

May 25, 2000

specifically excluded agricultural storm water discharge from the point source designation, thereby placing discharges from farming, ranching and silviculture operations outside of the reach of the federal permitting program.

In 1987 Congress amended the Clean Water Act to establish a framework within which states could carry out their responsibility to manage nonpoint sources of pollution. It was the intent of Congress at that time to preserve the distinctions between point and nonpoint sources of pollution established in the 1972 Act so that there would be no ambiguity with regard to the role of the state in relation to the federal government.

At no time has Congress granted the federal government an affirmative regulatory role in the management of nonpoint sources of pollution. Neither has Congress granted the EPA the authority to unilaterally change the clear distinctions between point and nonpoint sources of pollution currently established in law.

Upon review of the draft rules proposed by the EPA, it is our view that the agency's proposal exceeds the authority provided by the 1972 Act and the 1987 amendments both in terms of the new regulatory role assumed by the EPA and the designation of silvicultural activities as point sources of pollution. We further believe that while the joint statement issued by the EPA and USDA on May 1, 2000 partially addresses concerns raised by Congress and affected stakeholders regarding the EPA's authority, it does little to overcome this fundamental problem.

LACK OF INFORMATION

Over the last 28 years, the Federal government and the states have placed great emphasis on reducing pollution levels from point sources. Both have made significant investments in technologies and scientific methods to measure and control pollution discharges. These investments have paid off as we have seen dramatic decreases in point source pollution over the last two decades.

Recently, both the Federal government and the states have begun to place increasing emphasis on the improvement of programs to reduce pollution from nonpoint sources. Understandably, because of the priority emphasis placed on point sources over the years, the technology and data needed to achieve measurable large-scale reductions on nonpoint source pollution are not yet fully developed.

States, local governments, businesses and landowners are currently poised to voluntarily spend billions of dollars over the next 20 years in an earnest attempt to acquire this technology and data. In order to realize the optimum return on these investments, however, states, local governments and other affected stakeholders must be allowed to operate within the flexible framework established by the 1987 Clean Water Act amendments. This will preserve the ability of the states to develop innovative methods to gather the information upon which sound management objectives can be based and thereafter design programs carefully tailored to meet those objectives.

Unfortunately, EPA's proposed rules move in exactly the opposite direction. By establishing arbitrary deadlines for completing TMDLs, threatening to unilaterally establish TMDLs and load allocations, and imposing

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

mandatory guidelines for best management practices, EPA will force states to act before they have the data needed to act intelligently. In fact, the General Accounting Office has found that few states have the majority of the data needed to comply with the onerous requirements outlined in the EPA's proposed rules. Forcing states to comply with the new regulatory framework required by the EPA at this stage of the process will waste time and money and result in confusion rather than better water quality.

PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

The purpose of the bill we are introducing today is to address the two concerns raised previously, namely, that the EPA lacks both the authority and the information to proceed with the agency's proposed rules.

Our legislation commissions an independent study of the scientific methodologies, programs, and costs associated with the development and implementation of TMDLs. We intend this independent review to provide the EPA, the Secretary of Agriculture and the states a valuable tool with which to develop sound policies for the management of nonpoint sources of pollution. This approach will help remedy the current problems associated with identifying impaired water bodies and establishing TMDL allocations based on anecdotal and otherwise unverifiable data. It will also require EPA to take a more deliberate and thoughtful look at how the agency might better cooperate with states and landowners to improve water quality rather than impose arbitrary standards and guidelines that will achieve uncertain outcomes.

We are also concerned about the workload impact on the conservation agencies that serve private landowners, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and local conservation and resource conservation and development districts. Nor do we believe that EPA has adequately reviewed the technical and financial assistance that will be needed to assist landowners under the proposed rules.

Our bill will also underscore both the language and the intent of the Clean Water Act relative to the role of the EPA in managing nonpoint sources of pollution. We believe the law is clear that the EPA has no regulatory role in the management of nonpoint source pollutions. We also maintain the EPA has no authority to unilaterally change the definition of point source pollution to encompass nonpoint sources. The language of our legislation re-emphasizes these points and restricts the EPA from pursuing these unauthorized objectives in a regulatory proceeding.

