strongly support an exemption in the law that I administered, Title VII, which allows a religious denomination an exemption to the antidiscrimination law in hiring people of their own religion with their own money. But we cannot give the Baptists and the Lutherans and the Catholics and the Jews our money and say you can discriminate when you perform services in our name. That is already a problem with the bill.

But in order to make it perfectly clear, in case that does not survive, that at least people who are gay and lesbian should not be discriminated against, this would be done by regulation.

Mr. Speaker, why the Salvation Army would engage in this deal is really perplexing. The Salvation Army already gets tax-exempt status for its work, they get the income tax and property tax dollars, and that is as long as we are doing the government's work, then your money does the government's work accepts it, on the basis that everybody else who gets the opportunity up here. So I do not think one should stand up here and make California look like some poor innocent victim in the Western United States who somehow is picked out of 50 States and is the only State in the kind of crisis they are in, and then have one stand up here and accuse the power companies of theft. I do not know whether there has been theft or not, but let me tell you, the problem is much broader than a power company like Duke Energy.

The problem that you have got out there is you have to face a couple realities. Number one, conservation is absolutely critical, and it is going to be a big component anywhere now in California, and, frankly, the rest of the Nation, can avoid getting into the same spot that California got into by adopting some pretty simple methods of conservation.

Conservation does not mean you have to suffer in your life-style. There are a lot of very simple things that you can do in your life-style that do not give you a negative impact, that do not serve as an inconvenience for you. Just think of them: Shut the lights off when you leave the room; make sure your fan is turning in a clockwise fashion in the summer; make sure your oil every 3,000 miles by the quick lubes. There are a lot of things we can consider. Conservation is very critical for California.

The second thing that is very critical for California is you have got to get over that habit you would say, or almost an idealism that you have locked into, and that is “not in my backyard.” In other words, let the other 49 States build the power plants,
let the other 49 States worry about electrical transmission lines, let the other 49 States worry about natural gas exploration and oil exploration, et cetera, et cetera. You cannot do that.

California, California, you are going to have to help yourself. You are going to have to help pull yourself up by the bootstraps.

Now, let me say, I am a fan of California. I like the State of California, and California is a State. We have 50 States. We are unified like brothers and sisters. We should not abandon California. I do not think we should stand up here and bash California.

But we need to be frank with each other. California, quit pointing the finger at everybody else. California, quit saying it is everybody else’s fault. You know what you need to do is help pull your own bootstraps up. And we should help, too. I do not think California should be left to die on the vine out there, so to speak.

California, after all, if it were a country, it would be the seventh most powerful country in the world. It is huge in economics for this country, and every State of the Union is dependent upon good economic health in the State of California. But I think it is grossly unfair for any of my colleagues to stand up here and make it sound like it is everybody’s fault but California’s, and that everybody ought to pitch in but California, and that California has been abused here and California has been abused there.

There are a lot of good minds in California, and a lot of those people will say, you know, we have to have conservation, number one; and, number two, we have got to have power plants.

The fact is we need electricity in our everyday lives. We need oil. We need gas. We need it in a balanced fashion. And, to California’s credit, although in many cases they may have gone overboard, in many cases California has been the leading State in demanding that the energy production be clean production, in demanding that we have higher efficiencies, and, to California’s credit, just here in the last month or 2 months, California is responding to conservation. My understanding is their conservation has resulted in about 3 percent in the decrease in demand for energy that that State is having.

So, the only reason I am making my comments, which are a little off the subject of which I wanted to talk about this evening, water, although when we talk about water, we are going to talk about energy and the renewable energy of water and its resource, my purpose in commenting is I just think somebody has to stand up here when some of my colleagues take this microphone and talk about “poor old California” and how it is everybody else’s fault.

You know, California, what you try to do, I will tell you what got California in this mess. They had a new theory of deregulation, and they went out to the customers in California and said, well, who cares what happens, no matter what happens out here in the market. We will buy on the spot market, and, regardless of what happens, the average will always allow us, even though it goes up and down, the average will always allow you to be sold power at the same price. Something for nothing. That is exactly what they promised, something for nothing.

