

LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAM
FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 1996

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, during the 104th Congress, the Commerce Committee has been highlighting the problem of inflexible or inappropriate statutory requirements. These requirements can prevent EPA from issuing regulations or facility cleanups that address realistic and significant risks in a cost-effective and cost-reasonable manner.

H.R. 2036 embodies the position of the EPA in final rules that were later struck down by the courts. In each case, EPA did a regulatory impact analysis which found that the costs of a given option were exceedingly high and the benefits very low. In each case, EPA sought a more flexible and balanced approach but was ultimately directed by the Courts to the most counterproductive result.

In their March 2, 1995, summary of the Proposed Rule EPA wrote, "the Agency is required to set treatment standards for these relatively low-risk waste and disposal practices, although there are other actions and projects with which the Agency could provide greater protection of human health and the environment."

In this particular case, EPA estimates suggest over half a billion dollars will be spent with little if any improvement to human health. Indeed, the Agency states that less safe alternatives may be chosen over more safe alternatives. That is unacceptable. In their letter endorsing H.R. 2036 the administration wrote, "the bill would eliminate a mandate that the EPA promulgate stringent and costly treatment requirements for certain low-risk wastes that already are regulated in Clean Water Act or Safe Drinking Water Act units."

H.R. 2036 is also endorsed by organizations representing State environmental programs such as the Groundwater Protection Council, and the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials as well as the National Association of Counties.

I appreciate the bipartisan efforts of Ms. Lincoln and the administration, including the chair of the Council on Environmental Quality Kathleen McGinty, and her staff, in support of H.R. 2036. It is important to move forward with legislation that injects common sense into current statutory law and H.R. 2036 is just such an infection.

This is time-critical legislation and I hope that it can proceed swiftly through the process. I should note, however, that these issues—while important for many—are the tip of the iceberg. We must make fundamental reform to ensure that our regulatory programs address realistic and significant risks through cost-effective and cost-reasonable means. There is much work to be done.

I urge all the Members to vote for swift passage of H.R. 2036 to prevent EPA from being forced to use unnecessary and costly regulations.

CONGRESSIONAL BOYCOTT

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I wish to voice my strong disapproval with the French Government's nuclear testing program. I join with many of my colleagues—and most of the world community—in protesting the detonation of six French nuclear weapons in the South Pacific. That is why I am joining the congressional boycott of the French President's visit to Congress.

French President Jacques Chirac will appear today before a joint session of Congress. I can not of good conscience attend. France and the United States have a proud relationship of cooperation extending back to the beginning of our Nation. However, France's conduct in the South Pacific can not be justified. Exploding nuclear weapons in pursuit of further weapons development contradicts the view of 175 nations—including France and the United States—who signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It also needlessly endangers the environment and people of the region.

Just last week, France acknowledged the presence of radioactive iodine in the lagoon near the Mururoa test site. Despite their declaration that the tests blast are perfectly safe, we have no way to know if this is true. Since the French Government refuses to allow independent assessment of the environment impact of these nuclear explosions, I must remain suspicious. Are the people who live in the South Pacific threatened by nuclear poison in their region of the world? What will the ecological and human health threats 10, 20, or 100 years from now?

Although the Clinton administration has officially denounced the French nuclear testing program, its actions hardly match its rhetoric. I urge the White House to put real pressure on the Chirac government. Let us not forget our responsibility in the matter: The United States has long supported the French nuclear weapons program.

I must take special exception to the United States decision to allow French military aircraft to fly to the South Pacific test site via the use of United States airspace. How can the world take seriously a United States criticism of the French nuclear weapons testing program when the United States refuses to take even the most basic action to resist the French action. The only assurance Congress can get from the U.S. State Department is that no nuclear materials are being transported "according to the best of our knowledge." This hardly represents strong scrutiny by our Government.

Now that the French Government has ended its series of nuclear detonations, I call on President Chirac to firmly commit his nation to end all future tests. At the very least, France should declare the permanent closing of the South Pacific test site. France should also clean up the nuclear mess it left behind and allow independent monitoring of the area. It is the least they can do for the South Pacific peoples who will have to live with the legacy of decades of nuclear weapons testing.

