

June 9, 2000

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

LARRY COMBEST,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 25, 2000.

Hon. LARRY COMBEST,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, House of
Representatives, Longworth Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMBEST: I am writing concerning the Conference Report to H.R. 2559 (Report), the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 1999, which includes an amendment to H.R. 1504, the Plant Protection Act, offered by Mr. Canady. Section 413 of the Report contains an item of jurisdictional interest to the Committee on Ways and Means. This Act is intended to consolidate existing laws relating to plant safety.

Specifically, section 413 of the Report, "Notification and Holding Requirements Upon Arrival," would require the Secretary of the Treasury to notify promptly the Secretary of Agriculture of the arrival of any plant, plant product, biological control organism, plant pest, or noxious weed at a port of entry. This provision also requires the Secretary of the Treasury to hold those products until they are inspected and authorized for entry into or transit movement through the United States, or otherwise released by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Current section 156 of title 7 of the United States Code requires the Secretary of the Treasury to notify the Secretary of Agriculture of the arrival of any nursery stock at a port of entry. Section 413 repeals current section 156, and instead, requires such notification for all of the above referenced products, including nursery stock. The statutory requirement that the Secretary of the Treasury hold such shipments until released by the Secretary of Agriculture and the authority for the Secretary of Treasury to release a shipment from the port of entry without necessarily requiring an inspection are new. The U.S. Customs Service already follows similar procedures, and it is our understanding that section 413 does not change current law, with respect to such imports, but only enhances enforcement of the current laws relating to those imports.

Normally, the Committee on Ways and Means would meet to consider such legislation. In order to expedite consideration of H.R. 2559, I will not object to the inclusion of section 413 of the amendment, and, for this reason, it will not be necessary for the Committee on Ways and Means to meet to consider the legislation.

However, this action is being done with the understanding that it will not prejudice the jurisdictional prerogatives of the Committee on Ways and Means on these provisions or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to my Committee in the future.

Finally, I would ask that you include a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter in the Record. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter. With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

BILL ARCHER,
Chairman.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, May 23, 2000.

Hon. HENRY HYDE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Ray-
burn House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing with regard to H.R. 1504, a bill that was primarily referred to the Committee on Agriculture and additionally to the Committee on the Judiciary. This bill modernizes and enhances the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to plant protection and quarantine. Please find the enclosed copy of H.R. 1504, as amended, along with a side-by-side comparison showing current law. In order to allow the timely consideration by the entire House of Representatives during the remaining period in the 106th Congress, I am requesting that you waive your Committee's referral of H.R. 1504.

I understand that such an action is not intended to waive your Committee's jurisdiction over this subject matter or any similar legislation now or in the future and look forward to working with you on matters of shared interest.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

LARRY COMBEST,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, May 24, 2000.

Hon. LARRY COMBEST,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Long-
worth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing with regard to H.R. 1504, "The Plant Protection Act", which was referred to your committee and to this committee for such matters within our respective Rule X jurisdictions.

Since the bill was referred to this committee, there is no question that there are provisions of the bill which fall within our jurisdiction. It is my understanding that due to the exigencies of time, and the leadership's desire to process this legislation in the near future you are requesting this committee waive its consideration of the bill.

Pursuant to your request, I am willing to waive this committee's further consideration of the bill, recognizing that this will not affect our subject matter jurisdiction over this matter, and that I will insist on Members of our committee being named conferees should this bill go to conference.

Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, May 23, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Resources, Longworth
House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing with regard to H.R. 1504, a bill that was primarily referred to the Committee on Agriculture and additionally to the Committee on Resources. This bill modernizes and enhances the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to plant protection and quarantine.

Please find the enclosed copy of H.R. 1504, as amended, along with a side-by-side comparison showing current law. In order to allow the timely consideration by the entire House of Representatives during the remain-

10271

ing period in the 106th Congress, I am requesting that you waive your Committee's referral of H.R. 1504.

I understand that such an action is not intended to waive your Committee's jurisdiction over this subject matter or any similar legislation now or in the future and look forward to working with you on matters of shared interest.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

LARRY COMBEST,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, May 15, 2000.