For a little while it worked. Forty-nine other States did not adopt that policy. Forty-nine other States did not think they could get something for nothing. Forty-nine other States allowed power production to be built in their State. Forty-nine other States allowed electrical transmission lines. Forty-nine other States allowed natural gas transmission lines. But California thought they discovered something new, and that is by denial, by guaranteeing flat rates, and by shoving the obligations on the other 49 States, they thought they could sail through this, and they have not been able to.

Now, what is happening out there, I think that the Governor finally, I notice a couple of weeks ago he went over and cut the ribbon for a new power generation facility. Finally they are going to allow some generation to be built in that State. Finally this “not in my backyard” is going to be adjusted, not eliminated, because I do not think it should be put in every backyard, but it is going to be adjusted, and California is going to get back on its feet.

I do not think California is in for the kind of crisis that some people on this floor think it is going to be in for. It has been a good lesson not just for the State of California, but for all 50 States, that, look, we need to plan for our future. We have an obligation to have some kind of vision into the future, to talk about what the energy needs are not only of today’s generation, but what we can do for energy for tomorrow’s generation, and that means serious discussions on alternative energy, although, as you know right now, do not be led down the path that alternative energy today is the answer.

If you took all the alternative energy in the world, all of the alternative energy in the world, and devoted every bit of it to the United States, it only supplies 3 percent of our needs.

So do not exaggerate what alternative energy can do for us today. But we should focus on what alternative energy can do for us tomorrow. All 50 States should be looking forward to the future. What happened in California was a warning shot to the entire Nation, and that is, we need to have an energy policy. That is exactly what has been missing here in the last few years. During the Clinton administration we had zero energy policy.

I am very interested, by the way, to read the newspapers. I cannot find a newspaper, and maybe there is one out there, maybe the Wall Street Journal, but I cannot find much coverage or any kind of criticism of the Clinton administration for not having an energy policy for the last 8 years. But we can pick up any newspaper on a daily basis and see criticism against the current administration because they are trying to develop an energy policy.

We need to put all of these things on the table. We need to discuss and debate and analyze exactly what it is that we have put on that table. We need to add things or take things off. But in the end we need a product that is called an energy policy that will allow California’s problems belong to the future of this country, that will allow us to avoid the very kind of crisis that California got into, that will allow us less dependency on foreign oil.

But we will not get that without some type of policy, and we will not come to that policy without some kind of debate. But instead, they are criticizing the debate; instead they are criticizing the administration in trying to put an energy policy together to put some ideas on the table and let us have discussions on this floor. Do not continuously, colleagues, come to this floor and criticize. Everybody is to blame for California. Do not come to this floor, colleagues, and try and let all of us believe that the answer to this, the sole answer to this, is alternative energy or more conservation. All of those factors have to come together for the answer that we need.

As much as you want to deny it, the fact is we need oil. We need oil. We need more electrical generation. I think we are going to be responsive to that. In fact, in the rest of the Nation, in the other 49 States we are going to have a number of States that will have an electrical glut in about a year. Part of the problem is we do not have the electrical transmission lines to move that electricity. But my point is this, and that is that if it is unfair for my good colleague from the State of California to speak at this microphone and act as if in California’s problems belong to the energy companies in the other 49 States. This was a problem that was brought upon themselves. It is a problem that all of us should help them get out of, but they have got to lead. They have got to have a little self-help. They have got to pull themselves up by their own bootstraps. And for the rest of us, colleagues, we have to sit down and work with the administration and come up with an energy policy that gives us hope for the future.

Let me move from that subject to another subject. A subject that is near and dear to my heart. It is going to be a boring subject to my colleagues. I
know that many of you will probably find yourself snoring or not find this of particular interest, because it is about water.

