

November 15, 2001

KLAMATH BASIN EMERGENCY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REFUND ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, Nobody could have foreseen the devastating drought that has besieged Oregon over the past year. The lack of water has adversely effected agriculture, energy generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat. The Klamath Basin in Southern Oregon and Northern California has suffered particular hardship through this drought. The snowpack and rainfall that supply the Basin with life-sustaining water are critical to the economic viability of the Basin, and have been significantly below normal. Because the federal government, through the Bureau of Reclamation, has encouraged the Basin's dependence with nearly a century of promised federal water allocation, this Congress has an obligation to take further steps to provide further funding for relief and mitigation.

This bill, H.R. 2828, will provide further assistance to the farmers of the Klamath Basin by reimbursing them for operations and maintenance costs. Farmers receiving federal water pay these fees to the government for upkeep of the infrastructure of the Klamath Project. Many of the farmers in the project did not receive federal water this year. Therefore, those farmers should not have to bear the cost of maintaining the federal infrastructure. Representative WALDEN has taken every precaution to ensure that this modest reimbursement is fair and equitable. Only irrigation districts receiving severely limited water supplies will be reimbursed, and districts who have already been reimbursed by California will not be eligible for the funds in this bill.

I am pleased to be working with Mr. WALDEN, and many members of the Oregon and California delegations, to find reasonable short and long term solutions to the situation in the Basin. This bill will provide farmers in the Basin with much needed economic assistance by simply refunding their O&M costs. Passing this bill is fair, and the right thing to do for the farmers in the Klamath Basin. I urge adoption of H.R. 2828, the Klamath Basin Emergency Operation and Maintenance Refund Act of 2001.

IN HONOR OF LT. COMMANDER
ERIC CRANFORD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lt. Commander Eric Cranford, who lost his life in service to our nation on September 11th. A Navy rescue pilot, Lt. Commander Cranford knew danger, he knew sacrifice—and courage could have been his middle name. If Eric had not been in the Pentagon that fateful morning, or if his side of the

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building had not been hit, you can bet he would have sacrificed his own safety, risking his own life to rescue others. He had done it before. It was his job. And we pay our respects to him, his wife Emily Cozort Cranford and his entire family. I want to personally salute my friend and Emily's Uncle Jack Cozort who led efforts to establish a scholarship at North Carolina State University, Eric and Emily's alma mater, for Burke County students in Eric's name.

Earlier this week, our nation observed Veterans Day in remembrance and in gratitude of the many men and women like Lt. Commander Cranford have served our nation so bravely in the United States military. Veterans have always represented what is best about our great nation, From the American Revolution's Minutemen to today's soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, American men and women have dedicated themselves to the preservation of liberty and democracy throughout the history of our country.

Those in uniform—past and present—are the defenders of the American values that have made our nation strong and kept us free. I commend each and every one of them for their brave service to America. This Veterans Day, we gathered with heavy hearts and troubled minds. We are at war. It is a war Eric Cranford and those who lost their lives at the Pentagon on September 11th would have been ready to fight. Today, we face the greatest challenge to our freedom since World War II. September 11 will forever be remembered as a day that evil visited our great nation as never before. Four commercial planes were transformed into missiles and aimed at buildings that define our nation, and symbolize our freedom and values. These attacks resulted in a loss of life on a scale not seen in our country since the Civil War.

The terrorists who committed these terrible acts on completely innocent men, women and children are not just criminals. They are mortal enemies of the United States of America. But these cowards cannot hide forever. We must pursue them to the ends of the earth to ensure that international terrorists can never again threaten innocent Americans.

Once again, we have called on our men and women in uniform to defend those values we hold so dear. President Bush has said that this campaign will not be simple, it will not be quick, and it will not be without casualties. But we will show the world that any enemy who chooses to test the resolve of the United States and its allies will face the collective might of our military. I have full confidence in our Commander in Chief and our armed forces.

We will win this war because we cannot afford to fail. We will win this war for Eric Cranford and the thousands who lost their lives on September 11. We will win it for Emily, and those who were left behind to mourn. We will win it because we are a good and just nation and because evil must not be allowed to flourish anywhere in this world. We must show these cowards that their efforts to terrorize us will not succeed.

