Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, America has a long tradition of civic activism. From the anti-slavery movement to women’s suffrage to the civil rights era, citizen activists have accomplished many important social reforms by working together through peaceful means to influence their friends and neighbors and building support for change. We Americans fight for change at the ballot box and in the halls of legislatures—not with incendiary devices and pipe bombs.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately violent acts in the name of protecting the environment are growing in alarming numbers throughout the western United States. Earlier this month I visited a timber company facility in Monmouth, Oregon that had been burned down in an arson perpetrated by the Earth Liberation Front.

In the Monmouth attack, which roused firefighters out of bed on Christmas morning, the arson caused the roof to collapse only minutes after those who were fighting the fire pulled out. Paul Evans, the mayor of Monmouth and a volunteer firefighter who fought the blaze that Christmas day, told me he narrowly escaped injury or death in the fire. Ironically, Paul, who is now serving a military tour of duty in the Persian Gulf, was probably in more danger in his own town than he now is in Kuwait.

Mr. Speaker, these are not victimless crimes, and they must be halted. That is why I am introducing the Environmental Terrorism Reduction Act.

The most challenging aspect of these crimes is that the perpetrators have been difficult to apprehend, leaving most of these crimes unsolved because with limited resources and manpower, local law enforcement officials have little success closing these cases.

The Environmental Terrorism Reduction Act closes this gap by requiring the Attorney General to establish a national clearinghouse for information on incidents of eco-terrorism to help investigators stay ahead of the curve in preventing additional acts of terror.

In addition, this bill establishes the Environmental Terrorism Reduction Program in the Department of Justice. This program would authorize the Attorney General, upon consultation with the heads of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and the Governor of each applicable State, to designate any area as a high intensity environmental terrorism area. After making such a designation local law enforcement agencies could access funding to assist them in solving and preventing these types of crimes in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the provisions in the Environmental Terrorism Reduction Act will greatly aid our communities and industries that are vulnerable to eco-terrorism. It is high time the federal government addressed this situation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this measure and enacting it into law.

Mr. Udall of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to modify the 1875 Act—usually referred to as the Colorado Enabling Act—that provided for admission of Colorado to the Union. The bill is cosponsored by my colleague, Representative DeGëtte. Greatly appreciate her support.

The purpose of this bill is to remove any possible conflict between a decision of the people of Colorado and that original federal legislation under which some 3 million acres of federal lands were granted to our state.

In granting those lands to Colorado, Congress provided that they were to be used as a source of revenue for the public schools—and for many years they were managed for that purpose.

However, over the years the revenue derived from these lands has become a less and less significant part of the funding for Colorado's schools, while there has been an increasing appreciation of the other values of these lands.

As a result, in 1996 the people of Colorado voted to amend our state constitution to permit part of these school trust lands to be set aside in a "stewardship trust" and managed to preserve their open space, wildlife and other natural qualities.

To assure that this decision of the voters can be implemented, my bill would amend the original Colorado Enabling Act to eliminate the requirement that the state must raise revenue from the school-trust lands that are set aside for their natural resource values and qualities.

Similar legislation has been introduced by other Members of Colorado's delegation in the Congress. However, those bills include a specific limit on the acreage that could be placed in the stewardship trust.

The 1996 state legislation does set such a limit. I supported that part of the state legislation. However, I think that whether that limit should be retained or revised should be decided solely by the people of Colorado, and not determined by Congress. So, the bill I am introducing today does not include a specific acreage limit. That would be left to Colorado law to control.

Mr. Speaker, Colorado is experiencing rapid population growth. That is putting increasing pressure on all our undeveloped lands. In response, the people of Colorado have voted to allow some of these school-grant lands to remain as open spaces to be managed for their wildlife and other natural resources and values. This bill will keep faith with that decision by our voters by removing any conflict with federal law. I will do all I can to press for its speedy enactment.

For the information of our colleagues, I submit a recent newspaper editorial on this subject:

[From the Denver Post, May 28, 2001]

ENABLE LAND-BOARD FIXES

Disputes over State Land Board deals arise partly because the board's narrow mandate may no longer fit Colorado's needs. But altering the board's focus literally may take an act of Congress.

As Uncle Sam welcomed new states into the union, the federal government set aside entire sections of land to raise money for public education through grazing leases, mineral rights, etc. The federal law that granted Colorado statehood in 1876, called the Enabling Act, included a similar provision.

But during the past 125 years, Colorado has found other ways to fund public education. Colorado's school acres now supply less than 2 percent of the state's annual $12 billion budget.

Today, some school sections offer tremendous public value as open space or recreational land. Emerald Mountain forms the scenic backdrop to Steamboat Springs.

In 1996, Colorado voters put Amendment 16 in the state Constitution, aiming to give the State Land Board, which manages the school lands, flexibility to preserve open space and wildlife habitat, as well as support public education. The amendment told the land board to set aside 300,000 acres of the 3 million school acres as a Stewardship Trust. Note that 90 percent of the school acres still raise money for education.