Water is one of the most wonderful things of our life. It is one of the more wonderful creations of God, if one believes in God, which I do. It is something that obviously we all know sustains life. It sustains a number of different factors in life.

Water is pretty boring. Why? Because we have been blessed in most cases with plenty of water. As long as water runs out of the faucet, as long as the toilet flushes, as long as there is drinking water out of the sink it is not such a big issue. It is when it stops that all of the sudden it becomes a big issue.

Just the same as energy, I think we need to have a vision for water in the future. Water is the lifeblood that enables generations and generations of people that have preceded us, we have seen vision for water. We have seen different types of utilizations of water and different planning for water for future generations. I think in order for us to continue that kind of vision, we need to understand what water is about and what it has that is so valuable to our everyday lives.

So I thought I would start out and visit just a little about the importance of our water.

Let me say, first of all, in the State capital, my district is obviously in Colorado, my district is the highest district in the Nation, so I am at the highest elevation in the Nation. Up in my district, it snows year-round up top of those mountain peaks. It is cold up there. It gets high. That is where a lot of this Nation’s water comes from, are off the mountain peaks in my congressional district. So I think I know a little about water.

In our State capital of the State of Colorado, if any of my colleagues ever have an opportunity to go visit, go take a look at it. It is a beautiful building to start off with, but it has a number of different murals throughout the capitol building. Do you know what you see in every mural in the State capitol building in Colorado? Somewhere in that mural, you will see water, because water is the lifeblood in the West. Water is the lifeblood everywhere; but in the West, we are in a unique part of this Nation. There is a distinct difference between the eastern United States and the western United States.

Mr. Speaker, one-half of the Nation is blessed with a lot of water. In fact, in the eastern United States, you see lawsuits or disagreements about: hey, put that water on my neighbor’s land. I do not want that water. In the West, the suits are just the opposite. In the West, there are range wars fought, not only over sheep and cattle, but over water. They say water out there in the West does run like blood, and it is fought over with blood, and that it is as valuable as blood. That is the importance of water in the West; and there is a distinct difference in the eastern United States and the western United States.

But in the State capital there in Colorado, there is this language: “Here is a land where life is written in Water. The West is where the Water was and is Father and Son of old Mother and Daughter following Rivers up amenities of Range and Desert, thirsting the Sundown ever crossing a hill to climb a hill still Drier, naming tonight a City by some River a different Name from last night’s camping Fire. Look to the Green within the Mountain cup; Look to the Prairie parched for Water lack; Look to the Sun that pulls the Oceans up; Look to the Cloud that gives the oceans back. Look to your Heart and may your Wisdom grow to power in peace of a Snow.” That is Thomas Hornsby Ferril.

That is a saying in our capitol. That is why water is so critical.

Let us look over a few statistics that are important. First of all, the inter-glacial stream flow in the West is 3 percent of the Nation’s water. If we look at all of the water in the world, all of the water in the world, 97 percent of the water is drinking water; 97 percent. So only 3 percent of the water we have in the world is drinking-type of water, is nonsalt water, is clear water. And of the remaining 3 percent, if we took 75 percent of that 3 percent, that is all tied up in the ice caps in the polar ice caps. So when we take a look at the amount of water worldwide, without the technological advances that perhaps the future will bring us for salinity and desalinization, we find that there is not really a large amount of water that we can use out of that big pot of water out there.

When we look at our country, we can see that stream flow in the United States; and as I said earlier, there is a difference between the eastern United States and the western United States. It is not in the western United States. So we have 73 percent of the stream flow in the United States is in the eastern United States. It is not in the western United States. So we have 73 percent in the East, and then in the Pacific Northwest we have another 12 percent, and then the rest of the West, which makes up over half of the Nation. But in order for us to continue that kind of vision, we need to understand that we have in the West, they are totally dependent in order for us to continue that kind of vision, we need to store our water in the West, because when we do have a lot of water, we do have a lot of water during one period of time generally, and that is called spring runoff. When the high shows come into the mountains in the wintertime and it accumulates and accumulates and accumulates, and then in the springtime, when the flowers start to pop up, everything starts to green, the snow starts to melt, and very rapidly, and for about 30 to 90 days, for about 30 to 90 days, really quickly from 30 to 60 and all the water we need in the West. It is called the spring runoff. We have all the water we need. But the problem is, for the balance of the year, we do not. That is in part one of the reasons we need to store our water in the West, why we need to have dams in the West.

