

Companies involved in the auto industry have been particularly successful in creating jobs. In Perry County a company that makes castings for auto and machine parts, as well as engine supports, recently invested \$60 million in a 200,000 sq. ft. facility, creating 220 new jobs. In Switzerland County a company is expanding its manufacturing facility to make a brake system component for General Motors, creating up to 100 new jobs. In Jefferson County a company that makes die castings for the auto industry recently invested \$14 million to expand its operation, creating 100 new jobs. In Clark County a Houston-based company announced plans to build a \$12.5 million plant at the Clark Maritime Centre that will produce thermal plastic resins for the auto and appliance manufacturing industries, creating 72 new jobs. At the Northern Industrial Park in Scottsburg a new company will produce plastic-injection components for the auto, appliance, and electronics industries and will create 60 new jobs over 3 years.

Manufacturing companies other than those involved in the auto industry are also doing well. In Jeffersonville the country's largest inland shipbuilder recently received its biggest order since World War II. The ships are to be built between now and 1999, and at least 250 new jobs will be created to fill the order. In Perry County a furniture manufacturer recently increased its plant capacity, creating 60 new jobs. In Ripley County another furniture maker specializing in entertainment centers plans to expand production and create 45 new jobs by June.

It is not just manufacturing companies that are succeeding in the 9th District. In Jeffersonville a trucking company is investing \$17.5 million to enlarge its truck fleet and real estate holding and to update its terminal. It will purchase 285 new trucks and add 200-300 new jobs. In Jennings County a Texas-based company is constructing a \$35 million indoor shrimp-breeding facility, creating 40 new jobs once it is fully operational. In Floyd County an operator of consumer merchandise rent-to-own stores reported record results in 1995, with revenues up 35% over 1994.

Some large corporations are also playing a positive role in the region. For example, Toyota recently announced its plans to build a new \$700 million truck assembly plant in Gibson County, which will create hundreds of well-paying jobs throughout southern Indiana. Hyatt is building a 118,000 sq. ft. entertainment pavilion and 200 room hotel along the river in Ohio County. That project should create about 3,000 new jobs. Similar entertainment projects are underway in other counties.

HELPING BUSINESS GROWTH

Local business and community leaders certainly take the lead in boosting job growth, but there are several ways the federal government can help.

Because small businesses are the engine of growth, we have to find ways to help make them be more competitive. One step is to make sure that affordable financing is available to them, through the private sector and the Small Business Administration. In addition, we must continue to reduce the federal budget deficit. We have cut the deficit in half in the last four years, and bringing it down further will help keep interest rates low and make it less expensive for businesses to borrow. We also have to continue reducing unnecessary, burdensome regulations that impose unreasonable costs on small businesses, and we should reform the tax code so it encourages greater investment and savings.

At the same time, we need to increase the quality of the workforce by investing in the

education and skills training necessary to make Hoosiers competitive in today's economy. Finally, we should invest in affordable housing and in improving the local infrastructure, particularly roads, bridges, local airports, and water systems. A strong infrastructure helps to attract and maintain jobs in Hoosier communities.

CONCLUSION

There is no higher priority for me than helping to expand job growth and opportunity in southern Indiana. I am immensely pleased with the progress recently made. Working together, there is a lot we can do to ensure that the local economy remains healthy for years to come.

DAWNING OF A NEW ERA

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, there is a great appreciation in our country for hard work and diligence. Those who exhibit those characteristics are usually held in the highest regard. Not everyone achieves the recognition of hard work and diligence on their own. Rather, they earn it through a combination of their own efforts with the willingness of others to provide meaningful opportunities.

The Opportunities Industrialization Center of Metropolitan Saginaw has for the past 26 years scrupulously followed its philosophy of "helping people to help themselves." Thanks to the hard work of Rev. Roosevelt Austin, S., and Martin H. Stark, in cooperation with local businesses like General Motors, Dow Chemical, and Dow Corning, more than 10,000 young men and women have been given a renewed opportunity to show that they can be successful members of society, an inspiration to their communities, and find a new sense of self-worth.

This weekend, OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw will be celebrating the grand opening of its new facility, boasting 14 classrooms including a science lab, a day care center, dining facilities, a 250 seat auditorium, a library, and other impressive resources. It is a true tribute to Frederick D. Ford, who took over as executive director of OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw, 22 years ago, and created the vision of a state of the art building that would provide the combination of resources needed for a successful job training and development program.

This building and OIC shows what can happen when visionary individuals have the opportunity to combine public support, garnered by building fund campaign chairman Henry G. Marsh, with that of State and Federal Government assistance to create the kind of program for which we have even a greater need. Money from the Job Training Partnership Act and the Department of Housing and Urban Development leveraged private donations to create this magnificent facility. People are eagerly looking forward to this new building which will continue the impressive record of accomplishment earned by OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw.