The rationale for nuclear testing ran out years ago. If the world governments won't stop this cold war relic now, then when? I look

forward to the recognition by France that their ongoing nuclear weapons testing program was simply wrong. Perhaps we can now move toward an international ban on all future such explosive tests. The United States must continue to press for a comprehensive ban on all such future nuclear test explosions. And France must become an active player in these negotiations.

It is my hope that a change in the behavior of France's Government will allow me to participate in Mr. Chirac's next visit to Congress. I also look forward to a successful conclusion to the ongoing comprehensive nuclear talks so the world can take an important step toward nuclear disarmament.

A CLEAN DEBT CEILING
EXTENSION BILL

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for this Congress to face up to its responsibilities by passing a clean debt ceiling extension bill and not allow this great Nation for the first time in 220 years to default.

Just last week Moody's Investors Service announced that it might lower the credit rating for U.S. Treasury bonds—the first time in our Nation's history. This should not be a source of pride to any Member of Congress.

America cannot afford to have its full faith, its good word and its credit sacrificed on the altar of partisan posturing. Imagine Social Security checks and veterans' checks not being sent to recipients or honored when deposited by individuals who earned these benefits and rely on them. The American people cannot afford the higher interest rates that would result from default. We rail against "dead beat" dads * * * no one should be part of a "dead beat" Government.

Mr. Speaker, only you and your colleagues have the power to keep America from the disgrace and disaster of default. Let us together pass a bill now to avoid default and international discredit.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH
DOUGHER

HON. ANTHONY C. BEILENSEN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. BEILENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Topanga, CA's most dedicated and admired citizens, Elizabeth Doughner, who passed away recently.

Betty Doughner served as executive officer/clerk of the Board of Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains—formerly the Topanga-Las Virgenes Resource Conservation District—which carries out environmental education and restoration projects. During the 34 years Betty was employed by the District, she watched it grow from an operation with one employee—herself—to the 50-employee agency it is today.

In her position with the district, Betty worked tirelessly for our community. She helped secure conservation services for landowners in

the area, wrote the district's quarterly newsletter, coordinated the annual plant sale, hired personnel, maintained all the district's records, and helped establish and maintain the district's Vance Hoyt Memorial Library. She became an expert on the law governing the operation of Resource Conservation Districts in order to properly advise the District Board.

Betty was also responsible for writing and obtaining the first grants that expanded the district's education program. The large number of awards to the district for conservation and education are a testimony to the effectiveness of her work, for which she was twice honored with a Distinguished Service Award by the Employee Association of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts.

Betty contributed much to the community in other ways as well. For her volunteer work with schools, the Womens' Club, and the Strawberry Festival, the Topanga Chamber of Commerce recognized her as the 1979 "Citizen of the Year." She was also a volunteer with Share International, where she helped publish its monthly magazine.

Betty Doughner's warmth, enthusiasm, and dedication are greatly missed by all of her colleagues at the district, and by everyone else who knew her. The entire Topanga community joins me in expressing our deep sorrow to her family and friends, and our heartfelt appreciation for her many years of outstanding public service.

TRIBUTE TO MONROE WOODS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monroe Woods who is retiring as the Midwest Regional Administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Consumer Service. An event will be held in his honor on Thursday, February 1, 1996, in Chicago, IL.

Mr. Woods joined the Food and Consumer Service in 1966 as a member of the Los Angeles Field Office staff. He has held various positions in Oakland and the San Francisco Regional Office, the New England Region in Boston, MA, and the Mountain Plains Region in Denver, CO, before his appointment in July 1978 as Regional Administrator of the Midwest Region in Chicago.

As Regional Administrator of the Midwest Region, Mr. Woods administers the agency's food assistance programs in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin; oversees annual expenditures of \$5.6 billion; and manages approximately 200 employees.

His service, and outstanding dedication to his work and to the citizenry, have merited him appointments on a number of national and local advisory boards, task forces, and councils, including the National Advisory Council for the Child Nutrition Programs and the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, University of Illinois. Mr. Woods also served as Chairman of the Chicago Federal Executive Board in 1987 and 1988, and is an alumni of the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, VA.

Mr. Woods received a Presidential Rank Award at a private White House ceremony in

1984, where he was conferred "distinguished executive status". In 1991, Mr. Woods was named to Who's Who in Government Service. In 1992, Mr. Woods was presented with a medallion of the city of Detroit by the President of the Detroit City Council.