But soon after the amendment's passage, a federal court firmly said the land board is obligated always to fund schools first, under the federal law that granted Colorado statehood. That means the State Land Board might have to accept profitable offers even on lands now in the Stewardship Trust.

Clearly, public school funding is of utmost importance. But during the past 125 years, Colorado has asked the federal government to do so if the legislature guarantees an equally secure funding source for public education.

Moreover, the Stewardship Trust will work in the long run only if the legislature also patches an obvious and troubling gap in Amendment 16, which we'll discuss tomorrow.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

SPRECH OF HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2001

Mr. Reyes. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 36, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the United States flag. I urge all Members to support this resolution. This is a positive step toward finally taking necessary accountability in protecting
the integrity and sanctity of our most precious national symbol.

I understand that this issue has experienced years of contentious debate involving constitutional challenges. Rather than focus on these arguments, I would rather take this time to share parts of a story written in my local newspaper, the El Paso Times. The story concerns a local shopping center that proudly flies a 30-by-50 foot American flag that has recently been taken from its flag pole for the first time in several years in order to have its wind- torn, tethered appearance repaired so that it may return with a new and fully restored appearance. Since its removal, motorists and pedestrians, inhabitants of the neighborhood of where the flag resides, tourists and travelers, every single person that has come in contact with this flag have missed its presence. As one person stated, “People love it when they notice it, and they notice when it’s gone.”

And the people who love this symbol, not just the people in my district who give directions to their homes based on the shopping center flag, but people all over the country will notice when their symbol is destroyed. We have traditional codes and customs that encourage utmost respect for the American flag, yet we have never protected this symbol with the strength of our laws. We have sent soldiers to wars that fought and sometimes died in defense of the flag, carrying it honorably and proudly into battle. We have erected monuments all over this country and around the world that fly the American flag. We have placed the American flag on places where Americans have claimed victory in battle and scientific achievement, including one place that is not even on this Earth. I ask the Members to consider what protest would be profound, what speech should be protected and what principle is to be defended if the American flag flying over the Iwo Jima memorial is burned, or the flag flying over the Memorial at Normandy, or the flag that adorns the casket of a fallen soldier, or the flags that fly proudly over our international embassies, or the flag that flies in a shopping center in my district of El Paso, Texas. People will certainly notice it when it is gone.

Mr. Speaker, the brilliance of our constitutional laws is that they are amendable, they can change with the will of the people. And I believe and encourage that the will of Congress is to finally protect the symbol that flies over this House. Extensions of Remarks

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 27TH BLACK ANNIVERSARY OF CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, July 20, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to commemorate the 27th anniversary of the 1974 illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus. I have commemorated this day each year since I have become a Member of Congress and unfortunately, each year the occupation continues.

The continued presence of Turkish troops represents a gross violation of human rights and international law. Since their invasion of Cyprus in July of 1974, Turkish troops have continued to occupy 37% of Cyprus. This is in direct defiance of numerous United Nations resolutions and has been a major source of instability in the eastern Mediterranean. Recent events, however, have created an atmosphere where there is now no valid excuse to avoid resolving this long-standing problem.

Peace in this region cannot happen without committed and sustained U.S. leadership, which is why I am heartened that President Bush, like his predecessor President Clinton, is committed to working towards the reunification of Cyprus. He recently stated (and I quote): “I want you to know that the United States stands ready to help Greece and Turkey as they work to improve their relations. I’m also committed to a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus dispute.”

I was also encouraged to read last week that the European Union considers the status quo in Cyprus unacceptable and has called on the Turkish Cypriot side to resume the U.N.-led peace process as soon as possible with a view to finding a comprehensive settlement.

Now is the time for a solution. More than twenty years ago, in 1977 and 1979, leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities reached two high level agreements which provided for the establishment of a bicomunal bizonal federation. Even though these agreements were endorsed by the U.N. Security Council Resolution 649 of 1990, there has been no action on the Turkish side to fill in the details and reach a final agreement. Instead, for the last 27 years, there has been a Turkish Cypriot leader presiding over a regime recognized only by Turkey and condemned as “illegally invalid” by the U.N. Security Council in resolutions 541 (1988) and 550 (1988), and Cyprus has been divided by the green line—a 113-mile barbed wire fence that runs across the island and Greek-Cypriots are prohibited from visiting the towns and communities where their families have lived for generations. With 35,000 Turkish troops illegally stationed on the island, it is one of the most militarized areas in the world. This situation has also meant the financial decline of the once rich northern part of Cyprus to just one quarter of its former earnings. Perhaps the single most destructive element of Turkey’s fiscal and foreign policy is its nearly 27 year occupation of Cyprus.

We now have an atmosphere where there is no valid excuse for not resolving this long-