

school and has accumulated over 150 hours of service. Brad's service areas include: youth services, collecting and donating goods, elderly assistance, hunger and homelessness, and gardening and groundskeeping.

Lori Wadham, 16, Blue Valley High School, Lori has completed 300 hours of community service through several organizations and in a variety of areas, including youth services, elderly assistance and home repair and building. She was inspired to volunteer through her 4-H club and plans to continue to expand her volunteer efforts.

Robby Smith, 16, Shawnee Mission East. Robby has been an active volunteer for Johnson County Youth Court. He has accumulated over 100 hours there as a defense attorney for youth with first-time, nonviolent offenses.

CELEBRATING CINCO DE MAYO
CON ORGULLO

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the historic day of Cinco de Mayo. This holiday, celebrated each year on the fifth of May, is a very symbolic and cultural day for people of Mexican ancestry.

Cinco de Mayo honors the 1862 victory of the Mexican armed forces against the invading French army in the Battle of Puebla, and marks an important milestone in Mexico's struggle to retain its sovereignty. It has since been a day when Latinos honor their spirit of struggle, dignity, and respect for their cultural heritage.

Unfortunately, many Cinco de Mayo celebrations have been marred by violence, overconsumption of alcohol, and other serious problems. This issue is compounded by the fact that Latino communities suffer disproportionately from the negative effects of alcohol use and abuse, high rates of alcohol-related diseases and death, an inordinate number of traffic fatalities and alcohol-related driving violations, and many types of alcohol involved violence.

In light of this, many persons of Mexican ancestry desire to have family oriented, alcohol and tobacco free Cinco de Mayo celebrations. Rather than partaking in festivities that continue to exploit people through the sale of large amounts of alcoholic beverages, they are choosing to focus on embracing and elevating the cultural significance of this historical event and Latinos in general.

The Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco (LCAT) has joined with CalPartners Coalition and California Latino Leadership United for Healthy Communities in their statewide Cinco de Mayo 2001 campaign, "Sembrando Nuestras Tradiciones." This campaign aims to make all residents of the U.S. aware of the true significance of the Cinco de Mayo, reduce the pernicious influence of the alcohol industry, draw public attention to the negative effects of alcohol use and abuse upon persons of Mexican ancestry, and promote alcohol and tobacco-free celebrations.

I commend the effort of these groups and encourage people to celebrate this important Mexican holiday with dignity and respect, to refrain from immoderate consumption of alcoholic beverages, to work to promote the health of the entire community, and to reject efforts by alcohol promoters who misuse Cinco de Mayo by engaging in advertising and promotions designed to encourage heavy drinking.

ENCOURAGE THE PRESIDENT TO
PROTECT NATIONAL FORESTS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, by May 4, 2001, the Bush administration must publicly reveal its plans to either protect forests or continue to allow the construction of roads into our nation's remaining pristine forest areas.

For the past thirty years, Congress has been part of the debate over protecting national forests from activities that put economic interests above ecological concerns. We have had debate after debate on the merits of a 380,000 mile road network, the role of taxpayer dollars in expanding the existing network, and the appropriate balance between preservation and multiple-use.

News reports indicate that the Bush Administration plans to dilute or overturn the historic roadless conservation plan proposed under the Clinton Administration.

Over 1 million Americans submitted comments to the Forest Service during the lengthy public comment period in which over 600 public hearings were held, including at least one hearing for each national forest that might be affected by the policy.

More Americans spoke out in favor of this historic conservation plan than on any other federal rule-making in history. The public is clear—it wants to protect America's remaining pristine forests.

The problem that the Bush Administration faces on this issue is that some very powerful—if narrow—special interests do not want what the public wants. They want new roads built in the remaining 31 percent of our national forests where today there are no roads for the purposes of logging, mining, and oil and gas drilling.

Mr. Speaker, these special interests are not concerned about the tradeoff between the long-term ecological damage caused by those activities and the very limited amount of natural resources available for extraction if new roads are to be built. They are not concerned about the fact that more communities depend on fresh water from national forests than from extractive industries. They are not concerned that the recreational value of our national forests is of critical importance to the majority of Americans and that roadbuilding often conflicts with recreational opportunities.

Congress has learned, after many pitched battles, that the public does not want to pay for constructing new roads into the remaining portions of our national forests that are undis-

turbed. My fear is that the Administration has not learned this.

With all due respect to the President, his administration should spend more time protecting America's environment and public lands and less time protecting the special interest corporations who clearly have captured his attention.

But I am pleased to say that over 130 of my Democratic Colleagues have joined me in urging President Bush to immediately implement the forest conservation policy that was finalized on January 12—without loopholes and without delays. In March, 22 Republican colleagues wrote their own letter to the President with the same message.

The American public should know that some of us in Congress have heard their appeal on protecting the remaining forests in which there are no roads. But they need to be equally aware that the Administration has already shown its willingness to ignore public sentiment in its zeal to please its special interest allies. President Bush abandoned his pledge to regulate carbon dioxide, for example, and he appears to be close to abandoning his pledge not to drill for oil off of Florida's protected coastline.

We must assume then that he will be willing to ignore public sentiment again and open our remaining pristine forests to road-building despite the public's opposition to such a move.

We are sending a clear message to the President to protect our remaining forests. We hope that he will heed our call and the call of the American people.

I submit for the RECORD a copy of the letter that I and over 130 of my colleagues sent to President Bush on Wednesday, May 2, 2001.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, May 1, 2001.

THE PRESIDENT,

The White House,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: By May 4, 2001, your Administration must publicly articulate its policy on the protection of roadless areas in our national forests. There are few public land issues of greater import to the majority of Americans. Many of us in Congress care deeply about carefully managing America's critical natural resources and protecting the remaining pristine areas in our national forests. The Roadless Area Conservation Policy finalized by the Forest Service on January 12, 2001 represents a balanced, scientifically based, publicly supported policy. We strongly urge you to immediately implement the policy as finalized, without exceptions or loopholes.

As you know, the Roadless Area Conservation Policy will protect 58.5 million acres of pristine national forest land. This balanced policy protects the remaining pristine regions of our national forests from logging, mining, and energy exploration, while allowing those activities to proceed on the majority of national forest lands. Currently, our national forests contain over 383,000 miles of roads. The forest conservation policy does not limit public access on the current road infrastructure or regulate off-road vehicle use. Nor does the policy limit recreation opportunities. The policy does allow the Forest Service to concentrate its efforts on addressing the tremendous maintenance backlog instead of constructing expensive and controversial new roads which will add to the maintenance burden in the future.