as passenger trains, buses and planes, the amusement park industry's fatality rate is actually worse.

Some states try to step in where the CPSC cannot, but states with inspection programs are very uneven depending on which agency has the responsibility and whether its expertise is design, operator training, manufacturing, etc. No state, and no industry organization, provides the national clearingshouse function that the CPSC currently provides for mobile rides and could provide for fixed-site rides.

Although the overall risk of death on an amusement park ride is very small, it is not zero. In the course of one week in August 1999, for example, 4 deaths occurred on roller coasters, which U.S. News & World Report termed “one of the most calamitous weeks in the history of America’s amusement parks”:

August 22—a 12-year-old boy fell to his death after slipping through a harness on the Drop Zone ride at Paramount’s Great America Theme Park in Santa Clara, California.

August 23—a 20-year-old man died on the Shockwave roller coaster at Paramount King’s Dominion theme park near Richmond, Virginia.

August 28—a 39-year-old woman and her 8-year-old daughter were killed when their car slid backward down a 30-foot ascent and crashed into another car, injuring two others on the Wild Wonder roller coaster at Gilian’s Wonderland Pier in Ocean City, New Jersey.

Each of these tragedies is an opportunity for the CPSC to search for causes and share its insights with the operators of other similar rides. Unless the law is changed, however, it cannot perform this role.

One final point—the industry has the unfortunate habit of belittling the risk of loved ones getting mangled or killed on these machines by suggesting that the risk of getting hurt is lower than for “bowling” or “watering your garden.” In fact, the fatality rate on roller coasters approximates the risk of dying on passenger trains, buses and airplanes. None of those industries claims any exemption from federal oversight, and investigations by federal safety experts of train accidents, bus accidents or plane crashes is central to minimizing the re-occurrence of serious or fatal accidents in America.

Yet this common sense eludes the amusement park industry, to the detriment of the safety of children and adult riders alike. As the spring and summer riding season begins, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this modest restoration of safety to all parkgoers.

Thank you.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE SAFETY ACT

NATIONAL CONSUMER GROUPS

Consumer Federation of America

Consumers Union

U.S. Public Interest Research Group

National Safe Kids Campaign

STATE & LOCAL CONSUMER GROUPS

American Council on Consumer Awareness

Arizona Consumers Council

Center for Public Representation (WI)

Chicago Consumer Coalition

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Columbia Consumer Education Council (SC)

The Consumer Alliance (midwest regional alliance)

Consumer Law Center of the South

Democratic Processes Center (AZ)

Empire State Consumer Association (NY)

Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group

Mercer County Community Action Agency (PA)

North Carolina Consumers Council

Oregon Consumer League

THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT OF 2001

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join my friend from Michigan, Mr. Kildee, me, and 114 of our colleagues to support the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2001. I am proud of this bipartisan effort to aid our firefighters and police in this common sense effort to increase fairness.

This bill is supported by the International Association of Fire Fighters, International Brotherhood of Police Officers, International Union of Police Organizations, National Association of Police Organizations, and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Firefighters and police men and women protect the public everyday. These men and women are true public servants who put themselves in harm’s way for others. Is it too much to ask that they be allowed to bargain for wages, hours, and safer working conditions?

Mr. Kildee. No. This bill helps workers, management, and the general public, because better employer-employee cooperation leads to cost savings and better delivery of services.

Congress has long recognized the importance of assuring and protecting the right of workers to collectively bargain. Federal laws have been extended to guarantee collective bargaining to different sectors and now the only sizeable group of workers without the right to collectively bargain are employees of state and local government.

The Public Safety Employer-Employee Act establishes basic minimum standards that state laws must meet and provides a process to resolve impasses in states without such laws. States that already have collective bargaining laws would be exempt from the federal statute. Furthermore, this bill prohibits strikes and does not call for mandatory binding arbitration.

Mr. Kildee. Firefighters and police officers take seriously their oath to protect the public and as a result they do not engage in worker slowdowns or stoppages. The absence of the right to collectively bargain denies them the opportunity to influence decisions that affect their livelihoods and families.

The Public Safety Employer-Employee Act is supported by the International Association of Fire Fighters, International Brotherhood of Police Officers, International Union of Police Organizations, National Association of Police Organizations, and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Mr. Kildee. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2001.

