June 14, 2000

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Student Environmental Congress of Greater Cleveland, who held their fourth annual Earth Day Coalition Student Environmental Congress Day on March 22, 2000. The Student Environmental Congress brings together students from the Greater Cleveland area who are dedicated to working towards a cleaner and healthier environment. The Congress develops environmentally-aware students throughout northeast Ohio, encouraging them to take action within their communities to form eco-groups committed to the conservation and preservation of the environment.

This program empowers high school students to be a voice in their community, to grow into environmentally literate citizens, and to network with environmentally conscious students from other schools.

The Student Environmental Congress Program assists high school students in the design and implementation of community-based, environmental service-learning projects. Students from Cleveland public schools unite with students from suburban schools to educate one another at an all-day, student-led conference. These students work together towards creating a more sustainable environment.

The accomplishments of this program are important for the future preservation of our environment. I take pride in recognizing the environmental leaders of northeast Ohio, and congratulate the Congress on another successful Conference Day in March.

My fellow colleagues, please join with me in honoring the Student Environmental Congress for their important and note-worthy goals and achievements.

HONORING GOVERNOR BENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention the national recognition received by Governor Bent Elementary School, in the Jackson, Hillsdale, and Adrian school districts.

The Governor Bent Elementary is highlighted in a report by the Fordham Foundation for their effective teaching techniques.

Gov. Bent is known for expecting a lot from all their students. There are no excuses, and students can do quality work. Creativity is fostered for the success of the students, parents, teachers and all staff. The results are high student test scores and student enrollment from outside their attendance area.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the Principal Marilyn Davenport and the team at Governor Bent Elementary School for their contributions to students and to the future of our community.

CONSERVATION TRUST FUND OF PUERTO RICO

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address an issue that we have been working on for almost five years. I am speaking about the funding question for the Conservation Trust Fund of Puerto Rico. As my colleagues may recall, in last year’s Ticket to Work and Work Improvement Act tax bill, we included language that increased the amount of excise tax on rum covered over to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands from $10.50 to $13.25. We have written statutory language that mandated one-sixth of the increase to Puerto Rico.

During the negotiations on the bill it was decided that this language would not be included when the government of Puerto Rico committed to transfer these funds to the Conservation Trust. During the negotiations on the bill it was decided that this language would not be included when the government of Puerto Rico committed to transfer these funds to the Conservation Trust.

I am pleased to say that the first payment has in fact been transferred to the Trust. This extension of the rum tax increase will last for thirty months. At that time we will have to revisit the question whether we have fulfilled our commitment to fully endow the Trust Fund.

Recently we passed the Africa-CBI Trade bill and inserted language that will accelerate the payments of the rum tax cover over to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. I want to