

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my support for the amendment offered by the gentleman from California.

Mr. Chairman, we don't need any more timber roads. Construction of timber roads uses U.S. taxpayer dollars to pay for the business costs of the timber industry, and results in the degradation of soil, water quality and wildlife habitat.

We have over 440,000 miles of roads in our National Forests, the vast majority of which are for logging. If you pull out your calculator, Mr. Chairman, you'll find that 440,000 miles is enough to encircle the globe 17 times; that's ten times more road miles than we have in the Interstate Highway System.

These timber roads initiate erosion of soil, deposit sedimentation into streams, damage water quality, degrade fish habitat, fragment wildlife habitat, disrupt wildlife migration routes, and destroy the quiet beauty of our National Forests. The taxpayer ends up paying the cost for these damages—and too often the damage cannot be undone. These timber roads also give timber companies subsidized access to our natural resources. I don't think that's smart horse-trading, Mr. Chairman.

Over the recent recess I took a three-day hiking and horseback trip through some of the beautiful federal lands in my home state of Colorado. Over each hilltop, crossing each stream and river, coming across beautiful vistas, one after another—I found myself thinking what an unforgivable crime it would be to squander these resources. The next time my colleagues return to their districts, I urge them to take to the natural areas, and see first hand what I'm speaking about. I returned from my trip resolved to redouble my attempts to conserve these resources for future generations.

And I believe a good place to start is to eliminate the subsidized creation of more timber roads. I urge my colleagues to support the Miller amendment to protect roadless areas in our National Forest System.

IN MEMORIAM: KAREKIN I,
CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the world's great religious leaders, who recently passed away.

On June 29th, Armenia's Catholicos, Karekin I, died at the age of 66. The Catholicos is essentially equivalent to the "pope" of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Armenia's President Robert Kocharyan declared three days of official mourning, from July 6th through the 8th. Funeral services for the Catholicos were held on July 8th in the Cathedral of Echmiadzin. The principal celebrant of the four-hour funeral rite was Aram, I, Catholicos of Cilicia, the sister Catholicosate of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Thousands of Armenians were joined by religious leaders from around the world, including the Armenian Church Patriarchs of Jerusalem and Constantinople (Istanbul). Also participating in the funeral mass were the heads of a number of

national Orthodox Churches, and Cardinal Edward Cassidy, who represented Pope John Paul II.

Messages of condolence on the passing of Karekin I have been sent to the religious and national leaders of Armenia from around the world. President Clinton stated, "His Holiness was widely respected for his deep scholarship, deep sense of principle and his sincere devotion to the broadcast possible ecumenical dialogue." President Kocharyan noted that Karekin I had the fortunate distinction to be one of the few Supreme Patriarchs to serve as Catholicos of All Armenians in an independent Armenia.

Last week, an Ecclesiastical Council, composed of the 49 bishops and archbishops, elected Archbishop Nerses Pozapalian as Locum Tenens to run the affairs of the Catholicosate until a new Catholicos is elected. Archbishop Pozapalian, who is 62 years old, was born in Turkey but educated in Armenia. Although the traditions of the church dictate that an election should take place after a six-month wait, a change in the rules has been proposed to permit an election before the year 2000 so that the Armenian Apostolic Church could fully participate in the Jerusalem commemorations of the second millennium of Christ's birth.

Mr. Speaker, Karekin was born in Syria in 1932, baptized as Neshan Sarkissian. He was educated at Oxford in England, and held top church positions in New York, Lebanon and Iran. He was a unique individual in the way he combined a deep reverence for one of the world's oldest religious traditions with a very modern word view. He fluently spoke Armenian, English, French, and Arabic. He was equally at home in meetings with the leaders of other religions, and with leaders of foreign governments and international institutions like the World Bank.

In 1991, Armenia—the first nation to embrace Christianity as its national religion achieved its independence from the officially atheist Soviet Union. Four years later, Karekin was elected as the 131st leader of the Armenian Church, after the death of Vazgen I, who had served for 40 years. At that point, he took up residence in the Armenian town of Echmiadzin, the seat of the Armenian Church.

Mr. Speaker, I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet Karekin, both here in the United States, and also at Echmiadzin. He was a man of deep faith and spirituality. But he also addressed very worldly concerns, such as calling for a peaceful solution to the Nargorno Karabagh conflict and securing Armenia's place in a free and prosperous world. In what promised to be a major breakthrough in relations between different branches of Christianity, Pope John Paul II had been scheduled to visit Armenia. Unfortunately, the serious illness of the Catholicos, as well as the Pope's recent health concerns, caused that visit to be put off. As a Roman Catholic with deep concern for the Armenian people, I hope that a meeting between the leaders of these two great churches will eventually take place.