Hon. LARRY COMBEST,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Long-
worth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1504, the Plant Protection Act, authored by our colleague Congressman Canady. This bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Agriculture and additionally referred to the Committee on Resources, among others.

After reviewing the amendments to the bill, I have no objection to it going forward and will not object to the Committee on Resources being discharged from further consideration of the measure. As you note in your letter, this action is not intended to waive jurisdiction over this or similar provisions. I would also ask you to support the Committee on Resources request to be represented on any conference on this bill, or a similar measure, if one should become necessary. Finally, I ask that you include our exchange of letters on H.R. 1504 in the Committee on Agriculture's report on the bill or in the official file on the bill.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to help expedite consideration of this bill. I appreciate your cooperation and that of John Goldberg of your staff, and look forward to working together on other matters of mutual interest in the future.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

GARRETT A. MORGAN TECH-
NOLOGY AND TRANSPORTATION
PROGRAM POETRY CONTEST

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the eight Regional winners from my Congressional district of the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program Poetry Contest. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the following talented students for their exceptional submissions—Emily Erkinen, Kerri McCarthy, Jack Bavaro, Krista Duchnowski, Caroline Flannagan, and Luke Nickerson of Clinton, Massachusetts; Mackenzie Bernier of E.S. Brown School in Swansea Massachusetts; and Timothy Leger of Thacher Elementary School in Attleboro Massachusetts.

The Futures Program is named for Garrett Augustus Morgan, one of the country's finest

innovators in public protection and public safety. In 1923 he patented the nation's first traffic signal, which was used throughout North America before being replaced by our current system. Seven years earlier Mr. Morgan had made national news for using a gas mask that he had developed to enable him to go into a tunnel under Lake Erie to rescue several trapped men. In his honor, the Program was created to better prepare America's students—with math, science, and technology skills—for entering the transportation workforce in the 21st century.

Following are the winning poems. I'm sure all of my colleagues join me in congratulating all of this year's participants.

Region 1: ME, MA, NH, RI, CT, VT

1st Place: *Emily Erkinen Clinton Middle School Clinton, MA*

An Airplane can fly very high. I would like to fly an airplane. Right through the clouds I would go. Pilots drive the airplane. Lots of birds fly along. A great way of transportation. Now the airplane has landed. End of the ride, let's go home.

2nd Place: *Kerri McCarthy Clinton Middle School Clinton, MA 01510*

How that hot air balloon floats up in the sky Oh look, there's another and another and one more oh my That one has purple all over the tie And Look! I see a purple line I think I see a blue one too Round and round the higher it floats Balloons float up in the air And all of them spread everywhere Look at the purple one Look at the blue Oh how pretty they look don't you think they do? Oh no one just popped what are we going to do! Now I'm off bye, bye, I do miss you too!

3rd Place: *Jack Bavaro Clinton Middle School Clinton, MA 01510*

Hot Air balloons don't go very far They're even slower than a car. But they can glide in the sky. Just like a bird flying high.

Region 1: ME, MA, NH, RI, CT, VT (Grades 4-6)

1st Place: *Mackenzie Bernier E. S. Brown School Swansea, MA 02777*

"TRANSPORTATION"

What makes transportation really neat, Is that we no longer have to use our feet. We can ride a bike, or drive a car, We can take a plane to go very far. We can hop on a bus to get out of the rain. We can catch a subway, or take a train. There are ferry boats and cruise lines too, And trolley cars for me and you. There are great big trucks for moving freight, And limos for that special date. Who knows, someday very soon, There might be transportation to the moon!!

2nd Place: *Timothy Leger, Thacher Elementary School Attleboro, MA 02703*

"TRANSPORT"

Trains transfer trucks to Turkey. Cars carry crackers to Colorado. Submarines ship snowboards somewhere. Dump-trucks deliver dirt to Denver. Helicopters haul huge hats. Canoes carry cats to California. Boats bring bicycles back.

3rd Place: *Krista Duchnowski Clinton Middle School Clinton, MA 01510*

No boats, planes, cars? Walking on your own two feet? Not in this day and age. Walk to school? Carry my books? Take the bus I say. Dream of crossing the ocean? Never see France? Let's fly my friend. Paddle to the islands? Take a raft? Hey dude, fire up the motor! Run across the country? Get tired and SWEAT? Chugga, chugga, take the train!

