples Taiwan's efforts to meet the challenges posed by global warming and climate change. For the welfare of Taiwan's 23 million residents, it urgently needs to be included in the disaster early warning system, to have access to real-time information and to be part of climate change adaptation mechanisms.

This unjust exclusion not only hurts Taiwan, but it also hurts the global community, since Taiwan has a great deal to contribute to global environmental efforts. For nearly four decades, Taiwan has been developing a robust legal framework for environmental protection, beginning with the Water Pollution Control Act in 1974 and most recently in June 2009, with a

law advancing the development of renewable energy. Taiwan's Environmental Protection Agency has implemented measures to reduce greenhouse gas emission and has invited international agencies every year since 1993 to verify the volumes of Taiwan's production, import and export of ozone-depleting substances. Taiwan is also at the forefront of developing solar power, alternative fuels, and wind power, reducing vehicular emissions, improving air quality and managing solid waste.

Taiwan needs to be included in the UNFCCC and the world needs to include Taiwan. I urge my colleagues to support Taiwan's inclusion in the UNFCCC and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### A TRIBUTE TO WISCONSIN'S FABULOUS 14: "THEY STOOD UP"

#### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2011*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly recognize Wisconsin's Fabulous 14. These 14 Wisconsin State senators took a stand on behalf of the people in order to prevent legislation that would strip State public workers of most of their collective bargaining rights and sell off government power plants without bids. This legislation would also grant extraordinary powers to an unelected government official appointed by the Governor, who has been a staunch opponent of medical assistance his entire political career, to make drastic changes to Wisconsin's successful Badger Care, Family Planning programs, and Senior Care Programs.

These 14 courageous men and women, at great sacrifice to themselves and their families, fled to Illinois, to the land of Lincoln. In fact, these 14 Wisconsin Democratic Senators now share something in common with former Republican President, Abraham Lincoln. The then State Senator Lincoln left the Illinois Statehouse to prevent a quorum from being reached to hold a crucial vote in 1840. Lincoln reportedly opened a window and escaped from the second floor of the building. One newspaper joked that Lincoln's "long legs" prevented him from being injured as he left.

During the senators' absence, the people of Wisconsin were given an opportunity to review the Budget Repair Bill and the Budget Bill and thoroughly scrutinize its contents of the Governor's proposals. The bill will affect every citizen in Wisconsin, and for many middle class and vulnerable Wisconsinites; it will be devastating.

Governor Walker and Republicans in the State Legislature worked around the 14 senators' protest to prevent a quorum and the bill was signed into law on Friday, March 11, 2011. During the past 3 weeks, I have been in Madison on several occasions standing in solidarity with the people.

On Saturday, March 12, 2011, along with an estimated 100,000 people, I was on hand to Welcome Back "the Fabulous 14" who returned to the State after weeks. I could feel the energy, the intensity of the people of Wisconsin; teachers, nurses, students, plow drivers, fire-fighters, prison guards and dozens of farmers with their tractors gathered around the Capitol square. Mr. Speaker, Wisconsin has