

AGRICULTURE KEY TO OPEN SPACE

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, given Colorado's population boom, it is no surprise ours is among America's most sprawling regions. Ten acres are developed each hour in Colorado. During the next twenty years, the state's population could easily grow by another 1.5 million.

Often, irrigated farmland is consumed to fuel the demands associated with growth. While farmers and ranchers make up only three percent of the state's population, they hold most of the rights to Colorado's most valuable resource—water. This vital link between water, farmland and the nation's food supply cannot be overlooked in our search for solutions to regional growth problems.

Lawsuits and petitions filed by various extremist environmental groups over such rodents as the Preble's meadow jumping mouse and black-tailed prairie dog threaten farmers and ranchers with federal intervention and excessive regulation. However, Washington bureaucrats have proven themselves ill-suited to balance the many competing factors relative to growth in Colorado.

When I asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the decision to list the Preble's mouse under the Endangered Species Act, I was told farmers and ranchers could continue to work their land so long as they do it while the mouse hibernates. Farmers and ranchers need not fear the Endangered Species Act, say the agency, if they put up their crops between October and April!

When a member of my staff called the Fish and Wildlife Service for information on the black-tailed prairie dog, he was asked, "is that some kind of hunting dog or something?" These fundamental misunderstandings permeate Washington-based initiatives designed to control the growth and destiny of the West.

Sound policy to offset the effects of Colorado's population boom should focus instead on Colorado's best stewards of the land—its farmers and ranchers. Besides supplying safe and inexpensive food for our tables, farmers and ranchers provide valuable open space and wildlife habitat.

In fact, most of this nation's wildlife survives and thrives on private lands. To preserve these valuable assets we need to protect water and property rights and make it easier for farmers and ranchers to pass their land on to succeeding generations.

We must continue to fight ill-conceived Washington-based programs that threaten Colorado water, like Executive Order 13061 recently initiated by the White House. My fight against this invasive order was victorious for Colorado. Consequently, no Colorado waterways will be subject to subsequent federal control this year, but we must keep a wary eye on the future. Federal reserve water rights

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and bypass flows continue to threaten Colorado farmers and ranchers. As a state, Colorado must continue to stand committed to protecting our water from further federal usurpations.

Colorado's farmers and ranchers are growing older. Factor in inflated property values, rising costs and low commodity prices and its clear Colorado's farmers and ranchers are fighting for their very survival. That is why I introduced legislation designed to keep family farms and ranches in the family.

The Family Farm Preservation Act blocks the death tax from family farms when they are passed along to the next generation. While the death tax has devastating effects on families (up to 55 percent of the farm's value may have to be paid to the I.R.S.), the amount raised by the tax accounts for less than one percent of federal tax revenues, two-thirds of which are wasted on administration and overhead.

Furthermore, Congress needs to further reduce capital gains taxes so retiring farmers can pass farming operations and equipment on to younger agricultural producers.

While certain anti-property rights groups fight for more regulation and government intervention, Colorado must become an aggressive advocate for agriculture. Preserving farms and ranches is one effective way to mitigate Colorado's booming urbanization.

Let us not look to more litigation or to Washington bureaucrats for the solution to Colorado's problems. Instead, let us pursue sound pro-agriculture and pro-environmental policies that help our neighbors and help ourselves.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TRACK COACH DELBERT BEST

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 1999*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Delbert Best, track coach for the last 24 years at Wellington-Napoleon High School, and athletic director for the past 18 years, was inducted into the Missouri Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

During his career at Wellington-Napoleon High School, Best's track teams won nine boys and one girls 1-70 Conference championships and six boys District championships. His boys teams placed first at the Missouri state finals in 1985, 1987, and 1991; second at state in 1986 and 1983 and third at state in 1992, and 1996. The girls team were second at the state championships in 1993 and third in 1992.

Best was selected 1A boys Coach of the Year once by his coaching peers. In 1994 he was selected as Region 5 National Coach of the Year.

