

the "Orange Revolution." The Ukrainian Supreme Court agreed and called for new elections. Our six member Congressional delegation added our voices for a free and fair revote in the Presidential elections to be held December 26 in that nation of nearly 50 million people.

My first journey to Ukraine inspired a three-decade long quest that now explodes in the hearts of the people of Ukraine. The momentum of the opposition party in Ukraine is with the young. They crowded into the streets of Kiev. They blazed a trail on email. They are building a new future for Ukraine and this election cycle has been a transformational moment for them.

Ukraine was host to thousands of election observers from around the world, and from within Ukraine, with the purpose of preventing the abuses that characterized the earlier elections, particularly manipulation of mobile voting stations and absentee voting. Laws had been passed in parliament to avoid these pitfalls. However, election observers were critical in assuring a fair vote.

I continue to ponder how much Ukraine has changed in my lifetime. When I first drove into Ukraine in 1973, there were no other cars on the road other than military vehicles. Today, though far from an open society, Ukraine is making major strides toward developing liberty's institutions. The impact of this election in inspiring the next generation of Ukraine's youth cannot be underestimated. There is enormous fervor among the young people. Their free assembly is allowed in many regions of the nation.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus, I look forward to building strong ties between our nations. Just a few weeks ago, the Congress held a videoconference with members of the Ukrainian parliament, the Rada. As part of our 1999 agreement, we will continue to hold these discussions, both in person and via videoconference. Our relationship has just begun to blossom. I am very hopeful for Ukraine and her people.

RANCHO CORRAL DE TIERRA
GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL
RECREATION AREA BOUNDARY
ADJUSTMENT ACT—H.R. 296

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce important legislation to expand the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) Boundary Adjustment Act, H.R. 296. This legislation will protect and preserve an extraordinary landscape and make a valuable addition to the National Park System at a fraction of the cost to the Federal government.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area is a national treasure preserving historic sites and open space as well as providing recreation in the midst of a densely populated urban area. It is one of our nation's most heavily used national parks. H.R. 296 would

adjust the boundary of the GGNRA to permit the inclusion of lands directly adjacent to existing parkland as well as nearby lands along the Pacific Ocean. The upper parcels of land offer spectacular vistas, sweeping coastal and bay views and stunning headland scenery. Including these lands would also protect the important habitats of several species of rare or endangered plants and animals.

The addition of 4,700 new acres to the GGNRA will be accessible to more than 6 million people who live within an hour's drive of the park and will provide national park programs and experiences to millions of national and international visitors. An expansive tract of 4,076 acres known as Rancho Corral de Tierra includes the dramatic ascent of Montara Mountain from the sea, 2,000 feet in just over 1 mile. It is a spectacular sight not duplicated anywhere else in the Park and in few other places on the California coast.

With this legislation, Rancho Corral de Tierra will be preserved through a tripartite partnership between the National Park Service, California State Parks and the Peninsula Open Space Trust. For the Rancho Corral de Tierra property, we will seek 50 percent of the acquisition costs from the federal government and 50 percent through state and private contributions. The other properties will be donated by the State of California.

The current landowner of the Rancho Corral de Tierra is the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). They purchased the entire Rancho Corral de Tierra site for \$29.75 million to save the site from development and to preserve this important natural area. POST is a local land-conservancy trust in the San Francisco Bay Area and has a remarkable track record. POST has offered to donate significant funds towards the federal acquisition of the Rancho Corral de Tierra property through private contributions. The dedicated foresight and tireless efforts of POST led by its President Audrey Rust had enabled us to bring this legacy to our National Park.

My legislation enjoys strong local support. The Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore Citizens Advisory Commission adopted a resolution endorsing this legislation and supporting the addition of these areas into the GGNRA after holding a public hearing and receiving public comment from local residents. The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution supporting enactment of this legislation. The legislation has the strong support of local environmental advocacy and preservation groups. The proposed additions were studied by POST in accordance with National Park Service criteria and in consultation with National Park Service staff. The study found that the land meets the criteria for additions to units of the National Park Service. The study found that the properties would preserve significant natural, scenic and recreational resources that are equal to or are unparalleled in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Preserving our country's unique natural areas is one of our highest national priorities, and it is one of my highest priorities as a Member of Congress. We must save these unique and rare areas for our children and grandchildren today or they will be lost forever. Adding these new lands to the GGNRA

will provide greater recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy and will protect these fragile natural areas from encroaching development or other inappropriate uses which would destroy the scenic beauty and natural character of this key part of the California coast.

I first introduced this legislation in the 107th Congress. Throughout that Congress and during the subsequent 108th Congress, significant progress has been made on this bill. Concerns were raised and have been thoroughly addressed throughout its consideration. I am hopeful now that the House will expeditiously move this bill to enactment. I am pleased once again to be joined by Senator FEINSTEIN in introducing similar legislation in the Senate. Her leadership and support on this issue as a member of the Senate Energy Committee has been invaluable to this bill's progress. I am also proud to be joined by many members of the Bay Area Congressional delegation in their continued support of this bill, including Ms. PELOSI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. LEE, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. STARK, Mrs. WOOLSEY, Mr. HONDA.

I strongly urge my colleagues' consideration and support of the Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the following vote on Thursday, January 6, 2005, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall Vote 7: I would have voted "Nay" on agreeing to the objection to the certification of the Ohio electoral votes. While I do not protest the outcome of the Ohio electoral votes, irregularities in the 2000 and 2004 elections, especially in Florida and Ohio, make it clear that we need to do a lot more to give voters confidence that every vote is accurately counted. The 2004 State of Washington gubernatorial race shows how narrow the outcome of a race can be even with millions of votes cast. The 109th Congress must act to ensure that no future elections are mired in controversy and that the United States provides a clear and strong example of democracy.

COMMENDING GARY FRONTIERS
SERVICE CLUB

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely