

Whatever our views are on crime and how to deal with it, we are in agreement that the crime victim deserves respect and support from society. This is an issue that unites this country—support for victims of crime. I believe that H.R. 665 will provide crime victims and their families with this necessary protection and I therefore support its passage.

IN HONOR OF JOHN T. BRENNAN
WHO WAS RECOGNIZED BY IRELAND 32

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John T. Brennan who was being honored by Ireland 32 at a dinner. He has been and continues to be an outstanding citizen. As fire chief of the Bayonne Fire Department he has served his community with much bravery and determination.

Mr. Brennan is the son of two Irish immigrants, Michael and Mary Brennan. He is married to the former Meg Connolly with whom he raised six children. They are also the proud grandparents of 13 grandchildren. Mr. Brennan joined the Bayonne Fire Department on December 18, 1943 and has served proudly and courageously for 45 years.

Mr. Brennan always put the lives of the people ahead of his own. His heroic deeds are hallmarks of his career. When I think of heroism I am reminded of the time that Mr. Brennan risked his life when he ran through an inferno of flames after a propane storage plant had exploded. He managed to reach the propane gas valve that was feeding the fire while his firefighters were using high powered hoses to water him down.

Mr. Brennan was the youngest firefighter, at the age of 38, to be named fire chief in Bayonne and in the State of New Jersey. In February 1974 he was named Irishman of the Year for the 12th annual Hudson County St. Patrick's Day Parade in Jersey City. Also he received a service award for making it possible to speedily apprehend criminals by the Bayonne Police Department.

Mr. Brennan has been a faithful member of St. Vincent's Parish and a member of the 3d and 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus. He is also a member of several associations such as the New Jersey Paid Fire Chiefs Association, the National Fire Protection Association, the Hudson County Fire Chief's Association and the New Jersey State Exempt Fireman's Association just to name a few.

Mr. Brennan has served his community with much courage and bravery. His valor and dedication is appreciated by the citizens of Bayonne. I am proud to have him as a constituent. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this great and brave man.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRE-FIGHTERS PAY FAIRNESS ACT OF 1995

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 1995

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as a dedicated member and former chairman of the fire services caucus, I am proud to introduce the Firefighters Pay Fairness Act of 1995.

Mr. Speaker, every day over 10,000 Federal firefighters around the country put their lives on the line to protect our lives and property. They work exhausting shifts and take on the greatest of physical and mental challenges. We have an obligation to properly compensate them for their work.

For far too long, our Federal firefighters have received significantly inadequate pay for their hard work. Under the present system, Federal firefighters work over 25 percent more hours a week, yet earn nearly 44 percent less per hour than the average municipal firefighter. Furthermore, the average Federal firefighter is also paid significantly less per hour than their Federal employee counterparts.

Mr. Speaker, Federal firefighters currently work an average of 72 hours, while their municipal counterparts work an average of 50 hours. Meanwhile, Federal firefighters are paid an average hourly rate of \$7.34, while the municipal firefighters earn an average of \$12.88.

I introduced this legislation to correct the inequities that exist under the present system. This is not an issue about rewarding firefighters for their hard work. Moreover, this should not be viewed as a complimentary pay raise. Rather, this is an issue surrounding fairness comparability. These firefighters work endless work days, put their lives on the line for our constituents, and deserve to have a fair and equitable pay system.

This bill does nothing more than seek fair and equal pay rates for Federal firefighters. It will employ the existing statutory provisions of the Federal general schedule pay system to compute their hourly pay. Thus, Federal firefighters will earn equal pay as compared to their Federal employee counterparts. It also seeks to pay all firefighters, including those who are not defined solely as Federal firefighters, including forestry technicians. These forestry firefighters have braved the brushfires in California and throughout the West over the past several years and thus, deserve adequate compensation.

Mr. Speaker, far too many Federal firefighters have had to work under the inequitable pay system that we presently have. Moreover, upon completion of their required training, many Federal firefighters leave for the private sector where they can earn a larger salary. Thus, this lengthy, expensive training process goes for naught when a firefighter leaves the Federal fire system. It is our duty and responsibility to both those firefighters and the people they protect and serve, to reverse the ills of this system. We should not let another day go by where our Federal firefighters are put in an unfair position as compared to other municipal firefighters and Federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join with me in support of this legislation to replace the present inequities of this pay system

with a fair, comparable pay structure for our Federal firefighters.