Now, in the East there are some radical environmental organizations, Earth First and some of the groups like that. Frankly, the national Sierra Club, which has never supported a water storage project in the history of that organization, they would like to make people in the East believe that in the West, a dam is an abuse of the environment, that these dams are nothing but atrocious toys for construction companies. We are totally dependent in the West.

Mr. Speaker, any family or friends that we have in the West, they are totally dependent on our capability to use our water. By the way, you know when the first dam was that we could find on the Colorado River? One thousand years ago. One thousand years ago the Anasazi Indians down at Mesa...
What is the key ingredient of water? It is the most beautiful aspect of water. But what uses the most water. But what is food takes, because growing food is putting all of that water into the shop-

day we will have to put 20 more gallons and seven, so say six more gallons for

flushing the toilet for one's own per-

we would use every day. The average person uses two gallons to drink and cook in, two gallons of water.

Imagine, at the grocery store, we all have an idea what a gallon of milk jug looks like. Two of those are necessary just for the drinking and cooking. For flushing the toilet for one's own personal use, we need about five to seven of those gallons of water.

We have the grocery cart. We have two gallons for drinking and cooking. Now we have to put six, between five and seven, so say six more gallons for the use of the toilet. If we do wash that day we will have to put 20 more gallons into the shopping cart.

Now it is time for a second shopping cart. If we use the dishwasher that day, we will need 25 more gallons into that shopping cart. Then, if we take a shower because we sweated so much from putting all of that water into the shopping cart, it is another nine gallons.

Now, take a look at what growing food takes, because growing food is what uses the most water. But what is the most beautiful aspect of water? What is the key ingredient of water? It is a renewable resource. One person's waste is another person's water. I remember when I was a child, I remember when I was kilometers of years, a period of time, the Anasazi goes out, we think the reason they be-

we will need 25 more gallons into that

take a look and say, gosh, this ditch provides for this spring, which is 10 miles away, and this aquifer, which has been under the ground for thousands of years, it produced to this aquifer which connects over here and pops up in a spring somewhere. Those are the kinds of things that this future generation will be able to see that we cannot see today.

But what we do know today is that water is, number one, renewable. It is not like gasoline, where we use a gal-

I thought, bad? This person is prob-

We could not have a lot of agriculture in the West if we did not have the water storage to provide for it.

In fact, what we would do is have very, very little agriculture in the West, very little way to sustain life in the West. The same thing with the Anasazi 1,000 years ago. When they ran out of the capability to have water for storage, the storage would not hold enough for them, because they became extinct. That is why water is so important. That is why, when we look at a dam, we should look at what all it provides.

Take a look at agriculture. This is amazing. One loaf of bread, I will bet Members of the House, it would be a loaf of bread, from the time we cultivate the soil to raise the wheat and to be able to process the wheat, to be able to turn it into a loaf of bread, we will have gone through 150 gallons of water, 150 gal-

The reason why we have solar water pumps in some areas of the world is for those people who do not have access to water.

We have to have 223 gallons of water; for one quart of milk, one quart, 223 gal-

lons; a pound of oranges, 47 gallons; a pound of potatoes, 23 gallons.

So here is what happens, just so we have a comparison, you have 50 glasses of water, 50 of these glasses of water out of, of these, how were they used? Forty-four glasses of that would be used for agriculture, for our food products, 44 of those 50 glasses. Three glasses would be used by industry, two glasses would be used by cities, and half a glass would be used in the country for rural areas. Water is critical.

