

[RCRA] poses nearly identical concerns. Under section 7003 of that law, for instance, EPA has broad authority to order a current owner-operator to address environmental contamination, again, regardless of fault.

Thirty-two states have launched so-called voluntary cleanup programs. We must help these programs thrive. Under these initiatives property owners comply with state cleanup plans and are then released from further environmental liability at the site. The subcommittee has received testimony in the past from a variety of states and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], demonstrating that these state voluntary cleanup programs have been responsible for the redevelopment of hundreds of brownfields. In the first year the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted its brownfields program, it succeeded in cleaning 35 sites.

Although many of these state laws have proven successful, states, businesses, and other experts have testified that the possibility of continuing Federal liability despite an agreement to limit State liability—the so-called dual master problem—seriously diminishes the effectiveness of State voluntary cleanup programs. Because redevelopers face the potential for cleanup obligations above and beyond what a State has decided is appropriate to protect health and the environment, they may hesitate to enter into agreements with sellers to purchase idle properties. The testimony establishes, in my mind, that if brownfields redevelopers could be confident that the cleanup agreements entered into with States would not be second-guessed by EPA, then they would be far more likely to agree to conduct a cleanup.

The Land Recycling Act of 1999 is based on the input of all of the stakeholders in the brownfields debate—the federal government, states, local governments, clean-up contractors, sellers, buyers, developers, lenders, environmentalists, community interests, and others—and in particular based on my own experiences in my district. Among other things, the bill provides “finality” for brownfields cleanups done pursuant to, and in compliance with, State programs, releasing buyers and sellers from liability and litigation under federal law. This certainly is number one on the wish list for developers and Rust Belt businesses. It will also provide liability protection under federal law for a number of nonpolluters, including: innocent landowners, prospective purchasers, contiguous property owners, and response action contractors—thus removing disincentives to cleanup and reuse. This legislation will streamline the federal cleanup process and employ sound and objective science. Finally, the Land Recycling Act of 1999 will provide brownfield grants to states, local governments, and Indian tribes for the inventory and assessment of brownfield sites and the capitalization of revolving loan funds for cleanups.

I believe these straightforward solutions will provide an aggressive antidote to the wasteful burden of brownfields in America and are part of the overall set of solutions we must pursue to reform the nation's broken hazardous waste laws. I reemphasize this is a bipartisan effort. Reform efforts that are strictly Democrat or strictly Republican mean the group has a point

to make but is not serious about enacting legislation in the 106th Congress.

While I am confident that the Land Recycling Act will go a very long way, we in Congress also have a larger task at hand—overhaul of the Superfund Program to ensure that we do not perpetuate the brownfields problem across the country. The Congress needs to address fairness and liability issues for small business recyclers and others. The Land Recycling Act of 1999 is only a piece of the puzzle. I look to the chairman of the Commerce Committee, Mr. BLILEY, and the chairman of the Finance and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, Mr. OXLEY, for continued leadership on Superfund reform to address the areas that we can and must address. These two chairmen have fought for Superfund reform and continue their interest in real solutions. The bill last Congress, H.R. 3000, The Superfund Reform Act, had 19 Democrat cosponsors and represented a strong bipartisan effort. I hope that 1999 offers more promise, and that they will again consider including the Land Recycling Act as part of their Superfund reform effort.

A TRIBUTE TO BRIG. GEN. PAUL R. COOPER

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Brigadier General Paul R. Cooper, the commander of the Air Force Reserve Command's 440th Airlift Wing, since August 1995. General Cooper is leaving this post and on August 1 will assume his new duties as the Commander of the 445 Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Milwaukee's loss is surely Ohio's gain.

A native of Seattle, Washington, General Cooper graduated in 1967 from the University of Washington with a degree in chemistry and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He has been a wing commander, group commander and installation commander at two Air Force Reserve bases. General Cooper was recalled to active duty during Operation Desert Storm, where he served as commander of a composite C-130 unit deployed to the Middle East for six months. He was selected to return to extended active duty from June to October 1996 to command the 4100th Group and serve as the installation commander of the NATO Air Base, Bosnia-Herzegovina, as part of the implementation force under Operation Joint Endeavor. General Cooper is a command pilot with over 11,500 flight hours.