DEATH OF DR. RAYMOND C. BUSHLAND

HON. E de la GARZA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 1995

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, it was with the most profound regret that I learned recently of the death of my long-time colleague and dear friend, Dr. Raymond Bushland. For decades, I have had both the pleasure and privilege of working with Dr. Bushland in his capacity as a senior research scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. During his long and distinguished career, Dr. Bushland's prodigious research armed the battle against insect-borne diseases of humans, animals, and plants, thereby making a significant contribution to human health and nutrition worldwide.

The internationally acclaimed screwworm eradication program will be a lasting tribute both to him and his friend and colleague Dr. E.F. Knipling. The most successful research program in USDA's history, it was a pioneering effort among Federal and State officials, producers, and the private sector to eliminate a serious scourge.

During his 38-year career with USDA, he was the author of over 70 scientific papers on the biology and control of insects, and pioneered numerous insect research methods. Dr. Bushland was a member of several scientific societies and received many honors and awards including: the USA Typhus Commission Medal, the gold medal of the National Hide Association, the Distinguished Service Award of the Texas, and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, and Progressive Farmer magazine honored him as Man of the Year in service of southern agriculture. He was jointly recognized, with Dr. Knipling, with the Hoblitzelle National Award in 1960 and the John F. Scott Medal in 1961. Also in 1992, Dr. Knipling and Dr. Bushland were awarded the World Food Prize. The USDA Agricultural Research Service's U.S. Livestock Insects Research Laboratory in Kerrville, TX bears his name.

Our prayers and those of all who knew or worked with him are with his family and many friends during this period of mourning.

FEDS SHOULD LET STATES HANDLE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 1995

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, more and more people across this Nation are voicing their vehement opposition to the Federal Government's continued intrusion upon their individual rights. Leading this authoritarian onslaught upon the public are the cumbersome and often frivolous regulatory actions that have become part of our environmental policy. These regulations have become so pernicious that they actually prevent any sensible or rational

interpretation/implementatation of our environmental laws. This does not, however, have to be the case.

The following article by a Tucson, AZ resident, Mr. Hugh Holub, illustrates the absurdity of some of these regulations. But Mr. Holub also touches upon a key element to any prudent environmental strategy: That we must have confidence in and trust the local people to protect the environment in which they live.

The article appeared in the Tucson Citizen on January 30, 1995.

FEDS SHOULD LET STATES HANDLE
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

(By Hugh Holub)

The rapidly spreading revolt against federal environmental regulation being led by state governors such as Fife Symington is not an attempt to degrade our environment.

State and local governments are seeking the opportunity to prioritize risks so limited financial resources can be applied to obtain the maximum public benefit, and to fashion their own ways to accomplish environmental goals without being told how to do it by Washington.

The greatest threat to our environment today is not the Republican Congress, or state governors fed up with unfunded federal mandates. The greatest threat is the federal regulatory system itself, which has lost sight of the relationship between cause and effect, which bases regulatory mandates on junk science, which ignores the human and economic consequences of regulatory mandates, and which increasingly demands specific actions that strain the credibility and pocketbooks of the public.

The Endangered Species Act is probably the most controversial expression of federal power yet devised in Washington. Recently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed the listing of the pygmy owl as an endangered species, and proposed various urban rivers in Phoenix and Tucson as "habitat recovery areas."

Included as a "habitat recovery" area in Tucson is the Santa Cruz River flood plain from the I-19 bridge to the Avra Valley Road bridge. What this means is that federal mandates will follow, if the pygmy owl is listed, to prevent groundwater pumping in Phoenix and Tucson and the restoration of riparian forests along the Salt and Santa Cruz Rivers.