As we pray for those fighting to avenge the terrible events of September 11, let us not forget those who came before them. Their great strength and sacrifice during the conflicts of

the Twentieth Century moved heaven and earth, and showed the world that the American warrior is the most potent force on the face of the earth. Millions of men and women served bravely in the first and second World Wars, the Korean Conflict, the jungles of Vietnam, and the sands of Desert Storm. But many who served did not come home.

They came from every walk of life. They were our friends, neighbors, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, sisters and brothers. They were ordinary and extraordinary all at once, and all Americans should honor their sacrifices. Freedom is not free. But freedom is worth fighting for. On Veterans Day, and every day, let us salute Lt. Commander Cranford and all our nation's veterans. May God Bless America, now and forever.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my District on Tuesday, November 13, 2001, and I would like the RECORD to indicate how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote No. 436, the conference report for the Agriculture appropriations act for fiscal 2002, I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote No. 437, a bill to enhance the authorities of special agents and provide limited authorities to uniformed officers responsible for the protection of domestic Department of State occupied facilities, I would have voted "aye."

IN MEMORY OF MAMON POWERS,
SR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow and a heavy heart that I offer my heartfelt condolences to the family of a pioneer in the communities of Northwest Indiana. Mr. Mamon Powers, Sr., a construction worker and owner of Powers and Sons Construction Company, died on Tuesday, November 13, 2001, following a long struggle with illness, and will be laid to rest on Saturday, November 17, 2001. Mr. Powers was 80 years old.

Mamon Powers, Sr. was born of humble means in the small town of Churchill, Mississippi. The son of a preacher and homebuilder, Mamon learned the virtues of hard work and strong faith at an early age. Although African-Americans were only allowed to attend school through eighth grade in Churchill at that time, Mamon refused to be encumbered by the bonds with which society attempted to restrict the rights of African-American citizens. He continued his education by attending Campbell College, now known as Jackson State University, and by serving his country in the United States military.

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To the benefit of Northwest Indiana, Mamon Powers, Sr. came to the city of Gary after serving with the military. He went to work in the steel mill, but quickly learned that he would not be successful because racial barriers prohibited many African-Americans from joining the union. However, Mamon's love for the community and his determination to succeed led him to work for Means Developers. With the addition of Mamon's knowledge of construction and his desire to make the city of Gary a better place, Means Construction developed one of the city's finest neighborhoods, Means Manor.

Mamon Powers, Sr. began his own construction company in the early 1950's and eventually became one of the first African-American members of a union in the city of Gary. Over the years, he developed his business into the most successful African-American construction company in the state, and one of the 100 largest in the country. Powers and Sons Construction Company was also recognized nationally by the Small Business Administration in 1997 for its minority business development initiatives. He was responsible for the construction of hundreds of private homes in Northwest Indiana, as well as the construction of many commercial buildings. His professional career made an impact on the community that cannot be measured simply by the number of buildings he created. His love for his work was revealed in his creations, and it inspired the citizens of Gary to take pride in their community.

While Mamon was dedicated to his work, his love for his family and his community remained his top priority. He was committed to his late wife, Leolean, and their six children, Mamon, Jr., Mark, Demetrius, Claude, Florita, and Marquita. He served on the Methodist Hospital Board of Directors and as a member of the Lake County Community Development Committee. In 1989, he was inducted into the Steel City Hall of Fame for his outstanding contributions to Northwest Indiana. Earlier this year, the Frontiers Service Club nominated Mamon for the prestigious Gary Drum Major Award for extraordinary set-vice in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in offering our condolences to the family of Mr. Mamon Powers, Sr. Mamon was a true inspiration to everyone who knew him, and his work in Northwest Indiana will survive as a tribute to his memory. He impacted the lives of many in our community, our state, and our country, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to represent Mamon Powers, Sr. in Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF HOMESTAKE MINE CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2001

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill very important to the world of science, our nation, and my state of South Dakota.

Thirty years ago, the Homestake Mine was host to pioneering research about neutrinos;

particles with virtually no weight and possessing no electrical charge that are everywhere around us. Scientists believe these mysterious particles hold secrets that can provide us with important insights into the fundamental nature of the universe.

This legislation, which I will introduce today, envisions an underground neutrino telescope that extends pioneering research begun three decades ago.