In 1994, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Consumer Service became the sponsor of, and Mr. Woods was named chairperson of, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Opportunity Committee. It is in this capacity that I became most familiar with Mr. Woods. Mr. Woods' dedication to the inclusion of minority and women-owned businesses in the Federal procurement process have been well documented. This dedication led him to willingly take responsibility for the continued mission of the Minority Business Opportunity Committee to increase the participation of such businesses in the marketplace.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Monroe Woods, an outstanding community and business leader and role model. I wish him the best of luck in his retirement. May he continue to share his talent and love of community that he has given to the Federal Government and the community at large.

TRIBUTE TO JEROME DAVIS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, when you hear the terms rodeos and cowboys, your mind wanders off to images of the wide open plains of the American West. Now, however, when you think of champion cowboys, you will have to think of the Sixth District of North Carolina because we are now home to a world champion bullrider.

Mr. Jerome Davis of the Glenola community in Randolph County, NC, won the world bullridding title in Las Vegas, NV, on December 10, 1995. Davis had fulfilled a lifelong dream by capturing the top bullridding trophy. In fact, he entered the 10-day national finals rodeo competition ranked No. 1 in the world standings, but Davis needed a final-day win to secure the top prize.

Runner-up rider Terry West scored an 89 on his final ride which meant that Davis could not be thrown off his final mount or he would lose the title. Davis was able to stay on the aptly-named "The Jam" and scored an 84 to clinch the title. He won more than \$72,000 at the national finals to complete the season with more than \$135,000 in earnings. Davis beat West by only \$3,000 to claim the world title.

As reported in the High Point Enterprise, more than 300 well-wishers greeted Jerome Davis when he returned to the Piedmont Triad International Airport on the day after his world victory. "I never expected anything like this," David told the Enterprise's Mark McKinney. "I figured maybe my Mom would be here with a few folks. This is more than I could have imagined." It appeared that the entire Glenola community turned out to greet Davis, sporting homemade lapel pins that read "Jerome Davis, World Champion!" and "#1 Jerome Davis." Calvin Wagner of Silver Valley, a long-time rodeo promoter and enthusiast, told the newspaper that Davis is a trail blazer. "Je-

rome brought it home," Wagner said. "By being the first world champion bullrider east of the Mississippi River, Jerome has opened doors for cowboys that previously were closed."

Davis told his crowd of supporters that he could not have won by himself. "A lot of work goes into winning a world title," Davis remarked. "But I never could have done it without the support of my family and friends. I don't know how to thank everybody for all this."

We know how to thank you, Jerome. On behalf of all the citizens in the Sixth District of North Carolina, we offer our congratulations on winning the world bullridding title. Now when people talk about champion cowboys, we can say just look to Glenola and Jerome Davis.

CONGRESS SHOULD VOTE "NO" ON THE AUBURN DAM

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to pay for the construction of a dam on the North Fork of the American River at Auburn, CA. In 1992, I led the successful bipartisan effort to defeat the authorization of the \$700,000,000 Auburn Dam—potentially the most expensive dam project in U.S. history. However, this project has been resurrected. I understand that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is poised to seek Congressional authority and funding once again for another Auburn Dam project—this time, for a larger, more expensive version of the dam that we defeated on the House floor in 1992. Furthermore, I understand that the Federal Bureau of Reclamation is now also considering dam construction proposals.

This project has been opposed and rejected time and time again in recent history. Back in 1965, it was authorized as a multipurpose project, mainly for the purpose of farm irrigation. In 1975, after about \$200 million had been spent on site preparation and other separate features, construction was halted because of concerns that the dam might trigger seismic activity. In 1979, the Department of the Interior concluded that seismic activity in the earthquake faults located under the proposed dam site might jeopardize the structural integrity of the dam, the failure of which could devastate the Sacramento metropolitan area.

In 1980, the dam was redesigned, but the project never moved forward because of the advent of Federal water program cost sharing reforms under the Reagan administration. Under these reforms, traditional beneficiaries of Auburn Dam were no longer interested in advancing the project if they were to be partly responsible for its financing. Realizing that the multipurpose dam proposal was doomed, in 1992 proponents found a new reason for the dam to live: flood control. But the evidence against a dam project hadn't changed, and the House rejected funding authority for the project again on September 23, 1992.

I am introducing this legislation today to once again deliver a strong message to my fellow Members of Congress, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation: