

Congress highlighted your humility and pride. During the course of his address, our eminent President Bush paused for a moment to digress. He singled you out Joe, for special recognition. He described you as "a good man." Whereupon, as you stood in your place, spontaneous bipartisan applause shook the Congress. This episode also reverberated in thrilling dimensions throughout your Congressional District. Thank you President Bush for this tribute to a good man and for other manifestations of your respect for our Joe and his services to his country.

Joe, you were good enough, as one neighbor to another, to ask me to participate in this liturgy of sacrifice, sorrow and remembrance. With many another heavy heart it is wrenching to say goodbye. God is with you, I'm sure Joe, as you now join your beloved Evelyn and your parents in the saintly joy of eternity. We pray He may look favorably on us who lament your loss and who are challenged to follow your example of integrity and justice and useful service.

Fair forward, good friend.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT TO INCREASE THE FEDERAL SHARE OF THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING TREATMENT WORKS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today we introduce a bill to make permanent an 80–20 match for the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (WASA), which serves jurisdictions in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia through its facility at Blue Plains. In fiscal years 1998 and 2000, the 80–20 match was included in appropriations bills. Because the Fiscal Year 2000 provision expires at the end of Fiscal Year 2001, this legislation to make the 80–20 match permanent is necessary.

The Blue Plains facility operated by WASA is the largest advanced waste water treatment plant in the world, serving two million users in the Maryland and Virginia suburbs as well as the District of Columbia. The financial and operational health of this facility is vital to the efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay as well as water that serve the City of Vienna, and the counties of Fairfax, Loudoun, Montgomery, and Prince George's. Blue Plains is responsible for the largest reductions of nitrogen into the Bay of any facility in the entire Bay Watershed.

WASA has only been able to undertake major facility improvements—including biosolids digestion and handling facilities, major renovations to preliminary treatment facilities, new chemical feed operations, and additional electrical system enhancements—because of the 80–20 formula.

We also seek this change as a matter of fairness. In enacting the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (Act), Congress recognized that the District, a city without a state, shoulders

an unfair financial obligation in programs in which municipalities normally have state financial assistance. The Act provided for federal support for the state share of several such programs. The region has been unable to take advantage of the usual combination of state and city matches only because this facility, which serves regional partners, happens to be located in the District of Columbia.

A permanent 80–20 federal-local match would place the District on a par with other municipalities and states in the United States. The 20 percent that the District would continue to assume is equivalent to the burden borne by many other cities in the country. Of course, local rate payers in the region would continue to bear their share.

We urge our colleagues to join us in supporting this important provision that would provide tangible benefits to regional residents and to the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, as well as the Chesapeake Bay, a national treasure.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TREATMENT WORKS IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Section 202(a)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1282(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "Notwithstanding the first sentence of this paragraph, in the case of a project for a publicly owned treatment works in the District of Columbia, such project shall be eligible for grants at 80 percent of the cost of construction thereof."

Original Cosponsors: TOM DAVIS; WAYNE T. GILCHREST; STENY H. HOYER; JAMES P. MORAN; CONSTANCE A. MORELLA; FRANK WOLF; and ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN.

CONFLICT DIAMONDS

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advise our colleagues about progress made in recent days in building the consensus needed to end the trade in conflict diamonds. Today, Senators DICK DURBIN, MIKE DEWINE and RUSS FEINGOLD introduced a companion to H.R. 918, the Clean Diamonds Act, that incorporates a compromise among American jewelers and the legitimate global diamond industry on the one hand, and Senators, Members of Congress, and the 100-plus-member human-rights organization dedicated to eliminating the trade in conflict diamonds, on the other hand.

This compromise brings together elected representatives of the nation that is world's largest consumer of diamonds, the industry that markets those gems, and the respected human rights advocates who have brought the role that conflict diamonds play in the legitimate trade to American's attention.

These diverse groups united in supporting this bill in the hope that leaders of the global initiative, under way for the past year, will see in our unity a call to move beyond debating this problem, and actually devise a system ca-

pable of ending the trade in conflict diamonds—a system that many of us here today have been calling for since early 2000.