HONORING DEB BUSWELL OF LA CROSSE, WI

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, and a very special teacher, Dedra Buswell. Debra Buswell was recently named Outstanding Environmental Educator of the Year. Debra, a teacher at Longfellow Middle School from my home town of La Crosse, Wisconsin, is currently the team leader for the School on the River program, housed within Longfellow. This program
allows students to work on a variety of envi-
ronmental projects, including stocking fish with
Wisconsin’s Department of Natural Resources
and compiling river information for the U.S.
Geological Survey’s Upper Midwest Environ-
mental Sciences Center.

It is also with great pleasure that I recognize
the School on the River program itself as one
of eight recipients to receive a Seaworld/Busch
Gardens 2001 Environmental Excellence
Award. This award recognizes the ef-
forts of students to protect and preserve the
environment at a local level. In addition to na-
tional recognition for its outstanding achieve-
ments, the School on the River will receive
$15,000 for specialized equipment, 100 T-
shirts, trophies and certificates, and all-ex-
 pense-paid trips for three students and one
teacher to attend ceremonies in Florida and
Missouri.

All of us in the La Crosse area applaud the
efforts of Debra Buswell and Principal Glen
Jenkins for their outstanding efforts to raise
environmental consciousness among Long-
fellow students, and at the same time, to en-
gage students in non-traditional learning envi-
ronments. This exposure to critical thinking
and higher mathematical skills, management
techniques, and team building exercises will
benefit them for years to come. With the dedi-
cation and support of the school, Principal
Jenkins, and Debra Buswell, this ten-year old
program is now beginning to receive the na-
tional recognition it deserves. I congratulate
Principal Jenkins, Debra Buswell, and the stu-
dents who participate in the program for their
hard work and dedication to improving the
local environment in their home community.

With the continued awareness of the impor-
tance to having a healthy environment, I am
grateful that students and residents from west-
ern Wisconsin remain committed to improving the
local environment for the benefit of this
generation and the many generations to fol-
low. It is my sincere hope that we can here in
Congress take this example back to our own
communities, as I believe our own com-
munity’s efforts to raise awareness regarding local
environmental issues.

Obviously, the teaching going on at Long-
fellow Middle School is near and dear to my
heart. Growing up, I spent a lot of time along the
Mississippi River. Now I live right on the
Mississippi, and take my two sons down to the
River to fish, or just explore, whenever pos-
sible. The important role the Mississippi River
plays in the lives of my constituents is, in fact,
why I helped form the bipartisan Mississippi
River Caucus as one of the first things I did
when joining Congress. I also continually sup-
port initiatives to benefit the river such as the
EMP program and the Upper Mississippi Wild-
life Refuge. And this year, I will reintroduce my
Upper Mississippi River Basin Conservation
Act.

On behalf of the residents of western Wis-
consin, I proudly commend Debra Buswell on
her recognition as an Outstanding Environ-
mental Educator. I also commend the School
on the River for being recognized for its efforts
to improve the local environment in western
Wisconsin. The La Crosse School District and
local community are better places to live
thanks to the efforts of these middle-school
students and their dedicated teacher.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF RICHARD KWASNESKI, MAYOR OF LEMONT, IL.

HON. JUDY BIGGERT
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
honor Richard Kwasnieski, who in just a few
weeks will be retiring as Mayor of Lemont, Illi-
nois, which is located in my congressional dis-
trict.

Our local governments could not work if it
were not for people like Rick—they serve their
hometowns for no other reason than because
they love where they live.

Rick Kwasnieski surely loves Lemont. For
the past 16 years, Rick has served the people
of Lemont with dedication and honor, first as
a Village Trustee for eight years and then as
Mayor for the past eight.

As Mayor, Rick led the economic and phys-
ical revitalization of Lemont’s historic downt-
own area, created a Historic District in the
downtown area to promote and preserve the
town’s aging infrastructure and roadways. He
also lowered the Village’s property tax rate to
its lowest level in 25 years.

Rick is a tireless champion for Lemont, al-
avays working to improve the Village wherever
there is a need. The residents of Lemont were
lucky to have him as Mayor and I know he will be
missed.

