Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to ask the House to join me in honoring WAMU, the residents of the Washington area.

WAMU is a beacon of Washington area radio. Washington area residents are especially proud that this is the fourth consecutive year that Metro Connection has been honored as the best locally produced public affairs program in the nation. Washingtonians have long admired the professionalism and wonderfully interesting programming of those sharing in the honors, including News Director Kathy Merritt, line producer David Furst, and reporters Annie Wu, Lakshmi Singh, and Lex Gillespie. Metro Connection also won the best news series award for its “20th Century Washington” series, a review of the city of Washington as it has evolved during this century. Kathy Merritt, David Furst, Annie Wu, Lex Gillespie and Andrew Pergram, who received this award, take us on a fascinating journey in a 10 part series, one story for each decade of the century, with special features each month. It is radio at its substantive and interesting best. Those of us fortunate enough to live within listening range of WAMU’s Metro Connection value its focus on us, on where we live, and on what we do. Metro Connection is an especially welcome visitor in Washington area homes on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, many Members of the House and Senate count themselves among WAMU’s 454,000 avid listeners in the Washington area. Congressional Members of every political stripe listen to WAMU’s Metro Connection for its unique insights and expert analysis of the news and public affairs programming, to its celebrated and elegant talk show host Diane Rehm, to Public Interest with Kojo Nnamdi, and to its bluegrass and other music. Now Metro Connection and its creators have brought honor to their medium and their hometown station. WAMU is a beacon of broadcasting excellence. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the people who have made WAMU an award winning resource for the residents of the Washington area.

Joe Botz of Sacramento wrote a Letter-to-the-Editor in the Sacramento Bee last week, which I believe embodies Joe Serna’s legacy as a political role model and a leader. Botz wrote, “Most citizens look at the day when citizen-politicians governed us. Serna was a living and working embodiment of those days. He was brash and arrogant as he looked after our interests and fought for the underdog and befriended those who needed him the most. For that Mr. Speaker, I will always look up to Joe Serna.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, let’s lift FEC reform out of legislative limbo where it has been for twenty years. Before we leave for the year let’s pass H.R. 2668, a bill to streamline FEC procedures and improve FEC reporting.

The bill is not controversial—it has broad support on both sides of the aisle and it is needed. There is simply no reason not to pass this bill today.

In September I wrote to Speaker HASTERT requesting that this bill be placed on the suspension calendar. It is a good bill—sponsored by House Administration Chair BILL THOMAS—and voted unanimously out of the House Administration Committee earlier this year.

The bill contains most of the provisions in the bill introduced earlier this year. It was prepared with the support and assistance of the six Republican and Democratic FEC Commissioners. In addition to the support of the Commission, H.R. 2668 is supported by Members on both sides of the aisle.

Unlike the forced disclosure of State activity; make it easier for contributors to comply with the law; remove obsolete provisions; and broaden candidate’s commercial lending options.

Earlier this year, we voted on this bill on the floor of the House. Like almost every one of my Democratic colleagues and a broad group of Republicans, I voted against the bill. I voted against FEC reform because it would have blocked a vote on the bi-partisan campaign finance reform bill sponsored by Sec. DIEMAN and MIKULSKI. FEC reform deserves our support on its own merits. It should not continue to be used as a pawn in the larger debate.

In my opinion, FEC reform should not have been a part of that debate. That is because, as Chairman THOMAS has repeatedly stressed, H.R. 2668 is not about campaign finance reform—H.R. 2668 is about making the routine procedural reforms that are needed over the course of time by all agencies.

Unlike other Executive branch agencies that request and receive noncontroversial legislative changes to aid in the efficient and effective operation of the agency—changes requested by the FEC simply don’t happen.

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