

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS PRODUCTION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1937) to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I will vote against H.R. 1937, a bill that weakens environmental safeguards while bolstering the mining industry's special privileges on federal lands.

The language in the bill is written in such a way to cover virtually all hardrock mining on federal lands. Instead of using a scientific definition of a critical mineral, a mineral for which there is no substitute, H.R. 1937 considers gravel and sand to be critical minerals, leading to fast-tracked permits for practically any hardrock mines, even when the materials are plentiful. In addition, the bill classifies hardrock mines as infrastructure projects in order to allow hardrock mines to access a streamlined permit process intended for actual infrastructure projects such as surface transportation and pipelines, which have far less of an environmental impact.

The bill directs the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service to simplify the process for obtaining permits to extract minerals from federal lands, including eliminating adequate reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It is widely known that the NEPA review process, through the formulation of alternative proposals and the consideration of public input, leads to improved federal decision-making and better projects. In the end, NEPA saves time, money and reduces negative impacts. Furthermore, NEPA is the primary balancing mechanism against the mining industry's privileged access to billions of dollars worth of minerals on federal lands. The mining industry already enjoys access to hardrock minerals on public lands without paying taxpayers anything.

Finally, the bill limits the ability of aggrieved communities to use the court system to hold the government accountable when contamination from hardrock mining threatens their groundwater or drinking water. H.R. 1937 exempts legal cases brought against hardrock mines from the Equal Access to Justice Act, which means that winning plaintiffs cannot collect attorney fees from the government, ultimately ensuring that poor communities will never challenge these decisions in court.

I support efforts to strengthen our mining regulations. H.R. 1937, however, is a step in the wrong direction. We should be looking to reform the antiquated General Mining Law of 1872. Nearly a century and a half later, a law signed by President Ulysses S. Grant remains the law of the land and carries with it a toxic legacy. The GAO estimates that there may be more than 160,000 abandoned hardrock mines and that 20% of these sites (roughly 33,000) have degraded the environment by contaminating surface water and groundwater or leaving arsenic-contaminated tailings piles.

In its place, the Hardrock Mining Reform and Reclamation Act, H.R. 963, is a meaningful attempt at comprehensive reform and yet it remains stuck in committee. Unlike the bill being considered on the floor today, H.R. 963 would protect communities and their surroundings by balancing mining with other uses of public land. This legislation would put in place environmental controls to protect water, create jobs and protect natural areas by funding the clean-up of abandoned mines, and compensate taxpayers for the extraction of natural resources.

IN HONOR OF MR. FRED S.
JEALOUS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Mr. Fred S. Jealous, on the occasion of his retirement after more than 30 years of dedicated public service. Fred is a beacon of compassion, justice, and community service. Over the many years that he and his wife, Ann Todd Jealous, have lived on the Monterey Peninsula, Fred has devoted countless hours of his professional and volunteer time to weaving, reinforcing, and repairing the social fabric of our community.

Fred originally hailed from Connecticut. In 1963, he earned a B.A. in history from Clark University in Worcester, MA. He went on to earn a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH, in 1963. He then answered the call for public service and entered the Peace Corps, teaching math and English in rural Turkey. Upon his return from Turkey, Fred renewed his studies, this time in the field of Psychology, at the U.S. International University in San Diego.

In 1967, love for Ann Todd brought Fred to Baltimore, MD. However, as an interracial couple, they had to travel to Washington, D.C., to marry. In Baltimore, Fred became active in the civil rights movement agitating for the integration of public places. Fred and Ann moved to the Monterey Peninsula where he and Ann settled in Pacific Grove and raised their two children Ben and Lara.

It was on the Central Coast that Fred hit his stride as a community builder and activist. He

worked with the Veterans Administration to develop education programs for disabled veterans, served as executive director of the Salinas Volunteer Center, and founded the Monterey County Men's Alternatives to Violence. In 1987, Fred took this last effort a step further and founded the Breakthrough Men's Community as a non-profit organization to provide men with skills to free themselves from non-productive, painful, or abusive aspects of their lives. Staffed by volunteer graduates of the program, Breakthrough helps men work on communication and listening skills, self-esteem, parenting, alternatives to sexual obsession, reducing homophobia, and building healthy, inclusive communities. Fred has remained at the helm of Breakthrough since its founding and is now preparing to pass on that leadership.

Fred has truly made our community a better place. He is truly an example and inspiration for those who have the great fortune to know him. That is perhaps most true for Fred's son Ben, who followed his father's—and mother's—example to become the President and CEO of the NAACP. I know I speak for the whole House in extending to Fred Jealous our deep appreciation for his life's work and offer our best wishes to him and his family on this next chapter in his remarkable life.

HONORING DONALD SHUMWAY ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE CROTCHED
MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Donald Shumway on his retirement as the CEO and President of the Crotched Mountain Foundation, and thank him for the outstanding work he did during his career.

Mr. Shumway's continuous progression within various health services agencies such as becoming the Commissioner of the NH Department of Health and Human Services and head of the Division of Mental Health exemplifies his intelligence, positive attitude, and commitment to protecting and serving his community with the utmost professionalism.

Although Mr. Shumway will now shift his focus from serving his community to his family, it's clear he leaves behind an example of strong leadership and compassion for others to emulate in his absence.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Donald Shumway on his retirement, and wish him the best on all future endeavors.

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