

December 20, 2001

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

JAMES V. HANSEN,
Chairman—Committee on Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, December 18, 2001.

Hon. JAMES V. HANSEN,
Chairman, Committee on Resources, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to review, on behalf of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the amendment to H.R. 3299, the "Homestake Mine Conveyance Act of 2001," that the Committee on Resources plans to bring to the floor under suspension of the rules.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has a valid claim to jurisdiction over section 104 of the amendment, as it relates to environmental reviews by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and response actions to correct conditions that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or environment, and section 106 of the amendment, as it relates to liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure recognizes the importance of this legislation. In view of your desire to move H.R. 3299 to the floor in an expeditious fashion, I do not intend to seek a sequential referral of H.R. 3299. However, this should in no way be viewed as a waiver of jurisdiction. I would appreciate your acknowledgement of the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over sections 104 and 106 of the amendment and an acknowledgement of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's right to seek conferees in the event that this legislation is considered in a House-Senate conference.

I look forward to working with you on this bill.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, December 18, 2001.

The Hon. JAMES V. HANSEN,
Chairman, Committee on Resources, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HANSEN: I am writing with regard to H.R. 3299, the Homestake Mine Conveyance Act of 2001.

I recognize your desire to bring this bill before the House in an expeditious manner. Accordingly, I will not exercise the Committee's right to a referral. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, however, the Energy and Commerce Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 3299. In addition, the Energy and Commerce Committee reserves its authority to seek conferees on the provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this or similar legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Energy and Commerce Committee for conferees on H.R. 3299 or similar legislation.

I request that you include this letter and your response in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during debate on the bill. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Sincerely,

W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, December 19, 2001.
The Hon. W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3299, the Homestake Mine Conveyance Act of 2001. I agree that the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 3299, and that by not seeking a sequential referral of the bill, you do not compromise your jurisdictional claim. I will also support your request to be named as a conferee on this bill or the similar Senate bill should one become necessary.

As you know, yesterday the House of Representatives passed S. 1389, the Senate companion measure to H.R. 3299, with an amendment under suspension of the rules. S. 1389 had been held at the desk and thus was not referred to any House committee. However, the two bills are very similar. To clarify the committee jurisdiction over this matter, I will place your letter and my response in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD under the extension of remark authority granted during consideration of S. 1389.

Thank you again for your cooperation on this issue. I am sure that Congressman John Thune, the author of H.R. 3299, is also very grateful.

Sincerely,

JAMES V. HANSEN,
Chairman.

HONORING COACH JOHN THOMPSON AND THE JOHN THOMPSON FOUNDATION CLASSIC

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the John Thompson Foundation Challenge Basketball Classic on Thursday, December 20, 2001, at the MCI Center in Washington, DC. In noting this significant occasion, I am particularly pleased to honor the outstanding contributions of Coach John Thompson, my colleague at Georgetown University, where I continue as a tenured professor of law, and I ask this House to honor Mr. Thompson as well today. John Thompson is a lifelong resident of Washington, DC, a nationally recognized and much honored coach and teacher, and the founder of the John Thompson Foundation. I would especially like to express my deepest appreciation for his leadership in providing scholarships to African American youth living in the District of Columbia to pursue higher education.

Mr. Thompson has made many important contributions to lives of inner city youth residing in the nation's capital. Since the beginning of his career, John Thompson has used athletics to teach and promote the importance of discipline and education to young people who underachieve. This country needs many more sports heroes and teachers to follow John Thompson's extraordinary example.

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If our youth are to survive in this globally and technologically advanced society, it will require organizations and individuals to provide an array of educational opportunities that prepare them for success. Coach Thompson has proved his commitment to young people for many years. We particularly applaud Coach Thompson and the John Thompson Foundation for their emphasis on the educational success of inner city youth. The Basketball Classic serves as an inspiration for those interested in expanding educational opportunities for the District's African American youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in saluting Coach John Thompson, the John Thompson Foundation, and all those associated with the John Thompson Foundation, whose dedicated and creative energy make a significant impact on the progress and the lives of African American youth.

