Through our bipartisan congressional efforts, we have and we must continue to acknowledge and to remember the killing and the suffering inflicted on the Armenian people during those 8 years at the beginning of the last century. Real people died and the results were and are still shocking.

The Armenian genocide is a historical fact. There is a nonpartisan academic consensus that between 1915 and 1923, 1.5 million Armenians perished at the hands of the crumbling Ottoman Empire. I deeply regretted the decision made by this body last year not to consider House Resolution 596, legislation recognizing the Armenian genocide. If we in the Congress continue to react with silence regarding these events and are unwilling to stand up and publicly condemn these atrocities, we effectively give our approval to abuses of power such as the Armenian genocide.

We must let the truth about these events be known and continue to speak out against all instances of inhumanity against one another. To this day it is still denied by the Turkish Government, just as the Nazis 2 decades later denied the Holocaust. Both of these atrocities could have been prevented or at least mitigated if the public had been aware of them. Sadly, it was only after the world learned of the Holocaust and the depths to which human beings could sink in their treatment of each other that the massacre of the Armenian population of Turkey gained attention as genocide.

Responding to this horror, governmental bodies throughout the world have passed resolutions and declarations affirming the Armenian genocide, including Canada, Argentina, Belgium, Lebanon, Vatican City, Uruguay, the European Parliament, the Russian Duma, the Greek Parliament, the Swedish Parliament and the French National Senate.

Additionally, 27 States, more than half, have also passed resolutions condemning the Armenian genocide. I am very pleased that on April 9 of this year my own State of Maryland enacted the Maryland Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide. I, as had some others, had written to members of the Maryland Assembly urging their support of the resolution. I believe this measure will help educate others about this crime against humanity and send an appropriate message to the thousands of Maryland residents of Armenian descent who have been profoundly and personally affected by the Armenian genocide and who have made tremendous contributions to our State in the areas of business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts.

We salute the proud people of Armenian who spent 70 years fighting Stalinist domination and who have finally, in the past decade, achieved freedom. However, these freedoms must never allow them or us to forget the hardships suffered by their ancestors. Our universal respect for human rights must instill in all of us the continued condemnation and acknowledgment of the Armenian genocide, one of history's darkest chapters of the 20th century.

THE PRESIDENT HAD IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO OPEN TRADE MUST BE MATCHED BY A STRONG COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, this morning constituents of our Ninth District of Ohio woke up to reports of more job cuts at our local Jeep plant. The Toledo Blade ran two headlines. One reads, ''Jeep reductions: Firm warns up to 2,035 Toledo jobs to be cut.'' The second headline read, ''Expanded PT Cruiser Output Bypasses City of Toledo for Mexico.''

Welcome to post-NAFTA America. Here we have a company shifting production from the United States at the expense of our workers. Make no mistake, these are excellent jobs we are talking about. These are not minimum-wage jobs with no benefits. These are not low-tech jobs. They are the type of jobs that any community in America would fight for. These are middle-class jobs. That is what Toledo and the State of Ohio did, in fact. They went out and fought for the Jeep jobs. The taxpayers invested hundreds of millions of dollars to keep those jobs in Ohio and in the United States, and now Chrysler is cutting 2,000 jobs in Toledo at the same time as it is adding production lines in Mexico to make the popular PT Cruiser.

Now President Bush wants to expand NAFTA, he tells us. Is this the promise of NAFTA, 2,000 more families out of work and good jobs in our country? Is this what the future looks like under a hemispheric NAFTA known as Free Trade of the Americas, FTAA? Is this what you get with Fast Track?

President Bush went to Quebec City last week to push for NAFTA's expansion to the free trade of the Americas. He made some interesting claims about what his version of free trade envisions. There was some talk about labor rights and environmental standards and democracy. That sounds well and good, but we need to see concrete action to back up the rhetoric.

In Quebec City, President Bush said it is clear to me that ours is a hemisphere united by freedom. How about the freedom of workers to earn a living wage and to know that they are protected against workplace injury and guaranteed the right to organize the worth of their labor? How about the freedom for families to know what is in their food? How about the freedom of a mother on the border in Mexico knowing that the water is safe to drink and the air fit to breathe? How about the freedom for Members of Congress to have access to all the working documents and drafts of these agreements, not only the multinational giants that helped to negotiate the agreement that we are likely to consider?

In Quebec City, President Bush said, ''Our commitment to open trade must be matched by a strong commitment to protecting our environment and improving labor standards.'' But then he did a pirouette and he said, ''We should not allow labor and environmental codicils to destroy the spirit of free trade.''

He had it right the first time.

Those of us on the other side of the argument have been saying for years that these trade agreements should give individuals the same rights as multinational corporations. The President was wrong when he said labor and environmental provisions would destroy free trade. If free trade cannot accommodate labor and environmental concerns, it does not deserve to be known as free.

If the extension of the right for labor to organize, the right to free speech and the right to a safe and livable environment are things that would destroy a trade regime, maybe we should reconsider our trade priorities. Adding labor and environmental rights as a side agreement or included with fig-leaf compromises is completely unacceptable. We learned our lesson with NAFTA, the hard way.

President Bush said, and I quote, ''I am confident I will have trade promotion authority by the end of the year because I think most people in the United States Congress understand that trade is beneficial to our hemisphere.

''It is in our Nation's best interest to have the President have trade promotion authority,'' he said.