Since the time of the Hohokam Indians, there probably hasn't been a riparian area along the Salt and Santa Cruz rivers through Phoenix and Tucson because the rivers were diverted for agricultural uses and the flood plains were irrigated. However, since these rivers theoretically could become habitats for the owls, the federal government claims the authority to make us re-create habitat for the owls, notwithstanding the absurdity of the goal, and the cost.

It is also very arguable that there is no credible scientific evidence that pygmy owls normally lived in these areas, at least according to the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Since the listing argument is based on the need for forests to provide nesting sites for

the owls, it is conveniently ignored that there are more trees on the valley floors of the Salt River valley and the Santa Cruz River valley today than since the end of the last ice age. However, these trees are on residential lots, in city parks, and around commercial and industrial properties and thus aren't "natural."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has, by their interpretation of the Endangered Species Act, the power to play God, and restore habitats for what they believe to be endangered. There is obviously a not so hidden agenda with the pygmy owl listing, as the target really is to usurp state water law.

One of the elements of the habitat recovery program is the limitation of groundwater pumping in the valleys of the Salt and Santa Cruz rivers. All of this conveniently ignores—at least in the Tucson area—recent changes to Pima County's flood control laws to protect riparian areas, and serious proposals to restore river flows with CAP water for recharge projects.

According to one of the advocates of the listing of the pygmy owl, protecting this owl under the Endangered Species Act is the last, best chance to save the owl. Like the state and local governments can't qqqdo more and better to restore riparian areas without having the Endangered Species Act used as a club to beat Arizona's management of water into submission.

The message to be gleaned from the growing conflict over federal environmental regulation is that while the overwhelming majority of Americans support protection of the environment, we do not want to sacrifice our homes and our jobs to federal environmental mandates.

We want a balance—a win-win solution. We want environmental protection and economic prosperity. We haven't been able to get that from the federal level of government.

Besides being governor of the state of Arizona, Fife Symington is also a serious trout fisherman. He shares a brotherhood and sisterhood of people who really go out into the environment, and who appreciate the spiritual value wild places give us.

Symington is every bit as much an environmentalist as any federal official. The salient difference, which is the bedrock of the revolution that is growing in America today, is that Fife and a lot of people such as him—Republican and Democrat—have confidence in local people being able to protect the environments they live in and depend on without someone in Washington telling them how to do it.

AMERICAN FARM PROTECTION
ACT OF 1995

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 1995

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am joined today by several of my colleagues, including

Mr. PAYNE of Virginia, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. MCCREERY, Mr. COYNE, Mr. BREWSTER, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ENGLISH, in introducing legislation to provide an election to exclude from the gross estate of a decedent the value of certain land subject to a qualified conservation easement, and to make technical changes to the alternative valuation rules.

The bill, to be titled "American Farm Protection Act of 1995," offers direct relief from the burden of the Federal estate tax to the families of the owners of these farms and other rural families, while insuring the future agricultural use of their land.

The best caretakers of America's land are the farm and ranch families who have owned and cared for it for generations. Once these families are displaced from their land, no amount of regulation or tax spending can replace their productive stewardship of the land. According to "The Second RCA Appraisal," published by the Department of Agriculture in 1989,

1.5 million acres of agricultural land, most of them prime farmland, are irreversibly removed from production and converted to nonagricultural use each year.

The problem is especially acute near metropolitan areas. Here development pressure has caused the value of farm and ranch land to escalate dramatically over the past several decades. Yet this is some of our most productive agricultural land.

An important factor contributing to the displacement of America's farm and ranch families is the Federal estate tax. That is because rural land is valued for estate tax purposes, not necessarily at a value representing its actual rural use as a farm, but at its potential value as development property. The tax can force families to sell land on which they have lived and made their living, sometimes for generations. Once farm and ranch families are gone the cycle of speculation, sprawl development, and overregulation often takes over.

The bill removes this problem for America's rural families and lets them do what they can do better than anyone else: take care of the land. For rural landowners who voluntarily and permanently provide for the commitment of their land to rural uses through the donation of a qualified conservation easement, the act will exempt that land from the Federal estate tax.

The concept embodied in the bill has been endorsed by the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Farmers Union, as well as many other local, regional, State, and national forestry and land conservation organizations. We welcome other Congressmen as cosponsors of this legislation.