Mr. Speaker, the Armenian Apostolic Church—which will celebrate its 1,700th anniversary in the year 2001—is one of the so-called Ancient Churches of the East which

split away from Byzantine Christianity before the Great Schism of 1054, which divided the Eastern and Western Churches. Christianity was brought to Armenia by the apostles Jude and Bartholomew. King Trdat III proclaimed Armenia a Christian country in AD 301, 36 years before Emperor Constantine I, the first Christian ruler of the Roman Empire, was baptized. During the many years that Armenia lived under often hostile foreign domination, the Armenian Apostolic Church was the focus of the national aspirations and identity for the Armenian people. To this day, the Armenian Church is a major focal point for all Armenians, those living in Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh, and the millions of others in the Armenian Diaspora, including more than one million Armenian-Americans.

Mr. Speaker, on this occasion, I join with the Armenian people in mourning the passing of Karekin I, a great man who leaves a towering legacy.

HONORING THE WORK OF HARRY
SWAIM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harry Swaim and his nearly 45 years of work for the Communications Workers of America, which has a nationwide membership of more than 600,000. Harry tenure with the organization will soon come to an end, though. He has decided to retire on Aug. 7.

As a state representative for the union, Harry's invaluable experience and caring attitude helped advance the union's many worthy causes. His tireless service to the organization reveals his genuine concern about the membership. Harry truly exemplifies all that is good about organized labor. He is certainly a fixture within the CWA and will be sorely missed by the entire membership.

I have known Harry for more than 20 years and consider him a close friend. He has given me lots of good advice over the years, and I thank him for that. I congratulate Harry for his admirable and distinguished career and wish him lots of luck in future endeavors.

CREDIT FOR VOLUNTARY ACTIONS
ACT—H.R. 2520

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today legislation designed to encourage voluntary actions by industry to reduce the potential environmental problems caused by greenhouse gas emissions. The Credit for Voluntary Actions Act represents what I believe is a "New Environmentalism"—a new way to look at how all of these groups can partner together to effect change in the way business affects the environment.

I am proud to say that with the passage of this Credit for Voluntary Actions legislation,

environmental regulation will no longer be a zero-sum game. This legislation successfully combines the interests of both industry and environment in a way that is mutually beneficial and unprecedented. The major hindrance to industry cooperation in the reduction of greenhouse gases is the great uncertainty of the regulatory environment. There is a skepticism of scientific knowledge and a feeling that the high cost of pollution reduction will not be a good investment economically.

Additionally, there is no way to predict the future of global climate change or how effective reduction measures taken now will be in the long run. The current regulatory situation actually does more to discourage action than to promote environmentally-conscious activity.

The Credit for Voluntary Actions bill addresses these concerns directly. This is a voluntary program that allows a broad spectrum of U.S. business to participate in ways that make fiscal sense for them. This bill is not creating a regulatory program or buying into any international agreements. It is simply authorizing companies to reduce greenhouse gases without fear of punishment later. Many businesses have come to us and told us they would like to take actions to reduce greenhouse gas reductions but are concerned that they would be penalized in the future if they did so. Does it make sense to stop these companies from doing the right thing for the environment, and their own bottom lines? I didn't think so.

This bill is good for the environment, and good for business. What once might have been considered an anomaly, you see here as a new way to look at environmentalism for the 21st century—representatives from utilities and the oil and gas industry partnering with members of environmental groups; Democrats and Republicans—all standing unified in an understanding that we must find a way to address the issues of climate change.

There are those who are concerned that this bill will pave the way for implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. This bill is neutral on the issue of the Kyoto Protocol and does nothing to implement that accord. Nor does this bill create any other domestic regulatory regime to address the issue of climate change. The purpose of this bill is to pave the way for voluntary actions by companies who are looking at major investments today, but who worry about being penalized tomorrow. Through these voluntary actions, this bill will result in demonstrable and measurable progress on greenhouse gas emissions and the issues associated with global climate change.

This bill embraces the principles of: (1) environmental progress through market-driven approaches; (2) flexibility allowing the creativity and innovation which have created the largest economy the world has ever seen; (3) non-bureaucratic methods focusing on results not progress; and finally (4) voluntary, not mandatory, efforts allowing us to work with those that can and are willing to contribute to the solution rather than concentrating on efforts on enforcing against those who cannot. In short, this bill embraces the legislative approaches of the 21st century to address this emerging environmental issue.