49TH ANNUAL ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE CHRISTMAS DROP IN MICRONESIA

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, 49 years ago in 1952, over the tiny island of Kapingamarangi in Micronesia, the crew of an Air Force WB-50 aircraft assigned to the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron in Guam quickly gathered a box of goodies they had on the plane upon seeing a number of islanders waving at them. Thus began the five-decade-old tradition.

For years, the residents of Kapingamarangi, Nukuoro and other remote islands have been receiving a variety of gifts such as machetes, hoes, snorkels, coloring books, soccer balls and toiletries—items they probably would not have been able to obtain otherwise due to their remote location in the Pacific. This year, four C-130 Hercules aircraft from the 36th Airlift Squadron based out of Yokota Air Base in Japan dropped 60 boxes of holiday gift items on the 54 islands and atolls in the Micronesia area. The operation lasted six days and entailed cargo planes descending upon sparsely populated islands and atolls. In addition to the goodwill spread among these communities, the aircrew involved also benefit from the opportunity of having their navigation and flight skills tested as they search out unfamiliar drop zones on remote and isolated island locations.

This year's organizers had a bit of difficulty in raising the necessary funding for this project due to Guam's current economic situation. However, the community has somehow managed to get together and, in the true spirit of this season of sharing, allow for another successful year. For the past several months the Christmas Drop committee has raised funds through several events. Three scuba diving boat trips, a 5k run/walk, a golf tournament along with T-shirt and commemorative coin sales generated a substantial part of the funds used for this year's operation. Despite a recent drop in tourism arrivals on Guam, donations steadily flowed from island residents and

the local business communities. Also worth mentioning is the effort initiated by Jacob Jansen as part of his community service project in his effort to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Through Jacob's efforts, a canned food drive was held at Andersen Air Force Base's middle and elementary schools as well as at Guam High School.

During these times of uncertainty and hardship, it is very gratifying to see that worthwhile projects such as the annual Christmas drop remains alive. This is a testament to our capacity to unite as a community and as a nation in the face of adversity. There is no better way to demonstrate our compassion and generosity than worthwhile projects such as this. I take this occasion to commend all those who participated and contributed towards the success of this year's Christmas drop. Let us keep this tradition going for many more years to come.

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**TERRORIST ATTACK ON INDIAN
PARLIAMENT CONDEMNED—AT-
TACK IS INEVITABLE CON-
SEQUENCE OF REPRESSION IN
INDIA**

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HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues and all decent people of the world in condemning the terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament. I extend my sympathies to the victims and their families. Terrorism is never acceptable. We are currently at war against terrorism, as we should be.

However, India is a country that has practiced terrorism against the peoples living within its borders. It has a pattern of terrorism. Remember that two government officials there were quoted last year as saying that Pakistan should be absorbed into India. It is clear that India seeks hegemony over all the peoples and nations of South Asia.

In May, Indian troops were overwhelmed by villagers, both Sikhs and Muslims, while they were trying to set fire to a Sikh Gurdwara and some Sikh houses in Kashmir. Independent investigations by the International Human Rights Organization and jointly by the Punjab Human Rights Organization and the Movement Against State Repression have conclusively shown that the Indian government carried out the massacre of 35 Sikhs in Chithisinghpura in March 2000 while former President Clinton was visiting India. Its police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire. According to the excellent book *Soft Target*, written by two respected Toronto reporters, the Indian government blew up its own airliner in 1985, killing 329 innocent people. According to a report in the *Hitavada* newspaper, India paid the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to create terrorism in Punjab, Khalistan and in Kashmir.

We must work to stop terrorism wherever it occurs. India's terrorism is no exception. We should stop our aid to India until it stops its repression of the Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities, and we should declare

our public support for self-determination for all the people of South Asia in the form of a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence.