I wish to extend my congratulations to Coach Best for his most deserved induction

into the Missouri Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELECTRIC BOAT

**HON. SAM GEJDENSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 1999*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to Electric Boat of Groton, Connecticut, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. On February 7, 1899, the Electric Boat Company was incorporated, heralding the beginning of an enterprise that has performed an invaluable service to our nation. As Electric Boat celebrates its centennial, I would like to pay tribute to this national treasure and thank the men and women who have done so much to ensure our national security.

Beginning with the development of the Holland (S-1), the world's first practical submarine, Electric Boat has led the way in submarine innovation. The working men and women of Electric Boat have created an impressive historical record. They delivered the USS Cuttlefish—the first all-welded submarine—to the Navy in 1933. They produced submarines at an incredible pace paving the way to America's victory in the Pacific in World War II. The company's craftsmen and designers ushered in a new era of Naval technology in the mid-1950s with the USS Nautilus (SSN571)—the world's first nuclear-powered submarine. The list of accomplishments goes on and on: development of the first fleet ballistic missile submarine in 1959; design and modular construction of the Trident ballistic missile submarines that provide the undetectable leg of America's strategic nuclear triad; delivery of Seawolf class of submarines, the most capable attack submarine ever built; and continuing innovation with the New Attack Submarine. Simply put, Electric Boat has played the defining role in every innovation in submarine design and construction over the past century.

More impressive than the company's list of accomplishments, however, are the people who work there. I have an incredible sense of pride in these patriots. I wish more of my colleagues had the opportunity to visit them, to talk to them, and to get to know what great Americans they are. That's truly why I rise today. To make sure that the entire House, the collective representatives of his nation, know about the unique contributions of the men and women of Electric Boat. Our submarine force is often referred to as the "Silent Service." Nevertheless, if ever there was a time to set silence and modesty aside, it's to pay tribute to this great group of people on the occasion of the centennial of the company they have built.

Happy 100th Anniversary, Electric Boat!

IN HONOR OF CHARLENE STARR  
(CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE)

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 1999*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Charlene Starr has, for over 30 years, been an employee of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office where she now supervises 12 staff personnel in the Tax Foreclosure Department who process between 3,000 and 4,000 tax foreclosure cases each year to ensure either that the appropriate taxes are paid or that the properties proceed to foreclosure sale, an often complex process.

From an early age, Charlene listened to her parents' teachings to develop a good work ethic and to appreciate her good fortune in what she had and to care for those who were less fortunate. She has sought to combine those in performing her job, while retaining a compassionate attitude towards others.

Charlene is also proud of her role in her office's receiving grants from the Ford Foundation and the John F. Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University and in a national award as one of 4 models for "Re-inventing Government".

A Brooklyn resident, Charlene was active for many years with members of the Cleveland Police Department in the "Cops, Kids & Christmas" program providing toys for unfortunate children in orphanages, hospitals and other locations and in gathering toys and contributions throughout the year at public events. She enjoys camping and fishing, cooking, reading and computers, among other activities and is an active member of St. Colman's Church.

RE: AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE,  
MARCH 11, 1997

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 1999*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill to require notice to automobile insurance policy holders before a paid up policy can be either canceled or renewal refused.

Many of my constituents without warning or for insignificant reasons are being cut off of automobile insurance coverage and with little time allowed to find another company.

My bill will require at least 180 days notice before a cancellation or decision not to renew can take effect provided the premiums are fully paid up and there is no court order cancelling the holder's driver's license.

In many places in my district the only means of transportation is one's automobile. To have to drive without insurance coverage is a public hazard. People need to be told well in advance if a company is refusing to renew or plans to discontinue coverage.

This is not interference with the company's right to decide who to cover or not cover. It is only a requirement of due notice. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

H.R.—

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SALES OF AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE POLICIES.**

No State shall authorize the sale of automobile insurance policies unless such policies are subject to cancellation in accordance with section 2.

