

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 Kocharian 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,