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DAVID MEYER, Editor-In-Chief, BUSINESS TRAVEL NEWS.

JOSEPH REDLING, Senior Vice President, SIX FLAGS THEME PARKS.

ROBERT H. ROSSEAU, President & CEO, DINERS CLUB.

GARY L. SAUNDERS, Chairman & CEO, SAUNDERS HOTEL GROUP.

JOHN L. SHARPE, President & COO, FOUR SEASONS REGENT HOTELS & RESORTS.

TRAVIS L. TANNER, Co-President & CEO, CARLSON WAGONLIT TRAVEL.

MARIANNE C. TOLDALAGI, Vice President, Product Management, AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES, INC.

CHRIS WHITE, Chairman, KRISAM GROUP/PREMIER PROPERTIES.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to Members' attention a matter of importance regarding the Endangered Species Act [ESA]. We all are aware of the injustices done to private property owners because of the overreaching authority of the ESA.

For the past 3 years, northern California timber businesses and workers have experienced a substantial hardship as the result of President Clinton's option 9 initiative. Federal agencies have used the ESA to literally shut down healthy and productive timberlands based on false assumptions and dubious science.

The administration's option 9 initiative is founded on the belief that owls can only survive in old growth forests. However, recent studies have found that this in fact is not the case. One of my constituents, Robert Barnum, a successful businessman, wrote me on this subject.

Mr. Barnum specifically addresses the issue of spotted owl survival in second growth habitat. His experiences and those of other timber companies in the Northwest continue to prove that the assumptions of option 9 are false and in need of a massive overhaul in order to avoid further damage to a very important west coast industry.

I cannot express enough my frustration with Federal officials who clearly abuse the public trust and deliberately harm hard-working Americans because of their political and social beliefs. The ESA has become the vehicle for zealous environmentalists to impose their political agenda outside of the original intent of the legislation. That is why it is imperative that H.R. 2275 should become law.

Substantial progress has been made in the past 11 months. The work of the ESA task force has been indispensable in exposing the gross abuses of the ESA and pursuing necessary reforms to ensure this law is properly enforced.

I think my colleagues will find Mr. Barnum's letter of special interest.

BARNUM TIMBER CO.,

Eureka, CA, November 2, 1995.

Hon. FRANK RIGGS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR FRANK: I have been following with interest the legislation introduced recently to rewrite the Endangered Species Act, known as H.R. 2275. I understand that you are co-sponsor of the Endangered Species and Conservation and Management Act.

I am writing to let you know that I very much appreciate your support of this legislation. Being in the timber business and owning a lot of property in the northern part of your district, we have to deal with the Endangered Species Act on a daily basis. In my personal dealings with regulators, and also from reports received from our Foresters in pursuit of their work, it has become apparent to me that for many environmental extremists, the Endangered Species Act is a ploy or subterfuge to achieve ulterior objectives, namely government control over private property and prohibitions on development of property.

You may already know about the case of the spotted owl. From information I have obtained first hand and through the observa-

tion of my foresters, it is clear that the listing of the spotted owl was scientifically unsupported. You will recall that the original justification was based upon "scientific" findings that the owl would survive only in the old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest. Subsequent studies in Northern California have shown that the owl not only survived, but its population in second growth forests exceeds that found in the old growth forests of Oregon and Washington. One might ask, then, if they do better in the second growth forests than they do in the old growth forests, and if you want to preserve the owls, then should you cut your old growth forests?

We have had instances in our timbering operations where we have not been allowed to cut some timber because of the presence of a spotted owl nest within the proposed cut area. Consequently we were forced to log another area on the opposite side of the valley but contiguous. After doing so, we found out two years later that the owl that was in the forested area had now moved over to the area that was cut and had set up residences there. The reason for the owl moving over is that there is a greater food supply of wood rats and rodents in the cut over area than there is in the old growth forest. We also find that the owls do very well nesting and living in hardwood forests as distinguished from the conifer forests.

To put all of the foregoing in dollars and cents, last year we spent over \$40,000 in "hooting" for owls as required by the law. This is an ongoing annual expense; and for a small company like ourselves, it is a heavy burden.

As you probably know, the California Forestry Association petitioned to make all allowances for the proliferation of the spotted owl in the second growth forests of California under the Endangered Species Act. They were unsuccessful with that petition. The point of writing this letter to you, is to give the foregoing as an example of how environmental extremists can use the Endangered Species Act in devious ways to achieve objectives not apparent in the expressed intent of the legislation.

Pat and I happened to see you on television the other night. We were quite pleased and proud to see you on the rostrum of the House of Representatives wielding the gavel. We appreciate and support the fine job you are doing representing our North Coast district.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

C. ROBERT BARNUM.

THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Youth Development Community Block Grant of 1995 for Representatives SUSAN MOLINARI, DONALD PAYNE, JIM TALENT, and myself. This legislation will consolidate and coordinate a number of existing Federal programs to provide local communities with the resources and the authority to develop effective youth development programs for their young people.

The legislation achieves this goal through a two-pronged approach. First, it consolidates the resources previously authorized through 19 Federal programs that were often duplicative, overlapping, and unfamiliar to the general

public. Second, instead of creating more one-size-fits-all programs at the national level, this legislation recognizes that creative individuals and groups at the local level are best suited and best informed to assess the problems of young people in their community and develop strategies and programs for them.

This initiative promotes positive youth development by supporting preventive programs that help our youth learn the values and life skills needed to succeed. Because we focus

on community-based prevention programs, over 90 percent of the money authorized here will go directly to local communities.

The Youth Development Community block grant is endorsed by a broad range of public and private organizations. Local youth service groups and substance abuse prevention providers support this legislation, as do respected organizations such as the Salvation Army, Big Sisters and Big Brothers of America, and the Boys Clubs and Girls Clubs of America.

The Youth Development Community block grant, introduced on the Senate side by Chairman NANCY LANDON KASSEBAUM of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, is based on the proven principles of successful program delivery—local control, flexibility, coordination, and accountability. The legislation builds on the strength, credibility and expertise of community-based organizations, and that will be the essence of its success.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily

Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, 1995, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 20

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on S. 594, to provide for the administration of certain Presidio properties at minimal cost to the federal taxpayer.

SD-366

10:00 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

DECEMBER 21

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

10:00 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting, to consider pending committee business.

SD-226