The 106th Congress should impose a reasonable net smelter royalty on hard rock minerals extracted from public lands, dedicating the revenues to cleaning up abandoned mine sites, permanently extend the $100 rental fee, and close the depletion allowance loophole.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY S. GOVERNALE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Anthony S. Governale, one of San Mateo County's most dedicated public servants. Tony passed away on December 29, 1998, leaving behind a legacy of community service that made a significant difference in the lives of innumerable Bay Area residents. He will be sorely missed by all of us who knew him and all of us who benefited from his lifetime of public service.

Many people talk about the frustration of politics and about the inability of a single individual to effect change through government. Tony Governale's life stands as a strong rebuttal to these skeptics. Tony did not merely talk about building a more vibrant America for his children and grandchildren—he volunteered his time and his considerable energy and his insight on behalf of political candidates who shared his progressive beliefs. He masterminded a number of important campaigns, and he served for some time as the president of the San Mateo County Democratic Council.

When his reputation as a community leader provided him with the opportunity to assist his beloved City of San Bruno in an official capacity, he seized that challenge. Tony served as a member of the City Council for eight years, and for two years of that time he served as mayor. He was a key figure in guiding San Bruno through a decade of growth and progress. His commitment to performing his public responsibilities, as well as his tireless efforts to reach out and involve the entire community in the decisions of its government, made him one of San Mateo County's most beloved citizens.

Tony's public service was by no means confined to politics and government. As the longtime executive director of the Daly City-Colma Chamber of Commerce, he used his organizational skills and persuasive talents to foster the development of one of California's most dynamic business areas. He was instrumental in the establishment of the San Mateo County Health Center Foundation, which raises funds to improve the lives of patients at the San Mateo County General Hospital. He served on the governing board of the Shelter Network of San Mateo County, on the Board of Directors of the San Mateo County Fair, and as an active participant in many other civic organizations throughout the Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Tony Governale and in extending condolences to his wife, Helen, and his fine family. It is my hope that Tony's family can take comfort in the realization that his important contributions to our community are an outstanding and a fitting memorial to him for generations to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to day with my colleague, Mr. HOYER, to introduce the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999. Mr. Speaker, this bill is identical to legislation sponsored by Senator Glenn and THOMPSON that passed the Senate in the unanimous consent in the waning hours of last Session.

Mr. Speaker, I often hear from state and local governments and constituents involved in non-profit organizations who, in an attempt to gain assistance for many worthy programs, are frustrated by the miles of red tape, regulations and duplicative procedures they encounter. Applying for the grant is not the only problem. The administrative and reporting requirements attached to certain grants often makes these entities question the cost effectiveness of entering the program in the first place.

To address this concern we have introduced this short and straight forward legislation. It requires relevant Federal agencies, with oversight from OMB, to develop plans within 18 months that do the following: streamline application, administrative, and reporting requirements; develop a uniform application (or set of applications) for related programs; develop and expand the use of electronic applications and reporting via the Internet; demonstrate interagency coordination in simplifying requirements for cross-cutting programs; and set annual goals to further the purposes of the Act. Agencies would consult with outside parties in the development of the plans. Plans and follow-up annual reports would be submitted to Congress and the Director and could be included as part of other management reports required under law.

In addition to overseeing and coordinating agency activities, OMB would be responsible for developing common rules that cut across program and agency lines by creating a release form that allows grant information to be shared by programs. The bill sunsets in five years and The National Academy for Public Administrators (NAPA) would submit an evaluation just prior to its sunsetting.

The bill builds on past efforts to improve program performance through the Government Performance Results Act and to reduce Federal burdens through the Paperwork Reduction & Unfunded Mandates Acts. It has been endorsed by state and local organizations such as the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislators, the National Association of Counties, and the National League of Cities. I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. HOYER and the other original cosponsors for joining me in this effort and I encourage my colleagues to join in support of this bipartisan effort.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRADE FAIRNESS ACT OF 1999

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, steel imports continues to pour into the United States at very low prices and are threatening steel worker jobs and the health of the U.S. steel industry.

As was acknowledged in the President's recent steel report, this is a severe crisis that has resulted in a 30 percent surge in steel imports during the first 10 months of 1998 and has resulted in the loss of 10,000 steel worker jobs.

Surprisingly, the President's steel report does not contain any significant measures that will provide immediate relief to the industry and protect steel worker jobs.

The report only rehashes discussions he and administration officials have had with offending country officials asking them to cut back on their steel exports to the U.S., and revises measures that have been taken to expedite recent trade cases.

The only new proposals in the President's report are $300 million in tax relief for steel companies allowing them to carry back losses for 5 years, and a high level administration coordinator to assist communities once they have already suffered job losses.

Since the administration does not appear ready to take decisive and immediate action to solve the steel import crisis, it is up to the Congress to look at various options.

I am introducing today the Trade Fairness Act of 1999 which is but one option in trying to solve the steel import crisis. It may not be the most expeditious option, but the bill contains two provisions that would significantly improve current law to better respond to import surges.

The bill lowers the threshold for establishing injury in safeguard actions under section 201 of the 1974 Trade Act to bring the standard in line with World Trade Organization rules. Section 201 allows the President to provide appropriate relief, including duties and quotas, when an industry is injured by import surges. The injury standard in this type of action should not remain unjustifiably high, thereby precluding the use of section 201 to respond to import surges.

Second, the bill establishes a steel import permit and monitoring program, similar to programs in Canada and Mexico. This monitoring program will provide the Administration and industry with timely import data to determine more quickly if the marketplace is being disrupted by unfair imports.

This bill represents only one option. You will see other bills introduced in the near future responding to the steel import crisis, including a bill I am drafting to require the President to negotiate Voluntary Restraint Agreements with offending nations. This program was extremely effective in the 1980's in allowing the industry to restructure and become world competitive.

But, even the most competitive industry cannot compete against unfair imports. We must look for an effective solution to stop these unfair steel imports. Below is a more detailed explanation of the Trade Fairness Act of 1999.