I am going to miss Rick as well. Since I
came to Congress a little over two years ago,
Rick has been a valuable partner on issues
important to Lemont, such as the southern ex-
tension of I-355 and extra train service on the
Heritage Corridor rail line that serves Lemont.
Mr. Speaker, let me close by saying that we
need more excellent individuals like Rick
Kwsanieski to go into public service. His self-
less hard work and advocacy for Lemont are a
model for all of us.

And even though he will no longer serve
as Mayor of Lemont, I know that he will continue
to have a strong presence in the community,
leading a hand whenever and wherever it is
needed.

FEBRUARY 22 FOREST ROUNDTABLE IN MISSOULA

HON. DENNIS REHBERG
OF MONTANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, on February
22 I sponsored a roundtable discussion in Mis-
soula, Montana on forest health issues. This
discussion included presentations from a wide
array of interests.

Representing the conservation community
were Tom France of the National Wildlife Fed-
eration, Cesar Hernandez of the Montana Wil-
terness Association, and Steve Thompson of
the Montana Conservation Voters. Forest
products industry witnesses were Kim Lies of
the Pulp and Paperworkers Resource Council,
Jim Hurst of Owens and Hurst Lumber, Sherm
Anderson of the Montana Logging Association
and Roger Johnson of Pyramid Mountain
Lumber. County government was represented
by Commissioners Barbara Evans of Missoula
County, Alan Thompson of Ravalli County,
Dale Williams of Flathead County and Rita
Windham of Lincoln County. Providing
creative ideas practiced on non-federal lands
were Garry Orr of the Salish-Kootenai Tribes
and Tom Schultz with the Montana Depart-
ment of State Lands. Finally, the scientific and
academic communities were represented by
Dr. Chuck Keegan and Carl Fiedler of the
University of Montana and U.S. Forest Service
fire ecologist Steve Amo.

This roundtable, and one scheduled for April
18 in Hamilton, will provide me with firsthand
accounts of what is working and not working
regarding management of Montana’s forests.
As a member of both the House Committees
on Agriculture and Resources, that have juris-
dictions over forest management, I am seeking
“made in Montana” solutions to our current
challenges in forest management.

I encourage my colleagues to read the fol-
lowing article by Sherry Devlin on the Mis-
soula roundtable that appeared in the Feb-
22 edition of the Missoulian. I also highly recommend
reading the testimony of Kim Lies who is a
papermaker for Smurfit-Stone Container in
Frenchtown, Montana and a member of
Hellgate Local 8-0885 PACE International
Union.

[From the Missoulian (MT), Feb. 23, 2001]

REHBERG GETS EARFUL ON FORESTS
INDUSTRY OFFICIALS SAY CONTROL SHOULD
STAY WITH LOCAL EXPERTS

(By Sherry Devlin)

The rest of the country should just “butt
out” and let Montanans manage the national
forests in their back yards, a Eureka sawmill
owner told U.S. Rep. Denny Rehberg’s forest-
management roundtable Thursday.

“I’m not going to tell the people of New
York City how to manage Central Park,’’
said Jim Hurst, owner of Owens and Hurst
Lumber Co. “So why should they be telling us
how to manage the Kootenai National
Forest? I say they should butt out.”

Montanans, Hurst said, can work their way
to enjoy the thorniest forest-management
issues. It’s the national dictates—of
presidents, congressmen and bureaucrats—
that make people dig in their heels.

So went the conversation during a four-
hour, four-panel series of roundtable dis-
cussions at the University of Montana, called by
Rehberg—he said—to learn more about for-
est-management issues and to look for com-
mon ground. “Is there anything that we can
all agree on?” he asked.

“Yes,” said paper maker Kim Lies. “I
share everyone’s concern for the health, con-
servation and beauty of this great state. I
most certainly do not want to destroy the
environment.”

“Yes,” said environmental lawyer Tom
France. “If it’s not just a rush to get timber
off the hill, but a rush to do right by the
land.”

“Good,” said Rehberg, the Republican
elected in November to Montana’s single
seat in the House of Representatives. “Peo-
ple have this preconceived notion that I have
a preconceived notion about forest manage-
ment. And I don’t. I am serious about the
consensus process.”

Collaboration can work; it can yield tim-
ber cutting and endangered-species recovery,