General Cooper and his wife Kathy will be honored at a farewell dinner and reception July 30 in Milwaukee at which time the Coopers' many friends and colleagues will have an opportunity to show their appreciation for a job well done at the 440th.

I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank General Cooper for all his assistance over the last four years when I have called on him to aide the members of the unit as well as the Milwaukee community. In fact, just last

month General Cooper showed his commitment to our community by presiding over a military medals presentation in which I was proud to distribute well-deserved medals to World War II soldiers and their families.

Again, on behalf of the men and women of the 440th and the entire southeastern Wisconsin community, thank you General Cooper for a job well done. God bless you and best wishes at your new post.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain that I was unable to vote on Messrs. GILMAN and MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. GIBBONS amendments to H.R. 2415, the American Embassy Security Act. I was needed at home in Missouri for family reasons. At the time of the votes, I was flying back to Washington and was unable to return in time.

If I had voted, I would have voted yes on Messrs. GILMAN and MARKEY's amendment to restrict all nuclear agreements and cooperation between the U.S. and Korea. I would have voted yes on Mr. SANDERS' amendment to prohibit State Department employees from imposing restrictions or interfering on Asian and African nations from importing prescription medications from the lowest-priced source available. And I would have voted yes on Mr. GIBBONS' amendment to require the Secretary of State to issue regulations authorizing that certain requirements be adhered to before a person younger than 14 years of age may be issued his or her first passport.

RESULTS OF AN EDUCATION FIELD HEARING

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report on the field hearing that the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth & Families held in my district—in Anaheim, California—on parent and community involvement in education this month.

Today's children bring so many needs to our classrooms. And we are all responsible for making sure those needs are met—parents, teachers and educators; federal, state and local government; the corporate and nonprofit sectors; our institutions of higher learning and law enforcement.

Teachers can't meet those needs alone. Parents can't do it alone. It's too late for our universities to do it once our kids get to college. And recent events all over our nation have proven that our young people certainly can't make it on their own.

Schools need adequate resources—especially those with the children and the families who need it the most—so our schools can focus on education instead of fundraising. That falls to all of us.

So at this hearing, we discussed how our communities can and should work with our schools. We heard from parents, teachers, students and members of the community on how to do that.

After the conclusion of the formal field hearing, I was able to conduct a question and answer period for members of the community who were in attendance.

This was an opportunity to examine issues that may not have been brought up by the panelists—for example the role of fathers in children's lives. As the traditional breadwinner in the family, fathers who work all day have rarely had time in the past to take an active role in the child's education. Fathers who do take part in the educational pursuits of their children have boosted self-esteem levels that have been lacking in these children. Simple tasks such as reading with and to children and helping with homework, are two ways that involve fathers in this process. Fathers do play a crucial role in the education of their children, a point community members wanted to highlight.

The need for gun safety was also stressed. Requirements, such as a minimum age of 21 and background checks for gun purchases play a significant role in keeping our schools and children safe.

The important question of funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was also raised. While educators look to the federal government to provide 40 percent of the funding for this program, many schools receive only 11 percent of the funding needed and are forced to compensate with local resources. The need to fill in this funding gap was stressed because without sufficient funding for this program more handicapped children are at risk of incarceration and substance abuse.

Suggestions were also made on how to improve education at both the federal and local levels. Citizens expressed their wishes on several items.

Congress should receive input from private schools.

All parents of school-age children should participate in parent education programs.

Parent education programs should include material on parental involvement in the classroom.

Early childhood/preschool programs such as Head Start should be funded at higher levels.

Furthermore, another topic discussed was the re-evaluation of funds at the federal level and the reallocation of funds already distributed by the Department of Education.

As for the local level, the public raised the need for community organizations to work directly with citizens on such projects as building a new community athletic facility, as such opportunities were deemed worthy extracurricular programs for children.