Mr. Speaker, this gives us somewhat of an idea of just how important it is for all of us in our everyday life.

We should look at what all this is all about, and it is a renewable resource. One person's waste is another person's water.
foot of water on an acre of land for 1 year. 4,540,000 acre feet right out of the Colorado River.

Up here off the Yampa River in the green, 1,576,000. Every point that we see here, here is the South Platte that goes into Nebraska, almost 400,000 acre feet of water. Down here on the Arkansas River, 135,000. 525,000 in the Animas, 700,000 acre feet. Here, of course, is the mighty Colorado.

This chart right here, Mr. Speaker, gives us an idea of the State of Colorado, which is a critical State for the West. Of all of the States in the West, I cannot think of any State that is more important for the water supply of the West. Remember, this is not just water for agriculture but it is water for hydropower, hydroelectric, water at Lake Mead or Lake Powell, Glen Canyon or the Hoover Dam, water for recreation, and so forth. Here Colorado is the key State because of its high elevation, because of its snowfall, which provides the flow of water.

Now, out here we have the Gulf of California, but in actuality most of the water that is left, when it enters Mexico near Baja, it is used by the country of Mexico.

It is interesting that when the Colorado River was first divided up, they divided it up into 15 million acre feet of water a year that came down the Colorado River, 15 million acre feet. So they divided it, and in about 1922 they had what they called the Colorado River Compact. That is a very important compact for the West, and probably of all the water compacts in the West, that is the most critical. It divided what we called the Upper Basin States and the Lower Basin States. The Upper Basin got 7 1/2 million acre feet, and the Lower Basin got 7 1/2 million acre feet of water every year.

But unfortunately, when those calculations were made, they were made when we had a very unusual year. We had the highest flow in any number of years at the highest record of flow. So in fact, we really do not produce 15 million acre feet of water on an average year out of the Colorado, which means that a lot of the Colorado River water is overappropriated.

Now, on top of the 15 million acre feet, here is an interesting story for us. In World War II, the United States was concerned, as was the country of Mexico, that the Japanese would try and invade the United States through the country of Mexico. So the Mexican authorities and the United States, the American authorities, got together. Mexico wanted the defense of their country. The Americans did not want the Japanese in Mexico, so the Americans agreed to supply reinforcements or troops to the country of Mexico to defend Mexico if the Japanese invaded.

The Mexican government, being the better negotiator of the two, said that we should want to keep the Japanese out of their country, and it is nice of us to protect them, but we ought to give them something for it, like 1 1/2 million acre feet of the Colorado River. So that is exactly what happened. In 1944, the United States government agreed to give the country of Mexico 1.5 million acre feet ac, 750,000 from the Lower Basin States, 750,000 from the Upper Basin States, of the surplus water. Of course, there is a dispute over “surplus,” which is going on between the Upper Basin States and Lower Basin States.

They are getting too technical right now, my comments, but suffice it to say that the Colorado River Compact is really the point I want to make here. That is what has taken one of the longest rivers of the Nation and has divided it between the States that benefit from it. This Compact supplies drinking water for about 25 million people.

One of the first people to explore, and we have all heard this name before, was John Wesley Powell. He explored, this, of course, had been discovered before by the Spanish, by the Anasazi, et cetera, et cetera, but John Wesley Powell and his party mapped and explored the Colorado River. They used wooden boats, and Mr. Speaker, I am sure some of my colleagues have rafted in Colorado. We think we have some of the best rafting, if not the best rafting, in the Nation. It is pretty scary. Imagine before those rivers were controlled by dams, before we had flood control, imagine the kind of rafting back then. They were big woodies, huge rafts, as we would see them today. That is what he went down on.

Think of the disease and unknown territory. In fact, some of them probably still believed the Earth was flat. It was a pretty challenging thing. You died at a young age if you wanted to go out and explore the West. But John Powell and his parties did exactly that. In 1869 he described the roll and boil of the rivers that pass through the treacherous passages, like the Grand Canyon, and the hard labor of the boat crews just to keep it going.