I would like to elaborate on how these important principles apply to this bill. Central to

this bill is the concept of tradable emission credits, a market-based approach proven in the Acid Rain provisions of the 1990 Clean Air Act. Tradable credits allow the environmental objectives to be met at lower costs. To achieve these credits, companies are not constrained by pre-conceived methods of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Rather, they have the flexibility to develop agreements which are tailored to their unique situation. These types of agreements have been successfully used in energy efficiency initiatives. Credits are awarded for measured reductions against a company's historic releases. This results-oriented approach which rewards environmental benefits, not regulation savyness, is similar to the Second Generation approach several of my colleagues are exploring for improving environmental performance in general. Finally, this bill, by focusing on voluntary actions to meet society's needs, mirrors the successes many of our States and localities have had in addressing a wide range of domestic issues.

I am proud to join with my esteemed colleagues in introducing this innovative legislation, and I encourage all of my colleagues in the House to support our efforts.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF BILL

SECTION 1—TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 2—Purpose. To encourage voluntary actions to mitigate potential environmental impacts of greenhouse gas emissions by ensuring that the emission baselines of participating companies receive appropriate credit. These credits for voluntary mitigation actions would be usable in any future domestic greenhouse gas emission program.

The purpose is to encourage voluntary actions, not to encourage a future domestic program. The bill is not tied to Kyoto or any specific international greenhouse gas agreement. Credits would be usable in any domestic program.

Section 3—Definitions. A number of terms are defined including a number of terms specific to the carbon sequestration portion of the bill.

Section 4—Authority for Voluntary Action Agreements. This section provides the authority for entering into these agreements to the President and allows delegation to any federal department or agency.

Section 5—Entitlement to Greenhouse Gas Reduction Credit for Voluntary Action. Provides authority for credits for: certain projects under the initiative for Joint Implementation program; prospective domestic actions (includes a significantly revised sequestration); and retrospective past actions. This section includes a third party verification provision to the past actions.

This section also includes a Congressional notification provision when the amount of credits equals 350 million metric tons carbon equivalent. This provision is designed to preserve future Congress' options.

Section 6—Baseline and Base Period. This section provides guidance on developing baselines from which reductions are measured.

Section 7—Sources and Carbon Reservoirs Covered by Voluntary Action Agreements. This section explains how sources are calculated. This bill provides provisions for dealing with a company's growth. This section allows baseline adjustments to reflect a company's increased (or decreased) output, net of the general economic growth of the

country. Thus, in effect, companies with major growth are rewarded by having their baselines increased, while the environment is protected by offsets from companies which are not growing. This section also includes guidance on "outsourcing", where companies contract out portions of their work, thus reducing their emissions (but increasing the contractor's emissions) while increasing their production (thus raising their baselines).

Section 8—Measurement and Verification. This section provides the reporting responsibilities of participants.

Section 9—Participation by Manufacturers and Adopters of End-Use, Consumer and Similar Technologies. This section provides guidance for manufacturers of products sold to consumers, such as autos, refrigerators, and computers. Use of these products contribute substantially to the overall greenhouse gas emissions. However, without this section, energy efficiency improvements in these areas would not be captured in the voluntary program. This section provides incentive for manufacturers of these products to increase their energy efficiency and other emission reductions efforts in the products they produce.

Section 10—Carbon Sequestration. This section provides guidance on what carbon sequestration projects qualify for voluntary action credits. This guidance is designed to ensure scientifically acceptable methods are utilized in designing these projects, as well as requirements for monitoring, reporting and verification. Credits for carbon sequestration are limited to 20% of all credits available under this act.

Section 11—Trading and Pooling. This provides authority for trading credits and arranging pooling agreements among participants. The pooling authority can provide a means for small businesses and others to participate.

Section 12—Relationship to Future Domestic Greenhouse Gas Regulatory Statute. This provision gives the companies the guarantees they need that these actions will be applicable to any future program that could be authorized by the Congress.

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL JUDGE
KENNETH K. HALL OF WEST VIRGINIA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to, and to celebrate the life of Federal Judge Kenneth K. Hall of West Virginia.

Kenneth K. Hall, who was born in Boone County, West Virginia, died at the age of 81 at his home in West Virginia after a 47 year distinguished career as a State and Federal judge. He began his service to our State and the Nation when he became a circuit judge in the county of his birth in 1952 at the age of thirty-three. He was appointed to his federal judge's post in 1971 by President Nixon.

Five years later, Judge Hall was named to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, comprised of West Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Well-known for his humor, his wisdom, his straightforward manner and understanding of West Virginians, he is best known for the