

would Congress put the interests of business over protection of the public good?

The American Lung Association states, "This legislation will create new procedural hurdles on legislation designed to safeguard public health and the environment." The Association cites as examples legislation to regulate tobacco or clean air that might be defeated as a result of this procedural protection.

The Waxman amendment would provide equal footing to legislation that might weaken or repeal mandates on the private sector which protect the public's health and safety, or the environment. It would open the debate and require a vote to provide the balance needed to afford protection of the public interest, along with the protection of business interests. The Waxman amendment would require the CBO to identify whether or not a bill contains any such provisions that might threaten existing environmental law and protection of the public. A point of order could be raised, providing an opportunity for debate and a vote where members would be held accountable for their position.

Over the past four years, we have experienced repeated attempts to attach anti-environment "riders" to critical legislation. There has been a concerted plan by the Majority to weaken or repeal the environmental progress of the past two decades. In most cases, debate has been closed and votes have not resulted on these individual measures which have threatened our forests, drinking water and clean air. The Waxman amendment would provide the same procedural obstacle to anti-environmental legislation as proposed to protect business under H.R. 350. It would give Congress an opportunity to open the debate on issues with health and environmental consequences.

H.R. 350 asks us to think twice about imposing a burden on the private sector and think not once about the consequences for the rest of society.

Think again—support the Waxman amendment—vote "yes" to protect the public health and our environment.

IN HONOR OF LITHUANIA'S
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, as Co-chair of the Baltic Caucus I am particularly honored to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence together with the 746th anniversary of the establishment of the Lithuanian kingdom.

Lithuania is rich in history. This country has continually been occupied by regimes which exploited its natural resources and its people. However, the seed of democracy continued to grow within the Lithuanian people. In 1990, after four decades of suppression, Lithuania finally achieved freedom and re-established the independent Lithuanian state.

This hard-fought victory for independence and democracy stands as a testament to the courage, endurance and strength of the Lith-

uanian people. I am honored today as we commemorate not only the original declaration of Lithuanian independence, but the ongoing sacrifices which these people endured to secure their freedom. The Lithuanian struggle stands as a symbol of the need to fight repression and unjust domination throughout the world.

I commend the people of Lithuania for their vigilance through the many difficult years. There is much cause to celebrate in Lithuanian communities everywhere. Lithuanian Independence Day in Cleveland will be celebrated with a ceremony and arts programs at our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 81st anniversary of Lithuanian Independence.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE AND
TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT
OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 435, the "Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 1999". This bill is one of the most closely scrutinized pieces of legislation that ever comes to the House floor. Numerous agencies review its provisions to make sure the duty suspensions it contains do not prejudice any domestic producers of a good. This pre-legislative scrutiny is the main reason similar omnibus trade bills pass the Congress and are signed by the President without controversy.

This legislation is intended to reduce consumers' cost of important products. These include cancer-fighting drugs and organic substances that can substitute for other chemicals which are more harmful to the environment. I am the sponsor of several of the duty suspension provisions in this bill, including Resmethrin, used in an environmentally sensitive home and garden pesticide that controls flying and crawling insects. In addition, I sponsored a duty suspension for Diclofop-methyl, a herbicide for wheat and barley. Unlike many other herbicides, Diclofop-methyl does not need to be tilled into the soil, which promotes soil conservation.

Thidiazuron is another useful chemical included in this legislation. It is a defoliant that causes green bolls to drop to the ground enabling cotton pickers to harvest clean whit cotton with a green stain that reduces the value of the crop. It also shed immature bolls which are often the host sites for boll weevil infestation, a major threat to cotton production. Again, it is environmentally superior to other cotton defoliants because it requires less active ingredient than other chemicals to provide the same result. AgrEvo, the Delaware company that manufactures the defoliant, packages it in a water soluble bag in order to reduce exposure of the chemical to the skin of farmers and farm workers who apply it.

Also included in a duty suspension for Deltamethrin, an environmentally safer pes-

ticide used to kill fire ants, fleas, roaches, and ticks. Without these duty suspensions, not only would products cost more, but foreign producers of the product who do not have to pay tariffs on their ingredients would have an advantage over American producers. That means hundreds of fewer jobs for Delawares and thousands of other U.S. citizens.

In order to make cancer-fighting drugs more affordable, promote a cleaner environment, and protect American jobs, I encourage every Member to support this bill and move it quickly to the Oval office for President Clinton's signature.

RECOGNIZING DALY JOSEPH
"CAT" DOUCET

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Sheriff Daly Joseph Doucet, affectionately known to those in Louisiana as the "Cat," who was recently inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame.

First elected Sheriff of St. Landry Parish in 1936, Cat Doucet quickly earned admiration and respect as the top law enforcement officer in the area. He would go on to serve 20 years in this office—the longest in the rich history of this parish. On January 30, 1999, he was recognized for this service with his induction into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame. A letter from the selection committee would go on to explain this high honor to Mr. Doucet's family in the following manner: "The statewide selection committee bases its selection on the impact that an individual has had on the politics of Louisiana; a distinction for which your Father certainly qualifies for."

Mr. Speaker, in a state where colorful and savvy politicians are probably the highest density per square mile than any where in the land, Cat Doucet will indeed be remembered as a legend. He will long be remembered for his gifted political skills and remarkable zest for campaigning. One story that I would like to briefly share with you I believe illustrates this legendary talent.

Upon one of his re-election bids, Sheriff Doucet came up with the clever idea to place a P.A. speaker on a crop duster and paid a pilot to fly the crop duster around the various farms of St. Landry Parish the weekend before the election. The pilot, yelling "Vote for Cat Doucet for Sheriff," hit almost every farmer that clear day. The following weekend a massive turnout was reported for the election and a young reporter was anxious to know why so many citizens turned out to support the legendary Sheriff. The reporter quickly grabbed a farmer exiting the voting booth and asked him point blank, "Sir, could you explain what appears to be a massive turn out for Sheriff Doucet?" The farmer replied to the reporter: "Well sir, all I can tell you is this. I was working in the sugar cane fields last weekend and all of a sudden I saw the clouds open up and voice from the sky say 'vote for Cat Doucet for Sheriff' and I said to myself, anybody that can get God to come down and campaign for you,