

natural gas. Furthermore, our bill says to producers "you know better than the government what your make or break price threshold is, so if low prices are sustained your lease terms are suspended, *at your option*, not the Secretary of the Interior's."

But, Mr. Speaker, its not just producers who are being squeezed by today's global oil price environment. So are the oil patch states for which their share of federal mineral receipts are critical in meeting budget priorities. For many public land states, these receipts are dedicated to education trust funds, yet since 1991 these states have had to "share" in the burden of the federal government's costs to administer the Mineral Leasing Act before receiving their half of the remaining revenue. My home state of Wyoming has had over seven million dollars annually taken from the receipts flowing into its Treasury because of this law. And, these states, until now have had no option to take over the federal government's responsibilities and perform the same tasks more cost effectively.

That will change with the Federal Oil and Gas Lease Management Improvement Act. This bill offers states the opportunity to take over post-lease issuance duties from the federal Bureau of Land Management and allow the state's oil and gas conservation commission to perform those functions on federal leases within their borders, if they so choose. As an incentive to take over the fed program, thereby saving federal budget outlays, volunteering states would no longer have to share in the federal administrative burden which unfairly diminishes their school funds.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues from other public land states to cosponsor this legislation and work with me toward its passage. This bill seeks the balance necessary to keep a domestic oil and gas industry working to explore and develop our public mineral resources. Without such balance, the long term decline in domestic production will continue to worsen and the royalties the taxpayers receive for such production will decline as well. Our oil patch states have shown the way this year by passing numerous severance tax reductions and other legislation designed to keep production on-stream and the workers associated with that production paying taxes. The Federal Oil and Gas Lease Management Improvement Act of 1999 is a small step in that direction by the federal government, and I urge its adoption.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ANESTHESIA OUTCOMES STUDY ACT OF 1999

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with several of my colleagues from the Ways and Means Committee—Representative MATSUI, Representative LEWIS (GA), Representative THURMAN, and Representative BECERRA—to introduce the Anesthesia Outcomes Study Act of 1999.

When the Health Care Financing Administration issued regulations to remove a Federal

requirement of physician supervision of nurse anesthetists and instead leave that decision up to State rules, it threw a technical, medical debate into the realm of Congress.

I have absolutely no idea who is right or wrong on the issue or whether there is a quality difference with or without physician supervision. Yet, we are being asked to choose sides and advocate for the nurse anesthetists or for the anesthesiologists on this matter. I am very uncomfortable with Congress making decisions about which type of health professional should provide which type of service.

My colleagues and I advocate that this issue be resolved on a scientific, rather than political, basis. For that reason, we are introducing the Anesthesia Outcomes Study Act of 1999. This bill calls for the Secretary of HHS to conduct a study of mortality and adverse outcome rates of Medicare patients by providers of anesthesia services. In conducting such a study, the Secretary is to take into account the supervision, or lack of physician supervision, on such mortality and adverse outcome rates. This report is due to the Congress no later than June 30, 2000.

Once again, our intent with this legislation is absolutely neutral. We are not medical experts and we do not know whether physician supervision is a factor in the provision of anesthesia services. This study will provide us with the facts that are lacking today so that the final decision on this matter is a medically appropriate decision. Congress should not take action without that data.

HONORING EMMA BUCK

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Emma Buck, who recently celebrated her 95th birthday at her farm in my congressional district.

To visit Miss Buck's farm and the stories that it bears, is also a visit to a quiet memory of the early American experience. This farm, a virtual self-contained world, is both the foundation and legacy of a woman for whom complete self-sufficiency is essential to survival.

Her family's story begins as many American families do. It starts with her great-grandparents, young and hopeful pioneers, who left their Native Germany aboard a ship with hundreds of other immigrants to America. Across the Mississippi River her maternal grandparents, the Henkes, and her paternal great-grandparents, the Bucks, both settled in neighboring communities in rural, southern Illinois.

Rather than fading to lore, as the heritage of many families do, Emma Buck embraced and sustained the life that her great-grandparents began in Monroe County. She still lives in the log cabin that her grandfather built. She still works in the farm that has provided so much for her family's sustenance for so long. This is not a farm transformed by the power of modern technology; rather it is one that honors the rudimentary tools of the past.

Miss Buck remains the sole curator of this farm, which was named a national landmark of

our nation. As she has for over 90 years, in accordance with the methodical teaching of her father and grandfather, Emma rises each morning to the tasks at hand. She fixes the split-rail fences, she weeds the gardens, she prunes the trees. Farming has since been left to interested neighbors, but the fields, the tools, and the dedication of her ancestors remain in the Buck Farm's name.

As the 20th Century ends and the beginning of the new millennium approaches, Emma Buck reminds us of our nation's heritage. The advances in technology made each day continue to fortify our nation's capabilities, but it is the individual life stories of simplicity and complete fulfillment, in which our future generations may find inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Emma Buck, and in doing so honoring our nation's history.

TRIBUTE TO FRESNO ELKS LODGE #439

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Fresno Elks Lodge as they continue in their 100th year of service. The Fresno Elks Lodge was founded May 12, 1898, and has remained true to the mission of the "Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks," dedicated to responsible and charitable interaction in their communities, and the preservation of American heritage.

Maintaining its emphasis on charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity, the order provides millions of dollars in charitable goods and services. It services disabled children through the Elks Major Project by offering scholarships and in-home therapies. It provides active youth programs, veterans assistance programs, community service programs, drug abuse awareness education and alternative activity programs for inner-city youth. Also, the Elks are second to the Federal Government in providing scholarships to students pursuing a college education.

During times of national crisis such as natural disasters or the bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma, the Elks are among the first to respond with offers of help both in manpower and money to communities and their families.

Proud of its patriotism, the order is the first to come to the defense of its nation and flag. From building and staffing the first V.A. Hospital in the United States, to helping to restore the Statue of Liberty, Elks continue to guide America forward.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to the Fresno Elks Lodge #439 on occasion of its 100th year of continued service. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Fresno Elks Lodge continued success in their quest to uphold and improve the American community.