

hope the Senate speedily confirms this appointment. It is important that we put someone in place to grapple with the difficult and tenuous issues we face in this region. But it is heartening and encouraging to see the progress that has been made under the past administration and the hopefulness of the future. Combining our resources, combining our strength, combining our character and our ability to persuade is our mission now.

So as we toast a cheer to Ireland and we celebrate a holiday in our Catholic faith, Saint Patrick's Day, and our remembrance of Ireland and the many immigrants that came to this country based on the potato famine or for other reasons, we are really encouraged today as we see many of Irish descent returning to their roots and their homeland because there is jobs, opportunity and strength.

Finally, if we could figure out the peace part of that equation and bring stability to the region, peace to our people and happiness for all, we will truly not only extend the blessings of our country but hopefully solve some of the world's problems.

SUPPORT THE NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Sea Grant College Program Authorization Enhancement Act of 2001.

In 1998, Congress passed and the President signed Public Law 105-160, an act to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program. In authorizing the National Sea Grant College Program, Congress stressed the importance of the coastal ocean, its margins, the Great Lakes and the Exclusive Economic Zone to the national interest and economic and social well-being of our Nation.

Congress also recognized the National Sea Grants' university-based network offers the most cost-effective way to promote understanding, assessment, development, utilization and conservation of our Nation's coastal regions.

But given the geographic scope and complexity of coastal regions, the Sea Grant faces a variety of unmet needs and challenges. These challenges include increased coastal growth and development and economic and environmental concerns.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. has 95,000 miles of coastline and more than 3.4 million square miles of ocean within its U.S. territorial sea. Since 1960, the square mileage of coastal urban lands has in-

creased by over 130 percent. Today, approximately 54 percent of the Nation's population, our Nation's population, lives along the coast; and U.S. coastal population is expected to increase by 25 million people between 1996 and 2015.

There are more than 14,000 new housing starts every week in coastal areas, and approximately 1,300 acres of coastal lands are developed into urban lands every day. But our Nation's investment in coastal science continues to lag behind coastal population growth and development.

More than 180 million people visit the Nation's coasts annually, affecting the coastal infrastructure and resources. In 1993, 43 percent of the Nation's fisheries were listed as overfished. The Nation's 6,500 square miles of coral reefs, the rainforests of the sea, face new threats every day, with many already severely damaged or succumbing to environmental conditions and disease.

Runoff is adding nutrients and toxic chemicals to coastal waters, resulting in fish kills, loss of habitat and harmful health conditions. Expanded international trade and travel are causing unprecedented invasions of non-native plants and animals into U.S. coastal waters.

Mr. Speaker, Sea Grant's ability to address these problems have been significantly limited by financial resources. For example, although 54 percent of U.S. population lives on the coast, current funding for Sea Grant is only about 3 percent of the equivalent Federal funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for university-based Land Grant/Cooperative Extension Service Programs. In other words, Mr. Speaker, Land Grant Institutions collectively receive a direct appropriation of more than \$550 million per year and an additional \$350 million in Federal grant funding. I have no problems with that, Mr. Speaker. But, in comparison, the National Sea Grant College Program receives barely \$58 million per year.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it bears repeating. More than 54 percent of our Nation's population lives along the coast, but we only devote pennies to marine research. Sea Grant funds on an average less than \$2 million per State program. Many geographic regions are not represented, including the Western Pacific, which alone has a huge Economic Exclusive Zone. Some States like Mississippi and Alabama share funding, while other eligible States like Pennsylvania and Vermont have no institutional Sea Grant programs.

On average, there are fewer than seven extension agents per coastal State; and, in many cases, there is only one extension agent serving a major urban area. In Los Angeles, for example, there is only one extension agent serving 14 million people. In New York City, there is only one serving 12 million people.

Mr. Speaker, clearly Sea Grant's potential is limited with respect to its potential. The National Sea Grant College Program is a coastal science management and service program that engages the Nation's top universities through a network of 30 Sea Grant programs and some 200 affiliated institutions located in coastal and Great Lake States and territories.

Sea Grant conducts mission-critical research and development and utilizes a highly effective network of extension and communications professionals to transfer research results to users.

Sea Grant has been actively expanding its capabilities in areas of national interest, including health and medicine. In fact, Sea Grant is looking to the sea to find new pharmaceuticals and medicines and maybe even a cure for cancer.

Sea Grant is also on the cutting edge of marine science and marine aquaculture research. The U.S. imports over \$9 billion worth of sea food and shellfish a year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation, a very conservative one.

WOMEN IN CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, 11 years ago, the 101st Congress marked the bicentenary of this institution by compiling and printing a volume entitled *Women in Congress, 1917 to 1990*, a compendium of photographs and brief biographies of the 129 women who had served in the House and Senate as of that time.

The senior congresswoman in the House then, Congresswoman Lindy Boggs of Louisiana, who was later appointed as the United States of America's first woman ambassador to the Vatican, took responsibility for the printing of that document.

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Since then, another 79 women have served. Thus, a new addition of "Women in Congress" would gather in one updated volume useful information for teachers, students and others about the 208 women who have served to date through all of America's history, including the 61 who now serve here in the House and the 13 serving in the other body. Currently we have 74 women serving in both the House and Senate, and 461 men.

Mr. Speaker, as we enter the 21st century, the time has come to update and reprint "Women in Congress." With it America marks the progress and substantial contribution that women are making in this most democratic legislative body on Earth.

I am confident that a revised volume will quickly become, like the previous