But John Wesley Powell mapped the Colorado River, and talked in his journal, in his diaries, and explained much of what he saw in the Colorado River. The result of the Colorado River, by the way, is what has provided absolute beauty, the Grand Canyon and the canyons in Utah.

Mr. Speaker, if Members have never been out to the West, go to Colorado first, and of course spend money in the Third District, but go little further West and go into Utah and see those gorgeous canyons. Go into Arizona and see exactly what this mighty river has carved over all of these hundreds and thousands of years.

Here is a good example. The Colorado River carved many of the gorges and canyons in the Colorado plateau. Dead Horse Point State Park in eastern Utah preserves the natural state of Meander Canyon, aptly named for the fantastic twists and turns the river etched into the soft sedimentary rock of the plateau.

When Members stand from this position, where my pointer is, and they look out, these are huge canyon walls. We can see where the river is from the green that goes through, that cuts through all of this. This was all cut by the Colorado River.

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It is a fabulous study, our history of this Nation and what it has provided for us. But it is also critical for the life-style of the people out there.

Now, my colleagues will find that there is focused attention on the West. Remember that almost all of the Nation’s public lands are in the Western United States. They are not in the Eastern United States. Let me very quickly kind of give a brief history on how that occurred.

When we first settled our country, most of our population was on the eastern seaboard, and this country, this United States of America, wanted to grow. But back then, to grow, you had
to buy land. And if you bought the land, the title did not mean much. If you had a deed, you had a claim that said, hey, you own the State of Colorado or you own out there in the West this chunk of land, these millions of acres, but it did not mean much. The only way that you could obtain your land after you bought it was to get out there with a six-shooter on your side and possess the land. That is where the saying came from, the old saying that “possession is nine-tenths of the law.”

That is exactly what happened that created public lands in the West and almost no public lands in the East. Why? Because our leaders in Washington, D.C. knew we needed to settle the frontier. We had gotten the Louisiana Purchase, we had gotten a number of other lands, and we needed to somehow give incentive to drive the population in the East, go west to them. Kentucky was west, or go out to Missouri and Kansas and even to eastern Colorado, 160 acres back then could provide for a family. So they gave this land to the citizens of the United States who would go out and occupy the land, or possess the land on behalf of the United States of America. And after so many years, 5 or 6 years of working that land, you would own the land.

Well, the problem was when they got to the Colorado Rockies, guess what happened? One hundred sixty acres did not even feed a cow. So they came back to Washington and said people are going west but when they hit the mountains they are going around trying to figure a way to get to the ocean. So somebody said maybe we should give them an equivalent amount of land. We give 160 acres in Kansas or even in eastern Colorado, let us give them what it would take, the equivalent amount of land, let us say 3,000 acres in the mountains. Somebody said no, no, we cannot politically do that. There is no way we could give out 3,000 acres to a particular individual, to a particular valley, to a particular group. So somebody came up with the idea, well, let us just go ahead in the west and let us set the government go ahead and hold the title in our name, the government’s name, and let the people use the land. Let us have a concept called multiple use, “a land of many uses.”

Let us have the West be a land of many uses. That is how we can get around that. We can get people to settle there. We will say, look, you do not get to put the land in your name, but you get to use it for yourself.

Now, in recent times, that has been misinterpreted in many cases by some of the more extreme environmental radicals in the country. They say, look, the land in the West was intended to be put aside for all future generations. While we are comfortable here in the East, they should set that land, those public lands in the West, aside. And they are doing the same kind of thing for the water.

Clearly, we have to have a balance. And thank goodness we had somebody like Theodore Roosevelt, who took a look at Yellowstone and with awe and a great deal of thought and, frankly, a great deal of brilliance put that into a national park. We have wonderful national parks on those public lands. We are pretty proud of those public lands.

My district has huge amounts of public lands. But we have to be able to utilize those public lands, and it is the same thing with our rivers.

