

Treatment Systems Act. The purpose of this legislation is to amend section 301(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. This bill would allow public agencies in Hawaii and the insular areas of the United States to apply, within a limited time period, for permits to construct new deep ocean outfalls for their wastewater treatment plants.

Under existing law territories and other insular areas of the United States are prohibited from constructing deep oceans outfalls for their wastewater treatment plants [WWTP's] that would: Protect the ocean environment, operate efficiently and save significant sums of money. The Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] is not allowed to accept new applications for waivers from secondary treatment requirements.

This bill intends to amend section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act would allow such applications, and authorize EPA to review new deep ocean outfall proposals pursuant to the current, stringent Clean Water Act standards for such outfalls. This bill does not alter the rigorous criteria for issuing a waiver nor does it override the judgement of EPA. The bill reflects the goal of both Congress and the administration to find innovative, alternative and less-costly ways to apply existing statutes without compromising the environmental objectives underlying existing law.

Many scientists and experts agree that plans to construct deep ocean outfalls at locations in certain States, including the territories of the United States, can provide the best environmental and economic alternative for wastewater treatment. The plans would not only preserve but would even improve the coastal environments where these discharges occur.

Under the 1977 Clean Water Act, coastal communities—mainland and island—were permitted a time-limited opportunity to apply for exemptions from secondary treatment requirements, if they met very stringent environmental standards for ocean discharges. Overall EPA has granted 39 waivers. All applications were required to be submitted to EPA by December 29, 1982.

Puerto Rico has proposed construction of a deep water outfall situated more than 300 feet deep and several miles from shore as an alternative to secondary treatment at the Mayaguez POTW. This would save the Government about \$65 million. Substantial scientific data gathered from similarly situated POWT's with deep ocean outfalls indicates that such methods can achieve the equivalent of secondary treatment standards or even better.

The evidence was so compelling in the instance of San Diego, CA, that Congress last year enacted and the President signed into law, legislation permitting EPA to consider a section 301(h) waiver application proposing a similar alternative to secondary treatment—withstanding that such waiver otherwise would be time-barred under the Clean Water Act. I believe we deserve the same opportunity to implement cost-effective alternatives and seek a section 301(h) waiver.

There are numerous precedents of such limited exceptions to the requirements of section 301. The municipal Wastewater Construction Grant Amendments of 1981 included a provision that extended the date under which section 301(h) waivers could be requested and specifically permitted the city of Avalon, CA, to receive such waiver. The Water Quality Act of

1987 included a specific exception for the Irvine Ranch Water District that permitted it also to file for a waiver after the deadline.

I especially urge my colleagues on the Committee on Resources and on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to consider this bill and its commonsense approach to the regulatory burden.

The proposed bill allows EPA to avoid the risk of requiring treatment for treatment's sake and from demanding expenditure of funds which could be better used to achieve additional water standards benefits elsewhere. It permits EPA to review new applications and proceed with the flexibility and latitude intended under the act. It would not require EPA to issue any waivers or modify the standards under which EPA considers such waivers. It allows certain States and the territories to apply to EPA under existing section 301(h) standards for modifications that best serve the marine environment and will at the same time, permit the implementation of wastewater treatment plans based upon sound science and technology that meet existing Clean Water Act standards.

This bill is limited and targeted, provides for an efficient process, does not modify existing standards and would be implemented by EPA only if environmental and economic objectives are accomplished. I am hopeful that it will receive favorable congressional action at an early date.

TRIBUTE TO THE MORTON HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the girls' basketball team of Morton High School in my district.

The squad recently won its first ever regional title in the Illinois State basketball tournament. In fact, this was the Morton team—boys or girls—to advance past the regional round of the playoffs since 1972.

Unfortunately, Morton's dream season ended with a defeat to perennial power Mother McCauley in the sectional semifinals last week.

Nonetheless, I congratulate the team and its first year coach John Molitor, for bringing home the regional championship and basketball pride to Morton High School.

IRANIAN BAHAIS FACE EXECUTION

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, we just received the distressing news that the Supreme Court of Iran confirmed on February 18, 1996, the death sentences of Mr. Kayvan Khalajabadi and Mr. Bihnam Mithaqi. These two Bahais had been arrested without charge in April 1989 and sentenced to death on November 23, 1993, by the Islamic Revolutionary Court of Karaj for their religious activities. The ver-

dict had been appealed to the Supreme Court. If these men are executed, they will be the first Bahais executed since 1992.