While the potential scientific benefits of studying neutrinos is clear, this agreement is also vital to the economies of South Dakota, the Black Hills and the city of Lead. If Homestake were to close, its absence would have a tremendous economic and cultural impact on our state. The Mine has been an integral part of the Hills culture since it opened over 125 years ago. The miners and their families have contributed so much to the area.

However, with the cost of mining gold increasing, Homestake has decided to terminate its operations in Lead. The introduction of a national physics laboratory is a fitting substitute. The lab will employ a number of the current Homestake employees to maintain the integrity of the mine and to make improvements to the structure for the siting of the lab there. Additionally, the lab will employ many scientists and support staff bringing new diversity to the South Dakota economy.

The legislation I will introduce today is a companion bill to S. 1389, introduced by Senator TOM DASCHLE and is the result of months of negotiations between the Homestake Gold Mine, the State of South Dakota, the South Dakota congressional delegation and others. Recently, those negotiations were concluded, and late last week this bill was completed.

The purpose of the bill is to set the terms of land conveyance from Homestake to the State of South Dakota for the establishment of a National Underground Science Laboratory. The Homestake Mining Company would turn over portions of their property, including a nearly 8,000 foot mine shaft and equipment that together likely will be worth hundreds of millions of dollars saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in construction and developmental expenses.

In addition to the land conveyance, the bill also addresses current and future environmental remediation and reclamation concerns. The bill accomplishes this through three main mechanisms. First, it requires an independent evaluation of current and future environmental risks on the site. This evaluation would be conducted under the auspices of the Environmental Protection Agency and would be subject to public review and comment. Second, it establishes an environmental trust fund. Contributions to this trust fund would be calculated as a part of the cost of constructing and operating the lab and the experiments that would take place there. Third, it requires insurance coverage by the State of South Dakota, which would be the managing entity, and any group conducting experiments in the mine. These provisions will provide the needed protection of the environment and the taxpayers that I believe is necessary for this agreement.

This legislation is one piece of the puzzle that will make this lab a reality. I look forward to working with the House leadership, the Committees of jurisdiction, my colleagues in

the House and Senate and the Administration to see this bill enacted into law.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND CIVIL LIBERTIES ISSUES

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am growing increasingly concerned about a series of recent actions taken by the Bush Administration which raise important constitutional and civil liberties issues. Many of these concerns are set forth in the attached letter I forwarded yesterday to Chairman Sensenbrenner requesting that the Judiciary Committee hold hearings on these matters, as well as an excellent editorial written today by William Safire of the New York Times.

I am also attaching a copy of a letter I wrote last January detailing my opposition to the nomination of John Ashcroft as Attorney General. The Attorney General's recent actions threatening our civil liberties only reinforces the concerns mentioned in this letter. I also question the timing and need for the Attorney General's recent actions undermining Oregon's assisted suicide law and California's medical marijuana laws. Both of these actions raise very serious federalism issues (since they seek to overturn state enacted referendum) and separation of powers issues (since the authorities were each the subject of failed legislation in recent congresses).

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, Jan. 31, 2001.

DEAR DEMOCRATIC SENATOR: I am writing to inform you that as the Ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee and the Senior Member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am unalterably opposed to John Ashcroft's nomination to be Attorney General of the United States.

I have reached this decision with much regret and great consternation. In my 36 years in Congress, I have never before publicly opposed a nominee for Attorney General. However, in the present case, my reservations about Senator Ashcroft's ability and inclination to support and uphold the law in such critical areas as civil rights, reproductive choice, and gun safety are so grave, and his pattern of misleading and disingenuous responses at his confirmation hearing so serious, that I believe it is in the national interest that his nomination be withdrawn, or be rejected by the Senate. I am also concerned that Senator Ashcroft's personal lack of responsiveness to me foreshadows a pattern of conscious avoidance or, at best, benign neglect, of me and my Democratic colleagues in the House.

I have several specific concerns in the area of civil rights. First, I am troubled by the fact that notwithstanding Senator Ashcroft's general statements about support for civil rights enforcement, he declined to state specific agreement with the Department's positions in a host of civil rights cases, including its support of the University of Michigan's affirmative action program, a position that was recently ratified by a federal court. Also, with regard to equal rights in the area of education, I am dismayed that Senator Ashcroft has taken public positions