We have rivers, Weams in the West. My point in speaking tonight is not to just have my colleagues walk out of here with some book knowledge on the topic of water, but to understand the difference between the Western United States and the Eastern United States when it comes to water and the necessity of water resources and the necessity to store water and the necessity to use hydropower.

By the way, in all of our discussions, especially of the last few months, when we have had debates and so on about the energy crisis, remember the cleanest energy producer out there is water. We do not need fuel to put water into a hydroelectric facility. All we do is take the energy of the water as it drops, turn a turbine, and we create electricity and then we can move the electricity.

My real focus here this evening in front of my colleagues, especially those in my area of the nation, is to remember that life is different in the West. Sure, we are all American citizens and we are not saying we are being picked upon but we are saying there is a difference. There is a difference between night and day. A part of it is caused by the fact that most of the public lands are in the West. They are not here in the East. It is very easy, colleagues, to put regulations on us in the West, on public lands, because those in the East feel no pain. The East does not have any public lands. Well, there are the Appalachians, and a chunk down there in the Everglades, but, in essence, when we talk about public lands in the East, we are talking about the local courthouse or the property around the courthouse.

When we talk about lands in the West, we are talking about 88 percent of some of our States, like Alaska. In my State alone, in my district alone, now get ahold of this, in my district I have over 22 million acres of public lands. And there is water on there. And that water is absolutely essential, one, for diversion, and, two, for the protection of the environment that we have.

But my focus here this evening is that I hope, as my colleagues leave and that as I conclude my remarks, that everybody understands that water is in the West; that we are arid out there in the West. We have over half of the Nation’s land in the Western United States, over half of it, and we have 14 percent of the water.

That means that I think my colleagues have to approach us with a little more open mind. When we talk about water storage projects in the West, when we are trying to stop a bill, for example, backed by the national Sierra Club, that we understand their number one goal is to take down Lake Powell. Now, Lake Powell and Lake Meade, those dams provide 80 percent of the water storage for the West, yet the national Sierra Club wants to take it down. Lake Powell is the second largest recreational facility in the West, despite the hydropower that it produces, the amount of water it stores for us out there. So, colleagues, when the national Sierra Club comes and talks to you and wants you to sign on to taking down Lake Powell, please, please understand that life in the West, when it comes to water, when it comes to public lands is different than back here. Listen to our side of the story before you sign on to any of these bills that take fairly dramatic steps not in your area of the Nation but in our area of the Nation.

But my focus here this evening is that I hope, as my colleagues leave and that as I conclude my remarks, that every-
water project, which was promised to the Native Americans 30 or 40 years ago. They have waited for water and water and water out there. This is a Native American Water Project. This is a National Water Project. What we have in the West, all we have to do is take water from Lake Powell, and you will shut down a couple of dams.

You will have a lot of it. It rains all the time. In the Eastern United States it would be very difficult to do, to take water from the White River National Forest. And there used to be a sign under that that said, “you are now entering the National Forest and so on, if any of my colleagues have ever been out to the White River National Forest. And there used to be a sign under that that said, “a land of many uses.” A land of many uses.

Now we are seeing groups like the national Sierra Club or Earth First or something like, “you are now entering a land of many uses.” A land of many uses. I have a district larger than the Eastern United States. There are vast quantities of public lands in the West.

The concept of multiple use, a land of many uses, is how I grew up. When you would enter the government lands, which we are completely surrounded in my district, I have over 100 communities, I have a district larger than the State of Florida, and every community except one is completely surrounded by public lands, and when we enter the national forest and so on, if any of my colleagues have ever been out to the national parks or public lands, it says something like, “you are now entering the White River National Forest. And there used to be a sign under that that said, “a land of many uses.” A land of many uses.