Mr. Speaker, just last month on March 27 I stood here calling for the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 102, a resolution concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Bahai community. In calling for its passage, I said that there are disturbing signals that the repression of Bahais has increased during this past year. Unfortunately, I could have not been more right.

Mr. Speaker, since the fundamentalist Islamic regime took power in Iran in 1979, hundreds of Bahais, the largest religious minority in Iran, have been executed, and thousands have been imprisoned solely because of their religion. Because the regime does not recognize the Bahai faith, calling it a conspiracy and a heresy, tens of thousands of Bahais are today deprived of jobs, housing, schools, and other social services. Furthermore, it is common practice for Bahais to be denied pensions and food ration cards purely because of their religious affiliation. And what, you ask, could the Bahais possibly do that could justify this atrocious, asinine treatment? They simply ask to be able to peacefully practice their faith.

Intolerance, Mr. Speaker, is the trail of the backward, the ignorant, and the insecure. In Iran, intolerance of Bahais, people who threaten no one and who accede to legitimate, civil authority wherever they reside, defines not the Bahais, but the Iranian fundamentalists.

Mr. Speaker, Iran must continue to be ostracized from the community of nations until its conduct can begin to approach a respect for the basic rights of each human being to live, worship, and speak according to the dictates of his or her own conscience. We must continue to stand up and denounce each barbarous and inhumane action the Iranian regime takes. We must let Mr. Khalajabadi and Mr. Mithaqi know that the world cares about them and will not stand idly by in their time of need.

A TRIBUTE TO AMY COURNOYER

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the proud honor of announcing that Amy Cournoyer of the First District in Rhode Island is our State's winner for the Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. This past year, more than 116,000 secondary school students participated in the contest competing for 54 national scholarships.

The contest theme this year was "Answering America's Call". In Amy's script she discusses that the time has come for a new generation of leadership to cope with new problems and new opportunities. She explains how the elders are called on to pass on the wisdom that they have gained through experience to youth so that they will attain greater knowledge. This sharing of ideas between adults and adolescents brings about the virtue of understanding. In sum, if we want to truly answer America's call and create a better country, we must better ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I extend to Ms. Cournoyer my heartfelt congratulations and ask that Ms.

Cournoyer's winning script be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Finally, I also want to thank Amy for helping us to recognize today's youth and all that they have to offer to our country and its future.

"ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL"

1995-96 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, RHODE ISLAND WINNER: AMY COURNOYER, POST 2274, ASHTON, RHODE ISLAND

America is not simply "calling" each one of us. It is yearning, urging, and persistently imploring. Its concerns echo in the halls of schools across the country. After all, youth is the essence of this country, for it is the collaboration of new ideas that have maintained America's longevity. If I may borrow a quote from John F. Kennedy, "It is time for a new generation of leadership, to scope with new problems and new opportunities. For there is a new world to be won."

Retracting America's history, it is evident that the very passion and integrity of youth and rebirth of ideas have had a positive impact on society. After all, the very foundation of our country is the Constitution which was created by people with this undying thirst for reform. Events such as the Boston Tea Party, the Civil Rights Movement, Space Exploration, and other advances in technology were all made possible thanks to youthful minds.

So, as a contemporary society we must have the wisdom to heed that very call. The call for youth of all ages to express themselves. The elders are called to pass on the wisdom that they have gained through experience to the youth so that they will attain greater knowledge. Moreover, this sharing of ideas between adults and adolescents brings about the third and most important virtue, understanding. For it is through understanding one another that things can be accomplished.

America is a tune. It must be sung together. Arguing with or belittling others are only obstructions in our quest for knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. America is calling each person, young and old, black and white, Catholic or Jewish, to break away from their old, cemented ways, and return to the simple, innocent, and unbigoted ways of youth. I am not advocating a break in tradition, nor am I depicting a society of fools. I am simply suggesting that if we sing our tune in harmony, combining our individual talents to create a beautiful melody, then we are truly answering each others' call, which is indeed America's call—a microcosm of the macrocosm. We all contribute to the future of the world. Understanding is a building block for nonviolence. Martin Luther King professed that "Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time, the need for man to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence."

Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.