I was impressed by the number of citizens who attended the hearing. The levels of community awareness and public support evident at the event were appreciated and inspiring. All in all, the day proved that it does take an entire community—parents, businesses, citizens and school personnel—to educate a child.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 19, 1999, due to the failure of USAirways to provide scheduled airline service, I missed three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

H.R. 1033, the Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act: "aye."

H. Con. Res. 121, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the victory of the United States in the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall: "aye."

H.R. 1477, to withhold voluntary proportional assistance for programs and projects of the International Atomic Energy Agency relating to the development and completion of the Bushehr nuclear plan in Iran: "aye."

IN HONOR OF NTEU PRESIDENT ROBERT TOBIAS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert Tobias, the dedicated president of the National Treasury Employees Union who, after 16 years of leadership, has decided to step down from his post to pursue writing and teaching the next generation about the importance of protecting the rights of workers everywhere. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge his years of leadership and service to his fellow workers, and to his country.

Since he first joined the NTEU 31 years ago, Robert Tobias has stood up for the fundamental rights of his fellow federal employees—fair pay, health coverage, the right of employees to have a role in overseeing their agencies, and a secure transition to stable retirements. He has played a vital role in building the labor-management partnership in the federal government today. His extraordinary work and dedication in carrying out his duties has had a profound impact on the hard working men and women throughout the NTEU.

Robert Tobias' distinguished career has been a great source of pride. His dedication and determination to improve the lives of the hard working families of federal employees will be his lasting legacy. The members of the NTEU and the nation have all benefitted from his unwavering commitment. For this, I join my colleagues in offering him our gratitude.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF GEORGE BROWN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and distinguished col-

league, Congressman George Brown of California's 42nd Congressional District. I worked alongside of Representative Brown for 33 years and will remember his service to Congress as one dedicated to improving the quality of life not only for his constituents but for all of us.

George Brown started off his illustrious career not as the public servant we remember him by, but as a young student in the 1930's. It was on the campus of the University of California at Los Angeles where he began his crusade for a better nation by organizing the first integrated campus housing. Being the great leader he was, George was the first to integrate UCLA's housing by taking on an African-American roommate. Later in his life Representative Brown was proud to continue his push for civil rights when he voted for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A picture of George, President Lyndon Johnson, Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. hung on his wall as a constant reminder to the signing of that act into law.

Upon graduating from UCLA with a degree in Industrial Physics, Brown put his degree to good use with the City of Los Angeles. It was there that he helped organize the city's workers and its veteran's housing projects. Then in 1954 George Brown won his first election as a member of the city council in Monterey Park, CA. One year later in 1955 he became mayor of the same city. The dedication he held for the issues dearest to him kept Brown moving as he was elected to the California State Assembly in 1958. As a member of the state assembly Brown introduced an environmentally friendly piece of legislation that called for a ban on lead in gasoline, the first ever of its kind. What we later learned is that this was only the beginning of George's fight for a cleaner, safer environment.

In 1962 George Brown ran for the 29th district in California. He won the House seat easily that year beating his opponent by an 11 percentage point margin. Serving on the House Committee on Science and Aeronautics, Brown was a staunch supporter of the advancement of the space program and the pursuit of technology that would improve all of our lives. George believed that technology should be included in the education of our children and worked hard to accomplish this goal throughout his career. In more recent years Congressman Brown was found supporting international scientific cooperation and attempting to establish joint research programs between the United States, Russia and Mexico.

During the 1960's and into the 1970's, Congressman Brown was a strong voice in protest to the Vietnam War. He argued that the no matter how long we fought and how many troops we sent over to Vietnam, we could not find world peace from a war that was slaughtering peasants. Throughout the war, he tried time and again to get the attention of the nation. One such time found Representative Brown outside on the steps of the Capitol Building demanding that if the police were going to arrest 13 peaceful war protesters for disturbing the peace, then they should arrest him too.

When I think back to this time I'm reminded of the group that Bob Kastenmeier from Wisconsin, Don Edwards from California, George,