**SEC. 2. CANCELLATION OF AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE POLICIES.**

A paid-up policy of automobile insurance may be canceled only if—

(1) a written notice of cancellation is mailed or delivered to the last known mailing address of the named insured as shown in the records of the insurer at least 180 days before the effective date of the cancellation;

(2) the insurer shows that the named insured had the insured's driver's license suspended or revoked; or

(3) the insurer shows that the name insured has been convicted of, or forfeited bail for, any action arising out of or in connection with the operation of a motor vehicle that is grounds for suspension or revocation of a driver's license.

**SEC. 3. RENEWAL OF AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE POLICIES.**

An insurer shall mail or deliver to an insured a written notice of non-renewal of an automobile insurance policy at the last known mailing address of the named insured as shown in the records of the insurer at least 180 days before the expiration of the policy.

**SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT.**

(a) INSURER.—An insurer which violates section 1, 2, or 3 shall with respect to the insured involved in such violation—

(1) accept an application or written request for automobile insurance coverage at a rate and on the same terms and conditions as are available to its insureds under the insurer's automobile insurance coverage;

(2) reinstate the automobile insurance coverage for such insured to the end of the applicable policy period.

(b) OTHERS.—Any person who violates section 1, 2, or 3 shall be subject to—

(1) a cease and desist order issued in accordance with section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45); or

(2) a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000.

**RECOGNIZING THE NORWIN AREA  
CELEBRATION 2000**

**HON. RON KLINK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 1999*

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, as the turn of the century approaches, Americans will become more and more excited about the time in which we are living. A new millennium is an event which we are indeed honored to witness, and such an event is worthy of celebration.

To this end, an organization in my Congressional District, the Fourth District of Pennsylvania, has been hard at work to ensure that the closing years of this century and the first year of the next century are welcomed with enthusiasm. The Norwin Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with local schools and businesses, has arranged an impressive cal-

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endar of events for Celebration 2000, including parades, a business EXPO, and, of course, a First Night 2000.

These events will certainly unite the people, businesses, governments, churches, and other organizations of not only the Norwin Area, but all of Westmoreland County, by providing the community with three years of high visibility events and activities.

Clearly, the time and effort it takes to organize such a gala event is worthy of our recognition here today. I ask that the Members of the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing these efforts. Through their hard work and dedication, Celebration 2000 will be a project worthy of taking place once in a 1,000 years.

**RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL  
RESPONDS TO HURRICANE MITCH**

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 1999*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the tremendous energy and compassion displayed by a group of students from Richmond High School in Richmond, California. Seeing the devastation of Hurricane Mitch on the nightly news, these students took action and responded. As reported in the following article, their efforts brought together the entire Richmond High community in the spirit of giving, and the people of both Central America and Richmond, California, are better for it.

[From the WC Times, Jan. 13, 1999]

**RICHMOND HIGH GIVES LOADS AFTER STORM**

(By Mary Reiley)

They collected boxes and boxes of food, clothing and over-the-counter medicines for adults and children who survived Hurricane Mitch, which devastated Honduras and Nicaragua in October.

Students in Richmond High's Alma Latina Club and leadership class collected so many boxes that their large truck could not carry all the donated items to the American Red Cross.

And it wasn't just the club and class members who contributed items and money.

Students attending dances, sports and the annual Harvest Festival got in by bringing canned foods.

Parents brought items on report card night, and staff members loaned their faces so students could pay to throw pies at them.

Students and staff from Helms Middle School and West Contra Costa Adult Education also gave.

"It speaks well of the community that we can come together when there's a need," said Isidora Martinez-McAfee.

She sponsors the Alma Latina Club and is the bilingual U.S. history and government teacher.

Most of the students in her classes and the club are from Mexico or Central America, Martinez-McAfee said, so they felt a connection to the hurricane victims.

When the club decided to send items from its annual canned food drive to Hurricane Mitch survivors, the leadership class rallied the student body to participate, said senior Maria Miranda, 18.