Walk, run, paddle, WORK? Do it yourself? Transportation does it for me!

Region 1: ME, MA, NH, RI, CT, VT (Grades 7-8)

1st Place: *Caroline Flannagan Clinton Middle School Clinton, MA 01510*

Cavemen used the feet they had Until the idea of a wheel we had Ships allowed us to sail the seas Making men's dreams realities The car was invented as time went by Orville and Wilbur soon did fly Rockets and space-ships were shot into space Bringing man to a whole new place Transportation keeps us on the go In the future we don't know.

3rd Place: *Luke Nickerson Clinton Middle School Clinton, MA 01510*

Henry Ford, and the Wright Brothers were men with vision, Just like the man who invented the television. This Country uses modes of transportation like planes, autos, and trains To go to work so that we can invent more, and use our brains. Now that we have reached a destination, Aren't you proud of this great nation? For the resources and modes of transportation, Just think, in 1969 of Armstrong and space exploration. We need to stop, and think of where we are going, If flight is in your plans, try a 747 Boeing.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES MEIER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Charles Meier of Okawville, IL. Charles was recently inducted into the Illinois Jaycees Recruiters Hall of Fame.

He was inducted for his successful efforts to recruit many new members into the club during his 21 years as a Jaycee. His recruitment efforts have brought in new members from an area that extends from Steeleville and Waterloo to Interstate 64.

I want to congratulate Charles on receiving such a prestigious honor. I wish him the best as he continues to serve.

IN HONOR OF THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF BAYONNE ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Concerned Citizens of Bayonne (CCB) on its 30th anniversary.

Founded in 1970 by Frank P. Perrucci, CCB was established as an instrument for concerned citizens to take action on a variety of national and state issues. CCB is a perfect example of the influence that a civic organization can have on our political system. This organization levels the playing field, providing ordinary citizens with the opportunity to affect the political process, reducing the disproportionate influence of special interest groups.

The CCB supports several community organizations and charities: the Bayonne Hospital

Cancer Treatment Center; the Windmill Alliance; Deborah Hospital, the Bayonne PAL; Bayonne Little League; Bayonne Babe Ruth Baseball; the Bayonne Family YMCA Day Care Center; and Bayonne for the Battleship New Jersey, Inc.

CCB actively supports fines and jail terms for ocean dumping, opposes self service gas stations in New Jersey, and has opposed extreme wrestling exhibitions in Bayonne.

Committed to helping its community, CCB is a strong advocate for senior citizens, conducts activities for the veterans at the East Orange V.A. Hospital, and has been a participant in Toys for Tots for the past thirty years.

In 1990, on its 20th anniversary, CCB established the Frank P. Perrucci Scholarship Award, and in 1995, on its 25th anniversary, established the Frank P. Perrucci Civic Achievement Award to recognize extraordinary individuals who have volunteered their time and efforts for important causes.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Concerned Citizens of Bayonne for its commitment and active participation in our political system and for its contributions to our community. I especially want to thank Frank Perrucci, his wife Jean Perrucci, and CCB President Joanne Kosakowski.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC (WERI)

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the University of Guam Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific (WERI) on their twenty-fifth anniversary. WERI is the only regional water research institute dedicated to the needs of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Formally established in June of 1975, WERI has since sought solutions to technical problems associated with the location, production, distribution, and management of freshwater resources—an extremely essential function for the island communities it serves. One of fifty-five water research institutes authorized by Congress in the U.S. through the Water Research Act of 1964, WERI has expanded from a one-person operation in 1975 to a staff today of fifteen people conducting research, training, and information dissemination for Guam and the Western Pacific. They have continually strived to foster and promote research, training, technical assistance, outreach, awareness, information sharing and dissemination.

Partially funded by the federal government, WERI provides a wide array of services to the University of Guam and the people of the Pacific insular region for a fraction of what independent consultants would charge. Their research program covers all the costs for materials, equipment, supplies, computers, audio