

health and happiness in his retirement years and hope he gets to enjoy the company of his three children and grandchildren. I ask that my colleagues rise with me in honoring Robert Jones in his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL  
MATERIALS CORRIDOR PART-  
NERSHIP ACT OF 1999

**HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 10, 1999*

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, today I want to introduce the National Materials Corridor Partnership Act of 1999. I am joined by Mr. BINGAMAN who will be introducing the same legislation in the Senate today as well.

Members of the House are aware of my long-standing interest in improving scientific and technological cooperation between the United States and Mexico. The purpose of this bill is to promote joint research in materials science between research institutions in the border region.

The shared border region between the United States and Mexico has become increasingly important to the economies of both countries. The border region is a center of manufacturing, mining, metal, ceramics, plastics, cement, and petrochemical industries. Materials and materials-related industries are a significant element of the industrial base(s) on both sides of the border, accounting for more than \$7 billion in revenue on the Mexican side alone. In addition, there are more than 800 multinational "maquiladora" industries valued at more than \$1 billion in the San Diego/Tijuana and El Paso/Juarez regions. These materials-related industries, providing tens of thousands of jobs in both countries, are critical to the economic health of the border region. However, these same industries, in conjunction with continued population growth, have placed severe stress on the environment, natural resources and the public health of the region.

More needs to be done to harness the scientific and technical resources on both sides of the border to address these problems. Scientific and technological advances in the development and application of materials and materials processing provide major opportunities for significant improvements in minimizing industrial wastes and pollutants. Similar opportunities exist to eliminate or minimize emissions of global climate change gases and contaminants, to utilize recycled materials for production, and to allow for the more efficient use of energy. Recognizing these opportunities, academic and research institutions in the border region of both countries, together with private sector partners, recently proposed a Materials Corridor Partnership Initiative. This initiative proposes joint collaborative efforts by more than 40 institutions to develop and promote the usage of clean eco-friendly and energy efficient sustainable materials technology in the border region. Organizations involved in the Material Corridor Partnerships Initiative include pre-eminent universities and national

laboratories located on both sides of the border.

While the initiative envisions conducting a strong cooperative program between universities and national labs, private sector participation also will be an integral part of its activities. One model for such participation is the Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD). In addition to the BCSD model, special industrial outreach programs would be developed to aid industry in problem solving, especially related to materials limitations, environmental protection and energy efficiency. Another important element of the Materials Corridor proposal is the education and training of the next generation of researchers.

Mexican institutions strongly support this initiative and have committed seed money to implement the program among Mexican institutions. I hope that the U.S. Government will also support this proposal. To this end, I am introducing the "National Materials Corridor Partnership Act of 1999. The bill provides, among other things, authorization of \$5 million for each of fiscal year 2000 through 2004 to fund appropriate research and development in support of the Materials Corridor Partnership Initiative. The monies would be used to support joint programs and would leverage support from the private sector in both countries, as well as the Government of Mexico.

I want to commend Senator BINGAMAN for his long-standing interest in improving scientific and technological cooperation between the United States and Mexico. And I look forward to working with him to realize the goals of this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FARM SUS-  
TAINABILITY AND ANIMAL  
FEEDLOT ENFORCEMENT ACT

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 10, 1999*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation to address the most important source of water pollution facing our country—polluted runoff. A major component of polluted runoff in many watersheds is surface and ground water pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), such as large dairies, cattle feedlots, and hog and poultry farms. Under current Clean Water Act regulations, CAFOs are supposed to have no discharge of pollutants, but as a result of regulatory loopholes and lax enforcement at the state and federal levels, CAFOs are in reality major polluters in many watersheds. My bill, the Farm Sustainability and Animal Feedlot Enforcement (Farm SAFE) Act addresses these deficiencies.

Farm SAFE will require large livestock operations to do their part to reduce water pollution. The bill will lower the size threshold for CAFOs, substantially increasing the number of facilities that will have to contain animal wastes. It will require all CAFOs to obtain and abide by a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The bill im-

proves water quality monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting so that the public knows which CAFOs are polluting. Farm SAFE addresses loopholes in the current regulatory program by requiring CAFOs to adopt procedures to eliminate both surface and ground water pollution resulting from the storage and disposal of animal waste. The bill directs EPA, working with USDA, to develop binding limits on the amount of animal waste that can be applied to land as fertilizer based on crop nutrient requirements. In addition, the bill makes the owners of animals raised at large facilities liable on a pro rated basis for pollution caused by those facilities.

Water quality in California's San Joaquin Valley has been degraded by unregulated discharges of waste from dairy farms. Contaminants associated with animal waste have also been linked to the outbreak of Pfiesteria in Maryland and the death of more than 100 people from infection by cryptosporidium in Milwaukee. Although considered point sources of pollution under the Clean Water Act, until recently little has been done at the federal or state levels to control water pollution from CAFOs.

In recent years, many family farms have been squeezed out by large, well capitalized factory farms. Even though there are far fewer livestock and poultry farms today than there were twenty years ago, animal production and the wastes that accompany it have increased dramatically during this period. And although farm animals annually produce 130 times more waste than human beings, its disposal goes virtually unregulated.

I am encouraged by recent efforts by the Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency to address pollution from animal feedlots. Many of the solutions proposed by these agencies, such as comprehensive nutrient management plans for livestock operations and limiting the amount of animal wastes applied to land as fertilizer are nearly identical to some provisions of Farm SAFE. But the Administration's proposal does not go far enough. It lets too many corporate livestock polluters continue to escape compliance with the Clean Water Act by setting the regulatory threshold too high and by not making the owners of animals raised by contract farmers shoulder an appropriate share of the responsibility for water pollution from these operations.

Farm SAFE is very similar to legislation that I introduced last Congress. Although hearings were held in the Agriculture Committee on the issue of animal feedlots, the House took no action on my legislation, nor did the House take any other action to address pollution from animal feedlots. I hope that this Congress does not continue to ignore this growing national problem. The states are beginning to wake up, smell the waste lagoons, and take action. But they need our help in the form of uniform national standards. Much like when Congress stepped in the early 1970s to set uniform national standards for industrial pollution, similar standards are now needed for large point sources of agricultural pollution. Otherwise, the country will become a mosaic of differing levels of environmental protection,