situations like the U.S. negotiations on international tax treaties are for the good of all U.S. jurisdictions in the country, not just the fifty states. I urge that the U.S. government is currently renegotiating with Japan on the tax treaty between our two countries. While I hope that Guam is not excluded from being part of this treaty, the record of U.S. negotiators on previous tax treaties does not provide me any level of confidence. This is a perfect example of why the bill I have introduced today is needed.

KLAMATH BASIN GOVERNMENT-CAUSED DISASTER COMPENSATION ACT

HON. WALLY HERGER OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, principles of fairness and justice demand that the Government not force some people to bear burdens, which should rightfully be borne by the public as a whole. However, that is precisely what is happening in the Klamath Basin in northern California and southern Oregon because of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and today I rise, joined by my Oregon colleague, Congressmen GREG WALTERS, to introduce legislation to address that.

The ESA has strained far from its original mission. It was never intended to sacrifice human health and safety and economic wellbeing. Yet, the fact remains that under the guise of species protection, constitutionally-protected property rights are being trampled, local economies are being destroyed, families are being forced into bankruptcy and, in many cases, human health and safety are being jeopardized. There is little consideration given to the human species under the ESA. Once a species is “listed,” its needs must come first—before the rights and livelihoods of American people. As it is currently being implemented, the ESA requires species protections at any and all costs.

Regrettably, rural Western communities are disproportionately bearing the burdens and costs associated with species protection, burdens which should rightfully be borne by the public. The zero-water decision that was recently handed down in the Klamath Basin is the “poster child” for precisely these kinds of injustices. Farmers in this rural area were told on April 6, 2001 that there would no Klamath Project water for agriculture this year, because, in the opinion of a few Government biologists, it was needed to protect two species of fish that may or may not be endangered.

The decision does not come without significant social and economic impacts. The Klamath Project supports approximately 1,500 small family farmers and ranching operations and scores of related businesses. This agricultural area generates in excess of $250 million in economic activity annually. The annual value of crops produced is estimated at more than $110 million. All of this human activity has come to a grinding halt because of an ESA mandated decision that is based only on speculation and guesswork. Preliminary estimates place total economic damage in the neighborhood of $220 million. Regrettably, all of these costs—financial or otherwise—will be borne by the public, and, in some cases, by the American Farmer. While I am proud of the decision made with the American Farmer in mind, this dumping of costs onto the American Farmer is unjust. Farmers in this area and all others in the Klamath Basin are suffering economically because of the Government’s actions in the Basin, and while the long-term social and other hidden impacts from this decision can never be fully mended, fairness and justice demand that the federal government step in to rectify the economic harm that it has caused.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

June 29, 2001

TRIBUTE TO McNEIL FAMILY FOR 2001 NATIONAL WETLANDS AWARD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS OF COLORADO IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to a couple that has taken extensive efforts to promote land stewardship, wetlands conservation, research and education in the Monte Vista area of Colorado. Mike and Cathy McNeil have truly exemplified the ideals honored by the 2001 National Wetlands Award of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Environmental Law Institute and I would like to add my thank you and appreciation to their labors.

Nested on the edge of Rock Creek just south of Monte Vista and neighbored by the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, the McNeil ranch persists as a fourth-generation operation. Understanding the importance of responsible development and the intersection between environmental preservation, the McNeils launched the Rock Creek Heritage Project—an effort which protected nearly 15,000 acres of farm and ranch land in the Rock Creek Watershed. This collaborative effort, involving 27 landowners, accentuates 5 aspects including land protection, watershed enhancement, training in holistic management, community building and support for value-added marketing of agricultural products. Extending beyond land matters, the McNeils have adopted innovative calving patterns to provide their 800 mother cows warmer birthing periods during June and July rather than throughout the cooler winter months utilized by most ranchers in the area. In all of these endeavors the McNeils have exhibited innovation, excellence and outstanding effort.

Mr. Speaker, Mike and Cathy have been united in matrimony for 20 years and have the blessing of their daughter Kelly who is 14 years of age. The teachings of her parents are allowing Cathy to value and preserve the heritage from which she comes, through the extraordinary contributions of the McNeils, wetland protection and land stewardship have been heralded and an example has been established for others to follow in order to obtain ecological health while not compromising agricultural profitability. The National Wetlands Award will be one of many awards that the McNeils have garnered from their hard work—alongside the distinct recognition of being the Colorado Association of Soil Conservation District’s Conservationists of the Year in 1999 and the 2001 Steward of the Land Award issued by the American Farmland Trust.

The McNeils deserve to be applauded on a job well done and I, along with my colleagues, thank them for their sustained efforts in this critically important realm and foundation to life.