

aside from some in the environmental community, EPA can point to only two or three states and one organization representing the regulated community—the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies—that support the final rule. And even with in AMSA there is not agreement. The California Association of Sewerage Agencies, representing 95 California municipal sewerage agencies, shares the view held by most organizations representing point sources—that “the administration’s apparent decision to rush to publication of an important rule will only promote litigation and years of delays in responding to actual threats to our nation’s lakes, rivers and coastal waters.”

I am not suggesting that all persons must agree with regulations, but EPA has made no attempt to engage in the public discourse that must take place to unite stakeholders behind the common goal of improving water quality, despite numerous requests from stakeholders asking EPA to allow additional public comment and seeking additional information from EPA on the impacts of the new TMDL regulations.

Fortunately, EPA’s new TMDL regulations will not become effective until fiscal year 2002 and we have the opportunity for additional comment and analysis that many stakeholders and many members of Congress had asked EPA to undertake before finalizing its new TMDL rule.

First, we need to engage the public on this issue. EPA dismissed the criticism of its new TMDL rule as “misunderstanding” of EPA’s intent. The final rule and EPA’s preamble explaining intent were published in the Federal Register on July 13, 2000.

H.R. 4922 requires EPA to solicit and respond to public comment on EPA’s changes to the TMDL program.

Second, we need to understand the scope of the problem. In her July 11, 2000 press release announcing the signing of the new TMDL regulations, Administrator Browner states that “40 percent of America’s waters are still too polluted.” However, EPA’s estimate of the costs of developing and implementing TMDLs is based on 20,000 impaired waterbodies—representing only 10 percent of the Nation’s waters. What is the scope of the problem? 40 percent impairment or 10 percent? The General Accounting Office pointed out in a recent report that only 6 states have sufficient data to identify the scope of water quality impairments in the State. As a result, neither EPA nor the public knows the actual scope of the water quality problem.

H.R. 4922 requires EPA to come up with a plan to fill these data gaps, and create a budget for implementing that plan.

Third, we need an understanding of what methods should be used to address these matters. Too often, EPA’s new TMDL regulations simply assume away difficult water quality problems. For example, the new regulations consider the sun a source of pollution—heat—but do not explain how to go about regulating the sun, stating that: “What needs to be done to mitigate heat load from solar input will be addressed by a State, Territory, or authorized Tribe when it establishes the TMDL.” The final rule similarly has no answers for how to address pollution from atmospheric deposition, or legacy pollution.

H.R. 4922 includes a study by the National Academy of Sciences to improve our ability to

identify sources of pollution and allocate loadings among them.

Fourth, we need an understanding of what kind of sacrifices the public must make to solve our remaining water quality problems, and the benefits that will be achieved if we dedicate resources to this effort. Again, EPA has failed to provide this information. EPA estimates that the total cost of the TMDL rule will be less than \$23 million a year. EPA did not provide any estimate of the benefits of the rule. However, as the General Accounting Office pointed out in another recent report, EPA’s cost estimate assumes that States already have all the data they need to develop TMDLs, an assumption that has no basis in reality. In addition, EPA fails to inform the public of the costs to the regulated community from implementation of the rule, including costs to small businesses and small farming or forestry operations. Instead, EPA would have the public believe that improving water quality is all gain and no pain. I am very concerned about a backlash against Clean Water Act programs when EPA tries to implement the new regulation and the cost is more than the public is prepared to pay.

H.R. 4922 requires EPA to conduct a complete analysis of the costs and benefits of its TMDL rule in a manner that addresses the Comptroller General’s criticisms of the EPA’s earlier cost estimate. In addition, H.R. 4922 requires EPA to quantify the effects of the rules on small entities, including small businesses small organizations, and small governmental organizations.

H.R. 4922 does not affect EPA’s existing TMDL program. I strongly encourage States to proceed with TMDL development and implementation under existing regulations as expeditiously as possible. Fortunately, the House-passed VAHUD appropriations bill provides significant new resources for States to do so.

H.R. 4922 also does not affect EPA’s new TMDL regulations. However, after considering the additional public input and additional information developed under this legislation, I hope that EPA will conclude that its new TMDL regulations should be changed before they become effective in fiscal year 2002.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ULSTER UNITED TRAVEL SOCCER CLUB

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exciting event between the Ulster County, New York United Travel Soccer Club and the Shrewsbury House Soccer Club of England.

On August 30th and 31st, the two Soccer Clubs will compete against each other in the Cantine Field Sports Complex in my hometown of Saugerties, New York. The matches will promote a greater understanding between the players and continue the great tradition of cooperation between the United States and England.

The players from England will be staying with families in Saugerties, which will serve as

an educational experience for the players and citizens of Saugerties. Indeed, as our world becomes increasingly connected, it is critically important that we provide opportunities for our children to interact with different cultures. The athletic contests will help facilitate an exchange of ideas and I am pleased to welcome the Shrewsbury House Soccer Club to Ulster County.

The Ulster United Travel Soccer Club is an important resource for the young people of my district. Indeed, the club promotes teamwork, sportsmanship, positive thinking and physical fitness. In addition, the Club is a member of the Northern Catskill Youth Association (NCYA) and participates in tournaments throughout the Northeast. I applaud the Ulster United Travel Soccer Club for its steadfast commitment to our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to salute the Ulster United Travel Soccer Club and the Shrewsbury House Soccer Club for arranging this unique international competition.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY RENEWAL AND NEW MARKETS ACT

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, across America, the signs of prosperity are brightly lit. The economic boom that is the hallmark of the '90's can be seen in towering construction cranes, packed shopping malls, and flourishing businesses in every region of the nation. As the 21st Century opens, America's free market principles are triumphant, and the world is captivated by the American economic success story.

Given this bountiful setting, it is valid to ask why JIM TALENT, DANNY DAVIS and I joined together last year to re-introduce something called “The American Community Renewal Act.” In view of our booming national prosperity, the need for economic renewal may seem to many to be irrelevant at best, or needless at worst.

To answer that question, we might first look back to a dramatic moment from an earlier period of prolonged American prosperity.

The year was 1968 and, like today, Americans were building new homes, buying new products, creating new businesses, and generally enjoying an unprecedented prosperity. The national economic atmosphere was heady and exuberant.

But on May 21st of that year, millions of Americans sat before their television sets and were shocked by a report from the respected newsman Charles Kuralt entitled “Hunger in America.” That program exposed an unseen hunger and malnutrition that marked the lives of millions of Americans. The nation was shocked into action, and ending hunger in America became a critical national goal.

One editorial writer at that time, commenting on the documentary, noted: “The contrast of a rich country harboring pockets of the most primitive want was its own editorial on the social contradiction of an affluent nation.”