

the Department of Interior to sign 40 mining patents, some of which have been granted to foreign hard rock company, mining companies, deeding away publicly owned resources valued at more than \$15 billion to individuals and private mining companies. In return, the taxpayers received a little more than \$24,000. This is an outrage.

The last Republican administration vetoed efforts of Democratic Congresses to reform it. Vice President GORE would use the money from mining royalties to pay incentives to protect open space and help communities support local parks.

I have already referenced earlier in my remarks this evening the rather bizarre position of Governor Bush who rules out some of the initiatives in saving the salmon stocks in the Pacific Northwest who has no plan himself. The Vice President has committed to saving the salmon stocks and is willing to consider all the options that would be required under our treaty obligations and under U.S. law.

Well, as I look at the record of Governor Bush, it gives me pause. Looking at the area of public lands, one is hard-pressed to find what Governor Bush did in his stewardship in the last 6 years to deal with Texas parks or public land.

Again, this is not a partisan issue. I have been on the floor of this Chamber commending Governor Christine Todd Whitman, Governor Pataki for his and her initiatives, respectively, dealing with the preservation of open space in the States of New Jersey and New York.

They do not have to be partisan issues. In fact, when governors, Republican or Democrat, take the lead, the public supports them, and legislators fall in place. Well, what is Texas doing to take advantage of the massive public support for improving park and open space?

Texas, the second largest State in the union, running substantial budget surpluses, where does it rank, where in the ranking of the States on the money it spends on State parks? A 1998 State audit found that Texas had a funding backlog of \$186 million just for the maintenance of existing parks.

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In 1999, the Texas Parks Commission tried to remove the cap on a sporting goods tax to increase its revenue. Governor Bush could not see his way clear to either provide money in his budget or to support the increase in the revenues. The measure died. Governor Bush did appoint a tax force to find a solution, perhaps a good start. But then when his parks commission made a recommendation, did the governor embrace it? Did he come forward challenging the legislature to meet the needs? Sadly not. He created this task force on conservation which he charged with finding ways to ensure that Texas

leaves a legacy for our children and grandchildren, a legacy of unwavering commitment to preserve and conserve our treasured lands. And then he ignored the request for initial funding for the commission.

A year ago on the campaign trail, one of the most important pieces of conservation legislation, and again I point out it was bipartisan legislation, it cannot be more bipartisan than when you have the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the chair and ranking member respectively of the Committee on Resources, which passes this Chamber with over 300 votes, Governor Bush, when asked last year about his support for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, did not even know how to answer the question. He would increase logging on public lands. He would reverse the roadless area protections that have been a part of this administration's roadless area initiative. I have already referenced that they have indicated they might well try and reopen lands to development that have been protected by this administration. I think it is something that is exceedingly frustrating for people who care about the environment to take a step back and look at the nature of this sorry legacy where the governor has dealt with the environment in the State of Texas.

It did not have to be that way. It was not that way with Governor Engler in Michigan, Christie Todd Whitman, Governor Pataki; it is not the way with Democratic governors across the country, but Governor Bush seemingly does not set a priority on the environment other than photo ops when he comes to the Pacific Northwest. Where is the passion, the commitment, the outrage that under his watch Houston has become the smoggiest city in the United States?

In the area of energy, which is important in terms of both American policy and its environmental consequences, here again is another stark difference between Vice President GORE and Governor Bush. Vice President GORE has supported conservation, is against drilling in the ANWR, 95 percent of Alaska's north slope is already available for oil and gas exploration and leasing. The wildlife preserve is the only 5 percent that is not available. And the estimate of the impact of the ANWR in terms of our energy supply is that it would be at most a 6-month supply of oil. And it would take 10 years to bring that energy supply to market. This is opposed by three-quarters of the American public. It is in fact even opposed by a majority of people in the State of Alaska. But it is part of Governor Bush's proposal for dealing with the energy problem.

Mr. Speaker, I am really troubled with this disconnect between Amer-

ica's long-term environmental interests, with the wishes and needs and interests of the American public, and what has been offered by Governor Bush and the Republican ticket. It is my hope that in the remaining 2 weeks of this campaign, that the American public will focus on the difference between the two gentlemen who would offer themselves up for President, one of whom will be elected President and use that in guiding their votes accordingly.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, AND 120, EACH MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. LINDER (during the special order of Mr. BLUMENAUER), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-998) on the resolution (H. Res. 646) providing for consideration of certain joint resolutions making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4811, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. LINDER (during the special order of Mr. BLUMENAUER), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-999) on the resolution (H. Res. 647) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4811) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 835, ESTUARIES AND CLEAN WATERS ACT OF 2000

Mr. LINDER (during the special order of Mr. BLUMENAUER), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-1000) on the resolution (H. Res. 648) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the Senate bill (S. 835) to encourage the restoration of estuary habitat through more efficient project financing and enhanced coordination of Federal and non-Federal restoration programs, and for other purposes,