Congress does understand that trade can be beneficial to our hemisphere. We also know it can be unbeneficial. We do not need Fast Track to create a trading system that is fair to all nations and workers. We need a trading system that will lift up workers everywhere and help us maintain our standard of living in America. We need a trade agreement that will lift workers up, not leave behind 2,000 more families in Toledo while factories in Mexico gear up to meet a demand for a very popular vehicle on the backs of an exploited workforce that works for slave wages.

Madam Speaker, our rallying cry as we approach the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas debate must be free trade among free people and no less.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE AGAINST FORGETTING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I stand in strong support of the Special Order commemorating the Armenian genocide; and I commend my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), for putting this Special Order together and for keeping the issue of the Armenian genocide at the forefront here in Congress.

The tragic occurrence perpetrated against the Armenian people between 1915 and 1925 by the Ottoman Turkish Empire is of great concern to me and members of my constituency. During this relatively brief time frame, over 1.5 million Armenians were massacred and more than 5,000 were exiled. Unfortunately, the Turkish Government has not recognized these brutal atrocities as acts of genocide. Nor is it willing to come to terms with these horrific events of the past that many of their ancestors participated in.

Prior to the Armenian genocide, these brave people with a history of over 2,500 years in the region were subject to numerous indignities and periodic massacres by the sultans of the Ottoman Empire. The worst of these massacres prior to 1915 occurred in 1895 when as many as 300,000 Armenian civilians were murdered, and those who survived were left completely destitute.

Despite these events, Armenians have survived as a people and a culture throughout Europe and now throughout the United States. The Turkish Government needs to come to terms with the past and work towards improving the future. Turkish groups have suggested that since Turks were also killed during that time frame it should not be considered a genocide.

Genocide is the systematic, planned annihilation of a racial, political, or cultural group. It happened to the Jews in Germany, and it did happen to the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire.

I am well aware of the importance of Turkey as an ally in an unstable region and a frontline NATO state. However, the Turkish Government must officially recognize the atrocities of its predecessors in the Ottoman Empire. I believe that by failing to recognize such barbaric acts one becomes complicit in them.

Milan Kundera, the once-exiled Czech novelist, has written, ''The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting.''

I believe that we, too, must continue to struggle against forgetting. This Special Order begins that process. This genocide and its lessons must never be forgotten.

APRIL 24, 1915, ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FERGUSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues today to remember a horrific atrocity in history, the Armenian genocide. April 24 is recognized as the anniversary date of this genocide, when Armenian intellectuals and professionals in Constantinople were rounded up and deported or killed.

From 1915 to 1923, a million and a half Armenians were killed and countless others suffered as a result of the systematic and deliberate campaign of genocide by the rulers of the Ottoman Empire.

Half a million Armenians who escaped death were deported to the Middle East. Some were fortunate enough to escape to the United States.

Madam Speaker, I am thankful that more than a million Armenians managed to escape the genocide and establish a new life here in the United States. In my Seventh District in New Jersey, I am proud to represent a number of Armenian-Americans. They have enriched every aspect of New Jersey life, from science to commerce to the arts.

Our statements today are intended to preserve the memory of the Armenian loss and to honor those descendants who have overcome the atrocities that took their grandparents, their parents, their children, and their friends. We mark this anniversary each year to remind our Nation and to teach future generations about the horrors of genocide and oppression endured by the Armenian people.

We must commit ourselves to ensuring that America remains a beacon of tolerance and openness and diversity.

Madam Speaker, I commend the commitment of Armenian-Americans who continue to strive for world recognition of one of the greatest atrocities of the 20th century.

EARTH DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, as one who came to Congress committed to having the Federal Government be a better partner in making our communities more livable, making our families safe, healthy and economically secure, this last weekend in the celebration of Earth Day was a special time.

Every April 22, around the world, there is recognition of the Earth Day celebrations. This was an undertaking that was founded in 1970 by then U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, who proposed a nationwide environmental protest to, quote, shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda.

Well, Senator Nelson succeeded, I think, even beyond his expectations, as he was able to encourage this recognition internationally. I think it was appropriate that he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his role as the founder of Earth Day.

This year, as we reviewed the news accounts, there was a great deal of energy, excitement and indeed some good news for the environment around the world. Part of it was the environmental activism itself. There were over 800 rallies held across the United States, and internationally there were more than 100. In honor of Earth Day, the Wilderness Society named the White House as an object of their future concerns about national parks and monuments.

There was in Washington, D.C. a forum on solar energy held to celebrate the advances made in the technology, economics and prospects for the use of solar energy. There was a massive Trees Are My Friends campaign that helped to educate urban residents about the value of street trees in the urban forest canopy, helping residents connect with tree care and planning activities in their community.

This last weekend, I joined with people in my community in Portland, Oregon, to celebrate a successful tree-planting undertaking. They have successfully planted now 207,000 trees. During the month of April, citizens in a variety of cities in the West, including Portland, Seattle and Denver, were engaged in races and walks to raise the awareness of climate change, to help stop global climate warming.

□ 2015

There were rallies in India by cycling organizations to push for the creation of no vehicle zones in major cities. Additionally, there were events to protest deforestation in Mexico, children rallying for the protection of endangered species in Estonia and Russia; and there were tree plantings in Burmese refugee camps in Thailand.

There was good news on the State level. One in particular that caught my attention was in the State of California where the Department of Fish and Game has issued draft regulations to protect sea otters and other marine mammals from deadly gill nets. These regulations are going to make a huge difference in the protection of marine mammals.

In Massachusetts, that State will become the first on a State level to limit carbon dioxide emissions from power plants under their own clean air rules. The new standard, which will go into effect in June, will also limit mercury emissions, acid rain causing sulfur dioxide, and smog-causing nitrogen