To summarize, we support the objective of improving the quality of our nation's waters. However, we insist on achieving these objectives within the parameters of the law and using the best available information. The Water Pollution Program Improvement Act of 2000 is designed to help ensure that outcome. We urge our colleagues to support this important legislation.

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COMMENDING ISRAEL'S REDE-
PLOYMENT FROM SOUTHERN
LEBANON

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for Israel's redeployment from Southern Lebanon.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak ensured Israel's compliance with the 1978 United Nations Security Council Resolution 425, which calls on Israel to withdraw its forces from all Lebanese territories. His commitment to redeploy Israeli forces by June 7, 2000 must also be commended.

Prime Minister Barak has shown remarkable leadership in Israel and in his commitment to advance peaceful negotiations with all of her neighbors; I am confident these steps will bring genuine peace to the Middle East. Prime Minister Barak's appeal to the Lebanese President, Emile Lahoud, to use the Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon as a springboard for peace is a step in the right direction. As these countries move forward in their efforts, it is also extremely important that the American government work to encourage peace in the entire region.

For many years, I have been committed to moving forward to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in the spirit of peace. I have stood with great conviction, alongside my constituents, many of whom have close ties, to urge a peaceful resolution to conflicts in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Selim al-Hoss has assured the safety of residents in Southern Lebanon. Lebanon has been a victim of far too much blood shed in recent decades. It now stands in the midst of a crucial transition. Therefore, the physical security guaranteed by all parties must also ensure protection for religious freedom, political independence and liberty. Only under these conditions, will Southern Lebanon be able to fully redevelop its communities and provide its people with the ability to lead fruitful lives.

Again, I offer my support and encourage Prime Minister Barak and President Lahoud to continue on the path of peace and progress.

COMMENDING ISRAEL'S REDE-
PLOYMENT FROM SOUTHERN
LEBANON

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the government of Israel has followed through on its commitment to withdraw its troops from Southern Lebanon.

This is a step that could end one of the most tragic episodes in the difficult recent history of the Middle East.

I commend the government of Prime Minister Ehud Barak for fulfilling its commitment to

withdraw Israeli troops from Lebanon, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

I have always believed that all foreign forces should leave Lebanon.

We have seen what the cycle of violence has done to people of all faiths and backgrounds in Lebanon and throughout the Middle East. And while it is important to reflect on the past, we must also move forward.

Today, I join with the many voices which are renewing the call for peace. Those who want to perpetuate the violence will try to stand in our way but we can't let that happen.

We must stand together and demand that all the parties work for peace, seek justice, and forsake violence. That is our only option. Let that be our task in the days ahead.

Step by step, over time, the withdrawal of troops and other measures will build tolerance and mutual respect, so that differences are settled not with guns, but with compassion and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, we must all learn to not let our differences stand in the way of joining together for a common purpose. I believe that if all parties work together in good faith peace can be achieved.

PRAISING EFFORTS OF MANUEL STAMATAKIS

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Cradle of Liberty Council Boy Scouts of America in saluting Mr. Manuel N. Stamatakis as the recipient of this year's Scout Mariner Award.

Mr. Stamatakis—in addition to being a close, personal friend—is president and chief executive officer of Capital Management Enterprises, a financial service and communications conglomerate headquartered in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Mr. Stamatakis has made community service and partnerships a hallmark of his life's work. He has been and continues to be a shining example of a person of action and integrity. Manuel N. Stamatakis certainly fits the criteria of a "Scout Mariner."

The "Scout Mariner Award" is presented to one who exemplifies in his daily life the ideals of the Boy Scouts of America as expressed in the scout oath and law. The recipients are chosen by their peers for outstanding community service as evidenced by the interest and leadership given to many worthwhile organizations, as well as the respect and esteem in which they are held by their colleagues.