A report published this past May by the Movement Against State Repression showed that the Indian government admitted that 52,268 Sikh political prisoners are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to the Politics of Genocide by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. Over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims and over 200,000 Christians have been killed.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has published an excellent press release on this attack. I would like to share it with my colleagues by inserting it into the RECORD now.

[From the Council of Khalistan, Dec. 14, 2001]

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN CONDEMNS ALL TERRORISM—TERRORIST ATTACK ON INDIAN PARLIAMENT IS A PRODUCT OF INDIAN REPRESSION

(By Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Tenth Master)

India Must End Its Repression Instead of Blaming Pakistan—Newspaper Says Indian Government Knew of Attack in Advance

WASHINGTON, DC—The Council of Khalistan today condemned the terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament, but called on the Indian government to join the fight against terrorism worldwide and to end its own terrorism against minorities.

"We condemn terrorism in all forms, wherever it comes from," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, which declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. "We strongly condemn this terrorist action and we condemn the Indian government's terrorism that gave rise to this act," he said. "When you repress people long enough, they strike back. India's repression of minorities made this incident inevitable."

The *Deccan Chronicle* reported today that the Indian government knew of the attack in advance and did nothing to stop it. This shows government involvement in the incident. yet the Indian government has blamed Pakistan for the attacks. India will use this incident as an excuse for more repression of the minorities, such as the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and others.

"India must stop blaming Pakistan for everything that goes wrong in India and end its own terrorism against the Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities," said Dr. Aulakh. "It is time for India to release more than 52,000 Sikh political prisoners and the tens of thousands of other political prisoners and end its repression," Dr. Aulakh said. The book "*Soft Target*," written by two Canadian journalists, proves that the Indian government blew up its own airliner in 1985 to generate more repression against Sikhs. In November 1994, the newspaper *Hitavada* reported that the government paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to generate terrorist activity in Punjab and Kashmir.

"I salute Pakistani President Musharraf for risking his political life by supporting America and the world in its fight against terrorism. It is time for India to get on board," Dr. Aulakh said. "I call on India to join the fight against terrorism and I call on

the Sikh leadership in Punjab to stop making coalitions with the Indian government and work for freedom for the Sikhs and the other minority nations of South Asia," he said. "There is a very good reason that there are 17 freedom movements within India's current borders."

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. According to a report in May by the Movement Against State Repression, India admitted that 52,268 Sikh political prisoners are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. Over 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947 and over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988. The Indian Supreme Court described the situation in Punjab as "worse than a genocide." In May, Indian troops were caught red-handed trying to set fire to a Gurdwara (a Sikh temple) and some Sikh houses in Kashmir. Two independent investigations have proven that the Indian government carried out the March 2000 massacre of 35 Sikhs in Chithisinghpura. U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher has said that for Sikhs, Kashmiri Muslims, and other minorities "India might as well be Nazi Germany."

India has also repressed Christians. Two leaders of the ruling BJP said that everyone who lives in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hinduism. Priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been destroyed, and no one has been punished for these acts. Militant Hindu fundamentalists allied with the RSS, the pro-Fascist parent organization of the ruling BJP, burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death. In 1997, police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

"Nations that do not have political power vanish," Dr. Aulakh said. "Sikhs are a separate nation and ruled Punjab up to 1849 when the British annexed Punjab. The nations and people of South Asia must have self-determination now."

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**CONGRATULATING BURLINGTON
CITY HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS
GRAMMY AWARD**

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HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the students and faculty of the Burlington City High School Music Department in Burlington City, New Jersey for their recognition by the national GRAMMY Foundation as a GRAMMY Signature School.

Burlington City is now one of 100 high schools from across the country to receive a certificate of recognition based on its high level of commitment to music education. The GRAMMY Signature School Program honors high school music students, teachers, principals, and school districts that promote and preserve music education—both performing and studying music—as a key part of their curriculum.

The importance of music education in the overall educational experience of students is becoming clearer every day. In fact, several