I think we all have great respect for the 30-plus countries working through the African-led "Kimberley Process" to end this blood trade; their task is a challenging one. The compromise legislation aims to spur to action those who want to continue exporting diamonds to our market, but the road they take must be one charted by the Kimberley Process. However, the time for more talk, more meetings of this august body, and more delay is past.

Seven months ago, the United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously to act to eradicate this scourge. Coming together was not easy for all of the world's nations. It has not been easy for those of us here today. And it won't be easy for participants at July's meetings. But a coordinated, global approach offers the only real hope of ending a trade that has fueled the wars devastating countries that are home to 70 million Africans—and that surely will spark more violence if this problem is left to fester. Today, some of the most significant stakeholders in the Kimberly Process' work banded together to call for swift follow-through on December's unanimous directive from the United Nations.

I hope history will judge this to be a turning point—the moment that Americans' representatives in the faith, humanitarian and human rights communities, as well as their elected officials, joined hands with the industry that brings us one of the many African resources that make our lives sweet; the point at which we began working together on an issue of life-or-death importance to African people and communities.

This work entails more than introduction or a passage of the legislation, and more than implementation of a global regulatory scheme. To achieve lasting success, this work requires us to find a way to not merely break the curse that diamonds too often have been—but to transform diamonds into a blessing for all of the communities that mine them.

Diamonds are the most concentrated form of wealth mankind has ever known—so it is an intolerable irony that they do precious little to enrich many of the communities where they are mined: places which are located atop diamond-rich soil but nevertheless rank among the poorest and most miserable in the world, places like Kenema in Sierra Leone, where nearly one child in three dies before his first birthday, even in years that see little fighting for control of its diamonds. As long as conditions like this persist, as long as there are few alternatives for Kenema's people to careers begun as child soldiers, as long as diamond mines are an easy target for criminal takeovers, it is doubtful that stricter customs laws alone will be capable of holding back the violence bred of this despair.

I am heartened that the Diamond Dealers Club of New York is continuing an initiative launched by my friend, Mayer Herz. It will directly link Sierra Leone miners with American retailers, and reinvest more of the dollars American spend on diamonds in the African communities that produce them. I would like to see more joint ventures like that, and I encourage other responsible members of the legitimate diamond industry to follow this example.

I want to express my appreciation for the work that today's compromise represents to the Senate leaders, who bring tremendous energy and capabilities to this work, to the diamond industry, and to the non-governmental organizations.

Matthew Runci, of Jewelers of America, and Eli Izhakoff, of the World Diamond Council have done superb work bringing together the very different members of the

As valuable as the industry's efforts have been, the Campaign to Eliminate Conflict Diamonds is the real father of this success. The human rights activists and members of the humanitarian and faith communities who launched that campaign, along with the organizations they represent, have done heroic work that has brought us to this point.

First, they have catapulted this issue into the consciousness of Americans who never give Africans a thought otherwise—and made many people think for the first time about what our sparkly tokens of love and commitment symbolize to many people at the other end of the supply chain.

Second, they have worked with the industry at every level to convince jewelers and industry leaders alike of the urgent need for an effective and immediate solution. That required standing up to a powerful industry while simultaneously remaining flexible enough to work with it when the situation warranted that.

Third, they have persuaded a quarter of our nation's elected representatives, one by one, to support this call for clean diamonds—a call that until today put Members of Congress on the side of faraway African victims and at odds with jewelers in every Congressional district.

And last, they have done all this without resorting to the easy answers and hype that could destroy consumer confidence in diamonds and devastate the economies of the countries they benefit.

It took too long to get to this day, but it would not have come without these organizations and individuals, particularly Holly Burkhalter, Adotei Akwei, Amanda Blair, Rory Anderson, Bernice Romero, Ann Wang and Danielle Hirsch. They are a dedicated and tireless group, and I commend their commitment to this compelling human rights cause.

It is with pleasure that I submit for inclusion in the Congressional Record the joint statement by the World Diamond Council and the steering committee of the Campaign to Eliminate Conflict Diamonds. It calls on Congress to pass the Clean Diamonds Act this year, and on President Bush to sign it into law, and I commend it to my colleagues' attention.

If we heed this call, we can make today the milestone it has the potential to be, the moment history marks as the beginning of diamonds' transformation, from a curse on too many Africans, to a blessing for all the people whose lives they touch. I urge my colleagues to give this call the serious consideration it deserves, and to seize this historic opportunity.

