

required to ignite their creativity, imagination and interest. Children embrace her caring demeanor and rise to meet her high academic standards.

Mrs. Lance brings a special set of skills into her class of first and second graders. She never asks a child to do something they can't do and has a knack for bringing out the best in every student.

Student success is her top priority. Her reward is seeing students grow and learn. She truly cares about each and every student. Mrs. Lance meets their needs at every level: educational, emotional, and spiritual. Children in her class are treated with respect and learn the value of kindness and decency. I commend her efforts to provide a rich, intellectually stimulating environment in which children learn the vital skills required to be successful in our society.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Marilyn Lance on her selection as New York State Teacher of the Year. Also, please join me in wishing her the very best of luck in the upcoming National Teacher of the Year competition.

JOHN PORTER WINNER OF THE
WAYNE N. ASPINALL WATER
LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the winner of the 2000 Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award, Mr. John Porter.

Water is a very important issue to the State of Colorado. Coloradans have to be very sensitive to issues dealing with water and water rights, to ensure that those rights are protected. This award represents a person who has dealt with water issues to the best of his ability to ensure the best interests of Colorado water.

John Porter has been the General Manager of the Dolores Water Conservancy District since 1982. As a result of John's management of the District and the Project, the Dolores Project is one of the most efficient water projects in the Upper Colorado Region. From developing programs to save water for irrigators, to developing trust between competing interests, John has always had a positive outlook and a willingness to discuss the issues, no matter how difficult.

John Porter has devoted his life to water interests, first as a farmer, and for the last eighteen years as Manager of the Dolores Water Conservancy District. John's commitment to the beneficial use and conservation of Colorado's water resources has garnered him a well deserved reputation as a "water leader" in the State of Colorado.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute in honor of Mr. John Porter. He is most deserving of the honor of the Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO CARETAKERS OF THE
ENVIRONMENT INTERNATIONAL

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better way to safeguard the world's natural resources than to arm today's youth with the tools necessary to preserve our precious environment.

That's exactly the mission of Caretakers of the Environment International, a Pied Piper of sorts that leads youth along with a path of environmental awareness and activism. Young people from around the world answer the call of this nonprofit organization. They are taught the scientific lessons and practical skills to become environmental leaders.

A hallmark of the organization's activities each year is its annual conference where the host country becomes a laboratory to explore the conference theme. Past conferences have probed such environmental themes as the "Arctic and the Environment," "Development and Research in Environmental Education," and "Tourism and the Environment." Costa Rica's tropical ecosystems were the backdrop last year for the 13th annual conference where 122 highly motivated students and teachers learned through workshops, field trips and social activities. Delegates visited rainforests, volcanoes and Pacific Ocean beaches to learn about biodiversity from expert guides.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Caretakers of the Environment-USA, an American affiliate of the international group. Caretakers/USA reaches out to high school students and teachers—with diverse interests and abilities—and involves them in community action that develops a spirit of national and international cooperation for environmental problem solving.

Undoubtedly, Caretakers' efforts to improve science education encourage young people to pursue environmental careers that will help protect the world's environment. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the activities of Caretakers of the Environment and hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting its efforts.

THE MUD DUMP PERMANENT CLOSURE AND REMEDIATION ACT OF 2000

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to protect New Jersey's oceans and beaches from continued ocean dumping of harmful substances.

Just a few miles off the coast of Sandy Hook lies an area that—after years of protracted debate and political maneuvering—was appropriately designated as the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS). The designation was made to protect the site from the future dumping of toxic dredged mud. It was July, 1996 when vice President Gore Triumphantly

announced that the dumping would stop and the site—affectionately called the old Mud Dump—would be cleaned up with clean dredge material.

Unfortunately, we now know that the 1996 announcement was not an iron clad commitment to end ocean dumping of toxic sludge. In a betrayal of our trust, the Clinton Administration's Army Corps of engineers has approved permits allowing Castle Astoria Terminals, Inc., and Brooklyn Marine Terminals, to dump dredge materials that actually contain higher levels of contamination (including toxic PAHs and PCBs) than the stuff already in the Mud Dump.

Mr. Speaker, common sense dictates that you cannot clean up something by capping it with a substance dirtier than the original mess. Unfortunately, the "category 1" standards in use by the Army Corps and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are so insufficient that using the dredged mud from the Castle Astoria and Brooklyn Marine Terminals to remediate the HRS is like trying to clean an oil spill by pouring nuclear waste on top of it. It will only make a bad situation even worse.

Fortunately, the interests of keeping New Jersey's and New York's ports open, and protecting the environment and New Jersey's multi-billion dollar tourist industry, are not mutually exclusive. The people of New Jersey and New York need both the shipping and tourist industries to be healthy if our high standard of living is to be preserved. There are new ways to treat and decontaminate dredged materials so they are truly clean and pose no threat to the environment. New Jersey has been very proactive in trying to find creative ways of disposing of dredged materials so we can avoid the need to dump at sea. For example, dredged materials have been used in Elizabeth to cap a brownfields site and turn a deserted eye sore into a productive, job creating waterfront mall.

The problem, however, is that the State of New York has done virtually nothing to look beyond ocean dumping for its dredging needs. Every objective, outside observer of the ocean dumping fight admits that New York is not pulling its own weight. And the bottom line is that as long as New York can easily and cheaply use the Jersey Shore as a dumping ground for its dredged soil, New York will never have any incentive to look for real alternatives.

I mean to change that. Under the legislation I am introducing today, an immediate ban will be placed on any existing ocean dumping permits at the Mud Dump to be issued by the Army Corps until new remediation standards are in place.

The bill also requires the EPA, within 90 days of enactment, to formulate a new set of remediation standards. These remediation standards were promised to New Jerseyans in 1996, but four years later, they have still to be issued. We have waited long enough for these standards to be promulgated. It is time for the EPA to act to protect the health of our oceans and beaches.

In addition, my legislation sets forth basic principles that the EPA must follow when developing and proposing new remediation material standards.

First, the actual level of contaminants (including PAHs and PCBs) in the remediation