"So do not ask for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." Everyone talks about a better world, a better place. But, actions speak much louder than words. In order to truly answer America's call we must begin with ourselves. Then we will radiate like sunbeams on the community. Adults, listen to the call of the youth, they have a lot to give. And youth, listen to your elders, they have much wisdom to offer also.

In conclusion, I am yearning, urging, and persistently imploring that we heed each other's call. Whether it be doing volunteer work, becoming a politician and working for the betterment of our democratic system,

becoming a research scientist and working for a cure for such deadly diseases as cancer and AIDS, or simply giving a friendly smile and treating each other with dignity and respect. Everything is a microcosm of the macrocosm. So if we want to truly answer America's call and create a better country, we must better ourselves. Then, and only then, are we truly answering America's call.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FIREFIGHTER
CONGRESSMAN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on April 30, 1996, the Congressional Fire Services Caucus will pay tribute to the champions of public safety at the Eighth Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner. Over 3 million citizens throughout our great Nation dedicate their lives to preserving our communities against the threat of fire and other types of disasters. They include firefighters, EMS providers, search and rescue teams, arson investigators, and instructors. The list goes on for somewhere, in each of our communities, we can name an acquaintance of ours who is prepared to respond when the alarm sounds.

Our understanding in Congress of the many challenges facing first responders has been enhanced throughout the years primarily because of one individual. CURT WELDON, our firefighting Congressman, is unique to Washington politics. Very few individuals who have served in this institution have been able to unite members from both sides of the aisle behind one cause.

Today, the Congressional Fire Services Caucus is the largest caucus in Congress. With an equal number of Republicans and Democrats, the Fire Caucus is a tribute to the relentless efforts of CURT WELDON to achieve greater recognition for first responders on Capitol Hill. Throughout the 8-year history of the Caucus, our dear colleague has traveled to the scenes of our country's worst disasters in recent memory. He was in New York City to witness the horrible aftermath of the World Trade Center bombing, in Dade County, FL, following Hurricane Andrew, and southern California after the Northridge earthquake. And each time he would return from these incidents, CURT would share his findings with fellow members to help us better understand the significance of these events and what Congress can learn from them.

On issues of great significance to the fire service and EMS, my colleagues and I often defer judgment so that we can follow Congressman WELDON's lead. When casting his vote on fire service issues, CURT is guided by his years of experience as a firefighter, where he rose through the ranks to become chief of the Marcus Hook Fire Department in Marcus Hook, PA. Each of the seven major fire service organizations, despite their differences on issues, can all come to an agreement when the issue is the benefits they have derived from one man's belief in their respective missions. That man being CURT WELDON.

When my fellow Fire Caucus cochairmen and I join the 2,000 national fire service leaders at the forthcoming dinner, we do so in thanks and appreciation to our dear friend,

CURT WELDON. This past year, he has endured some setbacks, most recently the passing of his mother, Catherine Weldon. A volunteer for charitable causes throughout her lifetime, Mrs. Weldon leaves behind a legacy supporting the fire service, American Red Cross, and other local causes. Her attributes touched many, most importantly her nine children.

What amazes me most about CURT is despite these setbacks, he continues to perform as if he were still a fire chief for Marcus Hook. Whenever the alarm sounds on Capitol Hill, CURT takes expedient action, always working in cooperation with his colleagues, to resolve whatever the emergency might be.

A friend first, and colleague second CURT WELDON represents the best in public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on March 12, I was unavoidably detained in my district during rollcall Nos. 56-59.

Roll No. 56 was on the rule accompanying the conference report to H.R. 1561, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Roll No. 57 was on a motion to suspend the rules and pass House Joint Resolution 78, granting additional powers conferred upon the bi-state development agency by the States of Missouri and Illinois. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Roll No. 58 was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to House Concurrent Resolution 149, a resolution condemning terrorist attacks in Israel. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Roll No. 59 was on passage of the conference report to H.R. 1561, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." This would be consistent with my "yea" vote on the bill June 6, 1995—rollcall No. 366—when it first came before the House.

UNICEF HELPING CHINESE
ORPHANS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following exchange of letters concerning the efforts of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to improve the plight of orphans in the People's Republic of China. The exchange of letters was precipitated by a well-documented investigation by Human Rights Watch—Asia, published in January 1996 under the title, "Death by Default."

Earlier this year, this Member wrote to Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF, urging that agency to expand its programs in China