People of all ages will benefit from this facility that will be able to provide them with the best possible training using the most modern techniques and equipment. The high national rankings earned by OIC of Metropolitan Sagi-

naw will continue to pour in, I am sure, as those who support OIC set their sights on even newer challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me and OIC national founder Rev. Leon Sullivan in wishing the OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw every success for its future, and congratulations on its most recent accomplishment.

19 MEMBERS OF CROATIAN FRATERNAL LODGE CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate 19 outstanding individuals who are celebrating 50 years of membership in the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 170. The festivities will begin this Sunday, May 5, with a mass at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Gary, IN, followed by a banquet at Lodge 170 in Merrillville, IN. The esteemed guest speaker at this celebratory event will be the Hon. John Buncich, Sheriff of Lake County, IN.

At this time, I would like to recognize the following members who be will honored on Sunday for their 50 years of membership in the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 170: Rosemary Adams, Bryan Magdaline; John V. Chelich; Alvin Eugene Erbesti; Lillian Gorski; Andy Horvatic; Pauline Jocha; Mary Klen; Francis Medved; Jennie Miller; Anna Mordi; Rosemary Petrovich; John Pitula; Shirley Pollizatto; Robert Razumich; Anne Wagner; Catherine Yavor; Catherine Zitz; and Christine Zivcic. These 19 members of Lodge 170 have lived up to the highest ideals of their solidarity with the people of Croatia and service to the Croatian-American population.

I would also like to recognize Ms. Elizabeth Morgavan, who has served as president of Lodge 170 for over 10 years. As an honorary lifetime member, she has dedicated her efforts to all facets of the Croatian Fraternal Union. In 1992, Elizabeth was named "Woman of the Year" by her peers at Lodge 170 for the countless hours she has dedicated to various projects and programs within the Lodge and the Croatian-American community.

Over the years, it has been my privilege and honor to work with the membership of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 170. They have, in no uncertain terms, played a key role in promoting fraternal and cultural activity among the Croatian-American population of northwest Indiana. Lodge 170, the largest Croatian Fraternal Union lodge in the United States, has provided its many members with opportunities to share their ethnic heritage with their fellow countrymen. More importantly, Lodge 170 has provided social assistance and insurance benefits for its members, as well as other Croatian-Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other colleagues to join me in commending the dedication and longevity of all those who have served for 50 years as members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 170.

STATE OCCUPANCY STANDARDS
AFFIRMATION ACT OF 1996

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill, the "State Occupancy Standards Affirmation Act of 1996" to assert the rights of States in establishing occupancy standards for housing providers. Currently, there is no Federal law to establish the number of people permitted to live in a housing unit. It is imperative that we ensure that States retain the right to set reasonable occupancy standards; my bill does just this.

There is a national consensus that the appropriate level for most apartment properties is two-people-per-bedroom. Most States have adopted a two-per-bedroom policy, and HUD's own guidelines state that this is an appropriate level to maintain public housing and section 8 housing. Beyond this level, the negative effects of overcrowding can be triggered, including decreasing the stock of affordable housing.

However, HUD's Fair Housing Office has initiated legal actions over the past 3 years. And then last July, HUD issued a memorandum, without any consultation, that would pressure housing providers to rent to substantially more than two-per-bedroom or be potentially subject to lawsuits charging discrimination against families.

All types of housing providers, including managers of seniors housing and public housing, were dismayed with HUD's proposal. If this change were permitted to stand, it would adversely impact all involved in housing, from tenants who could be crowded into inadequate housing, to housing providers who would have to provide services for more residents than they may be equipped for, and whose property would deteriorate.

In the fiscal year 1996 VA/HUD appropriations bill, Congress disallowed HUD from implementing its July memorandum. But we need to go one step further.

The bill I am introducing is a simple clarification of existing law and practice. It says that States, not HUD, will set occupancy standards and that a two-per-bedroom standard is reasonable in the absence of a State law. American taxpayers have spent billions of dollars on HUD programs designed to reduce crowding. It is time to ensure that overcrowding will not be a possibility.

CONCERNING ACID RAIN

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, important new long-term research shows that acid rain negatively impacts soil chemistry, which in turn has a deleterious effect on our Nation's forests. This ground-breaking study was conducted by Dr. Gene E. Likens, the director of the Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY. Dr. Likens' findings were recently published in the respected professional journal, *Science*. Dr. Likens' work continues to provide and sustain the policymaking process. As an elected official, I am grateful for his positive efforts.

Whereas earlier research has suggested a link between acid rain and harmful impacts on deciduous forests, the Likens study provides more conclusive evidence of the damage caused by acid rain.