Mr. Stamatakis is also the Chairman of the Delaware River Port Authority. It is interesting to note that the "Scout Mariner Award" is symbolized by a Norman Rockwell painting of a seaman talking to scouts, entitled "Tales of Many Lands." Since 1998 Mr. Stamatakis chairs the Team Pennsylvania Ambassador Program—a network of business, cultural and academic leaders working to expand domestic and international business in Pennsylvania. As chairman, Mr. Stamatakis was particularly well suited to this role as he has traveled through-

out the world to promote trade within the Commonwealth. In the past two years alone, he has visited Brazil, Germany, China, Finland, Russia and Japan.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Manuel N. Stamatakis and those like him who take the time to give back to their communities more than they take for themselves. Scouting is a positive force in our area and thousands of youth benefit from the program and the involvement of distinguished business leaders such as Mr. Stamatakis who have gone above and beyond the Boy Scout protocol. I ask all of my colleagues in Congress to please join me in honoring Mr. Manuel N. Stamatakis for his commitment to community service and our youth.

IN HONOR OF BONEAL, INC.—RECIPIENT OF THE 2000 UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE QUALITY SUPPLIER AWARD

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, too often, when we think of American manufacturing, images of industrial giants come to mind. We think of huge machinery housed in cavernous factories, men stoking enormous furnaces in an environment of hard hats, rivets and lunchtime whistles.

This image is, in large part, a vision of the past. We still make steel, iron, and heavy machinery. But today's manufacturing is also about men and women in casual attire and rather quiet workstations as they inspect computer boards and assemble complex yet compact circuitry. And, contrary to popular perception, most of the things that are made in America are made in small and mid-sized companies.

Historically, small businesses have been the wellspring of creativity in our society. From the Wright brothers to Bill Gates, some of our most successful manufacturers have started out in a garage with little more than a dream. Inventions that have changed our lives, from that first voyage in flight to the high-speed microprocessors of today, have been developed in small firms. These companies provide the backbone of the manufacturing sector.

Today, I rise to honor one such small business company and its success in providing contract-manufacturing services that include design, completed high-tech assemblies, sub-assemblies, testing, and more. The U.S. Postal Service has recognized Boneal, Inc., of Means, KY, with the 2000 Quality Supplier Award for its distinguished performance as a specialized small business manufacturer.

Boneal Incorporated, first established in Corbin, KY, in 1980, is a womanowned small business that prides itself in offering "solutions to your most challenging manufacturing needs." Boneal Inc., in its efforts to provide fast and seamless manufacturing, accepts projects from any point in the manufacturing process, ranging from small projects that require hand assembly of consigned components to large projects that require capital in-

vestment, equipment design, and product distribution.

And so today, I join the U.S. Postal Service, the community of Means, KY, and small companies throughout the United States in congratulating Boneal, Inc., for its selection to receive this distinguished award. I also recognize its outstanding contribution to American manufacturing.

CONCERNING THE 13 IRANIAN JEWS CURRENTLY ON TRIAL IN THAT COUNTRY

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my grave concern over the ongoing trial in Iran of 13 Iranian Jews on questionable charges of spying. The world should know that we are watching this case closely. If Iran truly wants to join the community of nations it should ensure an open and fair trial. The Jews facing trial in Iran have been held without due process for over one year. The Clinton administration has rightly put Iran on notice that we are watching these proceedings closely and we will hold the Iranian regime responsible for their actions.

Mr. Speaker, we are seeing reports in the press that describe the social isolation of many in Iran's 25,000-strong Jewish community in the wake of this trial. Several shops owned by Iranian Jews have reportedly been attacked in Tehran. Other reports out of Iran claim that school children are treating Jewish classmates with contempt, and some adults have stopped going to work out of fear or shame. There was some hope that the overwhelming election of President Khatemi would mean a more moderate Iranian government, but so far this has not been the case. The regime's record of closing 19 newspapers over the last month is another reminder of the failure of Iran's ruling class in this regard. There is no better way to regain this promise than to ensure freedom and justice for the 13 Iranian Jews on trial in Shiraz. We here in the U.S. and around the world must be vigilant in pressing for this outcome.

A TRIBUTE TO JANE SMITH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the most important and valuable resource we have in this country is our children. Providing a safe environment to grow and learn has always been this country's number one priority. Today, I rise to recognize Jane Smith of Bay City, Michigan, a wonderful woman who has dedicated her life to protecting and nurturing children. She is retiring from the Bay County Family Independence Agency after 24 years of service.

A graduate of Michigan State University, Jane began her renowned career as a child