Now we are seeing groups like the national Sierra Club or Earth First or more radical environmental groups coming out and saying they want to take that sign, “the land of many uses,” they want to take it off and put on a sign that says “no trespassing.” And it is the same thing with our water. We have a lot of water out of the West is to cut off their water. And it is not complicated. In the Eastern United States it would be very complicated to shut off the water. You have a lot of it. It rains all the time. In the West, all we have to do is take down a couple of dams.

Go ahead, let the national Sierra Club take down Lake Powell. You take down Lake Powell, and you will shut off a large portion of the west. You would take water, the human population, and, by the way, a great deal of vegetation and animal population out there because we have been able to utilize that water and store that water so we can use it beyond the spring runoff. So keep in mind in the west life is written in water.

Let me use my final concluding remarks on a topic that is obviously totally unrelated, but I want to go back to my remarks at the beginning of this and that is on this energy thing. By the way, I heard some comments earlier today that we have no free market in the energy, that we need to have the government run the energy business in this country. Nothing would be worse than inviting the government into our front doors to begin running our energy companies for us. Nothing would be worse than allowing the government to interfere in the private marketplace.

Now, I am not speaking about stopping antitrust, where intercession is necessary, I am speaking about what Adam Smith, and he is right, a monopoly is a dangerous tool to management. But to interfere and to actually become almost socialistic like, where we would have the government supply the power and the transmission, and we would have the government guarantee it will all come at a reasonable price, we should not buy into this concept that the government is going to be able to give us something for nothing.

Take a look, for example, at the government’s intercession in lots of other different programs. In almost every case, when the government takes over or begins to think that it can do better than the private marketplace, we end up with lots of regulation, we end up with subsidies, and we never get something for nothing. This energy is a problem that we all have to work through.

The way we work through it is we put several components together. One of those critical components is conservation. Now, not every citizen can go out and find natural gas, not every citizen is going to be able to build a transmission line out there, and not every citizen can build a generation plant, but one thing that every citizen in our Nation can do is to help conserve. And if we want to keep the government out of our lives, we only need to help conserve energy. Because the more energy that we waste, the more temptation there is to have the government come in as a quick fix, as some kind of waving of the magic wand that the government is going to be able to deliver to us any kind of product at a cheaper price. The private marketplace does pretty good if we can all help.

So to conclude this portion of my remarks, let me say that I think it is incumbent upon every citizen in this country, and I speak to my colleagues, that we have to go out into our districts and encourage our constituents. Because if there is one thing that every citizen in this country can do to help alleviate the energy crisis, that exists primarily in California but is a warning shot to the rest of the Nation, it is to conserve.

And we can all do it by simply shutting off our lights, changing our car oil when the owner’s manual says it instead of when the lube market tells you to do it. I am optimistic about future energy of this country. Slowly but surely we are building an energy policy, and conservation is going to be an important part of it. You cannot conserve your way out of the situation that we are in.

Alternative energy is an important part, but do not overplay it. As I said earlier, if you took all of the alternative energy in the world and delivered it all to the United States, it would only supply 3 percent. Certainly this young generation behind us, their bright minds will be able to make that much, much larger because they will find ways to take energy out of water.

The first and most immediate thing we can do is come up with an energy policy as a government. We can urge our constituents to conserve. But the worst thing we can do is propose that the government put on price controls, that they take over industries, that they seize power plants and the government becomes your local utility. It would be the most inefficient operation in the history of our government. Do not let them do it. You cannot get something for nothing out of this government. If it is the government running it, you usually pay a higher price than if you as a community can have the private sector with checks and balances. I have spoken primarily about energy, about water.

Mr. Speaker, one last shot on water. This young generation behind us, their bright minds will be able to make that much, much larger because they will find ways to take energy out of water.

To conclude this portion of my remarks, let me say that I think it is incumbent upon every citizen in this country, and I speak to my colleagues, that we have to go out into our districts and encourage our constituents. Because if there is one thing that every citizen in this country can do to help alleviate the energy crisis, that exists primarily in California but is a warning shot to the rest of the Nation, it is to conserve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REHBERG). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, often times we act on perceptions rather