On Monday, April 22, we celebrated the 26th Earth Day. Let me remind my colleagues that every day is Earth Day for those of us who are entrusted by the American people to protect and conserve our Nation's natural resources. We must be responsible stewards of the environment and we have an obligation to use the best possible science and insights available to us when making critical decisions affecting America's natural treasures. Dr. Likens' study provides important new information concerning pollution and forests. I am including a New York Times article about the Likens study for the RECORD. I hope my colleagues will take a few minutes to read this important article on the topic of acid rain:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 16, 1996]

THE FOREST THAT STOPPED GROWING: TRAIL
IS TRACED TO ACID RAIN

(By William K. Stevens)

In the first long-term study of its kind, researchers have found that a New England forest whose soil chemistry has been altered by acid rain essentially stopped growing nearly a decade ago and will probably be a long time in recovering.

The impact of acid rain on American forests has been a contentious subject. A 10-year Federal assessment of the problem concluded in 1990 that with some exceptions, there was no clear evidence linking acid precipitation to any important harmful effect on forests. Many scientists objected, arguing that the impact of changes in soil chemistry was not yet clear but that those changes would probably be damaging in the long term.

Now investigators have examined more than three decades of data from the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and discovered that increased acidity has deprived the soil of alkaline chemicals, mainly calcium, that are essential for plant growth. At the same time, they found that the annual rate of accumulation of forest biomass—its total plant material—dropped to nearly zero in 1987 and has remained there. Finally, they discovered that the soil was recovering its calcium and other alkaline chemicals very slowly because precipitation contains about 80 percent less of them than it is estimated to have contained in 1950.

The alkaline chemicals, or cations (pronounced CAT-ions), are leached from the soil by acid precipitation and carried away by streams. The precipitation contains sulfuric acid and nitric acid, produced by the burning of coal, oil and gasoline. A major source of these chemicals raining down on the Northeast has been the sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emitted by Midwestern power plants and borne eastward by prevailing winds; they form sulfuric acid and nitric acid when they mix with water.

Congress amended the Clean Air Act in 1990 in an effort to cut the emission of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides in half by 2000. But the findings from the Hubbard Brook forest suggest that this will not be enough if forests are to recover any time soon, said Dr. Gene E. Likens, the leader of the study.

Dr. Likens, an ecologist, is the director of the Institute of Ecosystem studies at Millbrook, N.Y., a nonprofit research and educational institution formerly associated with the New York Botanical Garden. The institute has been collecting a wide range of data since 1963 on the functioning of the

Hubbard Brook forest, a 7,500-acre tract owned by the United States Forest Service. It is one of only a few ecological research projects looking at ecosystem behavior over the long term, and it is probably the only one to come up with decades-long detailed measurements on the effects of acid rain on American forests.

The report of the new findings appears in the current issue of the journal *Science*. It was prepared by Dr. Likens, Dr. Charles T. Driscoll of Syracuse University and Donald C. Buso of the Millbrook institution.

"It's just a landmark paper," said Dr. David Schindler, a prominent acid-rain researcher at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. "Hubbard Brook has the only data set that's thorough enough and long enough to show this happening."

Until now, Dr. Schindler said, the idea that acid rain is harming deciduous forests has amounted to a "robust" hypothesis. The Hubbard Brook results are "the clincher," he said, adding: "I think there's concern for the whole northeastern United States and eastern Canada that this is occurring."

Some other researchers were more cautious. "The large majority of forests in the eastern U.S. seem to be growing quite well," said Dr. Jay S. Jacobson, a plant physiologist at the Boyce Thompson Institute at Cornell University. While the Hubbard Brook results are suggestive, he said, other factors should be considered before reaching a firm conclusion on the effects of acid rain. These include the effects on forests of climatic changes and possible changes in the deposition of nitrogen, a critical forest nutrient.

Assuming that forests are recovering slowly, Dr. Jacobson said, "are we as a nation willing to accept slower growth of forests in order to avoid placing additional controls on emissions of pollutants?"

In their paper, the Millbrook researchers stopped short of asserting a firm cause-and-effect relationship between the depletion of cations in the soil and the slowing of forest growth. Pinpointing the cause of the slow growth, they wrote, "should become a major area of research." Dr. Likens said, "If indeed the forests has become limited in its growth by the disappearance of these base cations—and I emphasize the 'if'—then that's a very serious implication of these results."

Dr. Likens compared the action of acid rain in depleting the soil of cations with that of stomach acid eroding an antacid tablet. In the case of the Hubbard Brook forest's soils, he said, "it's like half the antacid has been eroded away, and you've only got half of it left." The continuing deposition of acid is making the system even less able to neutralize it. "The system is now very sensitive," he said.

The observed effects on soil chemistry were unexpected, Dr. Likens said, and neither those effects nor other data based on long-term observations were reflected in the 10-year Federal study, the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program. The study found that acid rain generally causes significant ecological damage, but not so much as originally feared.

Among other things, the study concluded that acid rain was harming aquatic life in about 10 percent of Eastern lakes and streams, that it was reducing the ability of red spruce trees at high altitudes to withstand the stress caused by cold and that it was contributing to the decline of sugar maples in some areas of eastern Canada. While forests otherwise appeared healthy, the study said, they could decline in future decades because of nutrient deficiencies brought on by acid rain.