We all know, despite the hard work and tough land, thus removing it from the local tax base.

While I support all the funding increases in this amendment, the increase in the Payment In Lieu of Taxes program is of particular interest. Last year, we approved an amendment to increase PILT by twenty million dollars and came out of conference with a ten million dollar increase. This amendment will add ten million dollars to last year's appropriation, the base amount in this legislation.

The federal government has a responsibility in law to help support local governments in areas where the federal government owns the land, thus removing it from the local tax base. We all know, despite the hard work and tough decisions of Chairman REGULA's subcommittee, that appropriations for PILT have not kept up with the authorized amounts. An increase of ten million dollars will not close this gap, but it will provide much-needed assistance to local governments.

For the residents and government of Edmonson County in my district in Kentucky, the support from PILT is essential. Edmonson County is home to Mammoth Cave National Park. While the park draws many visitors to this rural area, Edmonson County's small population and low per capita income make it difficult for local taxpayers to provide basic services, from waste management to emergency services. The support from an increase in PILT will keep the costs of these services more bearable to local taxpayers.

PILT funds help support a 24-hour ambulance service for the National Park and county residents. Federal land ownership has contributed to the isolation of much of Edmonson County. When major transportation routes expanded in the past, the county was bypassed in favor of areas with a larger property tax base to support the projects. Equitable PILT payments are added to the tax base. Edmonson County has given up for the National Park as the area faces new challenges for economic development.

The situation faced by Edmonson County is far from unique. As the federal government continues to place responsibilities on local governments, PILT increases are necessary to relieve local taxpayers across the country, most of them in rural areas. The Bureau of Land Management reports property taxes would provide local governments with one dollar and forty-eight cents per acre. PILT payments are far below that amount per acre. It is difficult to explain to constituents why PILT appropriations have not followed the amounts authorized when they have not even come close. It is difficult to explain why Congress creates new programs when we are not funding the ones already in existence.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment. By doing so you add $10 million dollars to PILT to aid local taxpayers in rural areas and fulfill a pledge made by the federal government.

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**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

**COMMENDING THE T.C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL CREW TEAM**

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the Women's Lightweight Eight Crew of T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, VA, for their fine season this spring. The T.C. lightweight crew captured gold medals at the Virginia State Championships, the prestigious Stotesbury Cup Regatta in Philadelphia, and the Scholastic Rowing Association of America championship. They followed these triumphs with a silver medal at the Canadian Secondary Rowing Association Championship at St. Catherine's, Ontario.

Their success this year continues a tradition of strong lightweight rowing at T.C. Williams High School. The Women's Eight has captured gold medals at Stotesbury and the Scholastic Rowing Association for three of the last four years.

This lightweight crew excels not only athletically but also in their academic work as well. The crew has a collective grade point average that is close to 4.0. Crew members are: Jo Beck, Mary Higgins, Carter Kidd, Riley McDonald, Janie Roden, Kaitlin Donlay, Catherine Free, Anna Guillickson, and Clare McIntyre.

The coach of the Women's Lightweight Eight, Steve Weir, completed his 25th year coaching women at T.C. Steve has had unparalleled success, winning the Stotesbury Cup for lightweight 12 out of 18 attempts. Parents of the girls who row for Steve say that he has had a major impact on their lives both athletically and in other aspects through the example of his integrity and devotion to excellence.

I am very proud of Steve Weir and his fine crew.

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**IN HONOR OF NAOMI GRAY**

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 19, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Naomi Gray's contributions to the Citizens Advisory Commission to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore as she steps down after nearly six years of service. Ms. Gray has been a consistent leader in the fight to make our National Parks a treasure for all of our citizens. Throughout her entire illustrious career, she has sought to make our world more just, and it is my honor to commend this dedicated San Franciscan.

Naomi Gray served as one of the original members of the Board of Directors of the Fort Mason Foundation, which oversees one of the first urban National Parks in the country. On the Board, Naomi consistently worked to ensure that the Center offered programs and services of interest to persons from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds.

Because of her outstanding service at the Forest Mason Foundation and her years of dedicated community activism, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt selected Naomi in 1994 to sit on the Citizens Advisory Commission to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore. On this commission, she served as chair of the Diversity Committee and as a member of the Presidio Committee. She brought to the Commission a concern for how our National Parks are perceived and how they can be made more welcoming to minority communities. Her work helped to open the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to all of our citizens.

Naomi's work on the Citizens Advisory Commission is just one of her many activities in public service. She has worked much of her life to advance the cause of public health. After serving as the Director of Field Services for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, she became the first women Vice-President of the organization. With Planned Parenthood, she coordinated the work of more than 250 family planning affiliates in the United States and consulted with many international family planning programs.

In 1985, San Francisco established its first Health Commission, and Naomi was selected as a founding member. Naomi became a Vice-President of the Commission, chaired its Budget Committee, and worked to strengthen and improve the Department of Public Health's Affirmative Action programs. Her service was so exemplary that, upon her retirement from the Commission, Mayor Frank Jordan was moved to declare October 8, 1992, as "Naomi Gray Day" in San Francisco.

Ms. Gray has also dedicated her significant talent and energy to working on issues of importance to the African-American community. In 1991 she helped establish the Sojourner Truth Foster Family Service Agency to care for African-American foster children and later founded the Urban Institute for African-American Affairs. She is the founder of the Black Coalition on AIDS, a member of the Black Chamber of Commerce, a member and past President of the San Francisco Black Leadership Forum, and has served on San Francisco's African-American Child Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, Naomi Gray's thoughtful contributions to the Citizens Advisory Commission will be sorely missed. Undoubtedly, however, she will continue her work on behalf of the people of San Francisco in a new forum and with renewed energy. She is a tireless fighter, and our City is fortunate to have her. I wish her all of the best.

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**TRIBUTE TO NADIA SHAKOOR**

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend Nadia Shakoor of Springfield, IL for being selected as a finalist in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. She was one of 1,200 students from over 40 countries who traveled to Detroit, MI to compete for more than $2 million in awards and scholarships.

As a teacher myself, I want to recognize Nadia for her academic achievement. Her success has not come without hard work though.