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE WORLD DIAMOND COUNCIL AND THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE CONFLICT DIAMONDS

The World Diamond Council and the non-governmental community represented by Physicians for Human Rights, Amnesty

International, OxfamAmerica, World Vision, World Relief and the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism support the Clean Diamonds Act being introduced today in the Senate. This legislation will create a system to prohibit the U.S. import of conflict diamonds and impose serious penalties on those who trade in them.

Our collaboration represents the shared commitment of the NGO community and the diamond industry to work together to secure passage of this legislation sponsored by Senators Dick Durbin, D-Ill., Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and Michael DeWine, R-Ohio. We thank the Senators for introducing this bill, which accommodates the concerns of both the diamond industry and the NGO community. We also wish to thank Reps. Tony Hall, D-Ohio, and Frank Wolf, R-Va., for their commitment to ending the conflict diamond trade.

We are determined to work together to secure rapid enactment of this legislation, which represents the best efforts of the NGO community and diamond industry to develop a workable system for keeping conflict stones out of the United States.

The conditions placed on the importation of diamonds and diamond jewelry in the legislation are designed to support and encourage the work of the 38 countries that are part of the Kimberley Process, which is developing an international system to stop trade in conflict diamonds. The standards being developed by participants in the Kimberley Process, which includes governments, NGOs and the diamond industry, are expected to be presented in final form to the United Nations General Assembly by the end of this year.

Passage of this legislation also will enhance the confidence of U.S. jewelers and consumers that American purchases of diamonds and diamond jewelry are not unwittingly benefiting abusive insurgencies in Africa.

We collectively call upon the U.S. Congress to pass the Clean Diamonds Act in this session of Congress and urge President Bush to sign it into law.

POEM BY ANASTASIA HAYES-STOKER

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2001

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to submit a remarkable poem written by Anastasia Hayes-Stoker, a young student at Shakelford Junior High School in Arlington, Texas. Anastasia's poem was the overall winner of the "Do the Write Thing" Challenge. This contest, sponsored by the National Campaign to Stop Violence and partnered with the Arlington Jaycees, challenges middle school students to write an essay about the negative impact of violence in their lives and offer possible solutions to the problems they face today.

Anastasia's poem speaks to the truths of the challenges our youth face in coping with violence. In my role as Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Working Group on Youth Violence, I listened to teachers, law enforcement, counselors, parents, and students. Over and over again, I heard about the need to mentor our youth and provide a safe haven for them to go. However, it is often only when we hear our

children's voice, that our attention is grabbed. Anastasia has managed to convey, in a beautiful way, how she, and others in her generation, feel about the violence in her school, her appreciation for community involvement, and a child's need for family and love.

Drug dealing, students stealing All around the campus
Tempers flaring, kids are swearing All around the campus
Fist to cuff, fights are a must All around the campus
Backed to the wall, who do you call? All around the campus
Punches thrown, lives are blown All around the campus
Guns and knives, someone dies All around the campus
Families shrinking, parents drinking Children are abandoned
Marriage ending, no time for spending Children are abandoned
Domestic violence, kept in silence Children are abandoned
Learned aggression, whose oppression? Children are abandoned
Repeat behavior, where's your savior? Children are abandoned
Fight or flight, who sleeps at night Children are abandoned
Crime prevention, good intention Community united
Neighborhoods watched, gang fights botched Community united
Security in the hall, protects us all Community united
Mentors handy, hope feels dandy Community united
Cops on the street, don't miss a beat Community united
My home, safety zone Strong parental influence
Curfews made, allowance paid Strong parental influence
Loving brother, like no other Strong parental influence
Self-respect, family honor to protect Strong parental influence
Lead by example, self worth is ample Strong parental influence
Loving silence, no need for violence Strong parental influence

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEAS OF AMERICAN YOUTH DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 124 to celebrate our youth as the future of the United States and to support the goals and ideas of America's Youth Day.

It is our ultimate priority and our duty to fulfill the five promises established by the Alliance for Youth organizations. The first promise holds adults accountable for reaching out to the young people in our community. By mentoring, participating in a big brother/big sister program, through peer counseling and even through daily contact with our youth, we can communicate that we care. The majority of schools and communities across the country are safe places for children to thrive. By