

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.

BEN GILMAN: A REAL FRIEND OF
THE IRISH

HON. TOM DELAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I commend to our colleagues an article written by Father Sean McManus, the president of the Irish National Caucus, that appeared in the Irish Echo on April 3, 1996, about our colleague, Chairman BEN GILMAN of New York.

This article describes the efforts of the Republican Congress to fight for fairness and peace in Ireland, and the great leadership of BEN GILMAN on these issues.

BEN GILMAN is proving that Republicans in the Congress do fight for justice around the world, especially in Ireland. I applaud him for his leadership, and I urge my colleagues to read the following article:

MY IRISH HERO IS A JEWISH CONGRESSMAN

(By Fr. Sean McManus)

I don't think that Irish Americans are sufficiently aware of the extraordinary revolution that has taken place in the U.S. Congress regarding Irish affairs.

For over 20 years the Irish National Caucus had campaigned for Congressional Hearings on Northern Ireland. But famous Irish-Catholic speakers of the house—with names like O'Neill and Foley—steadfastly blocked all hearings. They didn't want to offend Her majesty's government:

"An ad hoc Irish committee of 119 members has been formed in Congress. But the committee's attempts to publicize the outrages being committed in Northern Ireland, along with the efforts of the Irish National Caucus, have been blocked by House Speaker Tip O'Neill and other congressional leaders (Jack Anderson, "Carter Pressured on Northern Ireland," Detroit Free Press, Oct. 29, 1978).

When the MacBride Principles were launched in 1984 we had an even more legitimate reason for hearings because U.S. dollars were subsidizing anti-Catholic discrimination in Northern Ireland, where Catholics are twice likely to be unemployed as Protestants. But again—and now under speaker Tom Foley—hearings or legislative action were blocked. Furthermore, the then-chairman of House Foreign Affairs (now called International Relations Committee, Rep. Lee Hamilton, the Indiana Democrat, kept telling me there was no interest in the MacBride Principles among members of the Committee.

This was a deeply distressing experience. We knew we had a perfectly valid case for a hearing, yet it was being unfairly and undemocratically blocked in the interest of the English government (with the connivance of the then Dublin Government).

Yet oddly enough, some Irish Americans thought that when the Republicans seized control of both House and Senate in 1995, the Irish cause would suffer. But not this Fermanagh man. The first thing the Republican takeover meant to me was that our very best ally, Rep. Ben Gilman of New York would become chairman of the House International Relations Committee.

Ireland has never had a more dedicated, consistent, or genuine friend than Ben Gilman.

As far back as July 1979, Rep. Gilman, then a member of both the Committee of Foreign Relations and the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade, commissioned Rita Mullan, executive director of

the Irish National Caucus, to conduct an investigation of the hiring practices of U.S. companies doing business in Northern Ireland. This was the first-ever American study of those companies and it marked the genesis of the MacBride Principles.

Rep. Gilman has been a champion of every Irish issue: the Birmingham Six, the Guilford Four, the right of political prisoners etc. He has been absolutely fearless on the Irish issue, never allowing the State Department or any foreign government to silence him.

One of the first things Chairman Gilman did early on in the 104th Congress was to hold hearings, the first on Northern Ireland since 1972. Then, despite heavy lobbying and pressure, he attached the MacBride Principles to the International Fund for Ireland. The House International Relations Committee, after spirited debate, voted on the issue on May 15, 1995. There are 41 Members of the Committee. Thirty-two voted for MacBride Principles, only 8 voted against. And yet for all those years I had to listen to Lee Hamilton tell me there was no interest in the Committee on MacBride.

The MacBride legislation is part of the American Overseas Interest Act, H.R. 1561. The legislation has now been passed twice by the House of Representatives. It has also been endorsed by the House and Senate Conference. And the entire Republican Leadership—from Sen. Jesse Helms—are all on record of supporting the MacBride Principles, while the State Department opposes these efforts.

What an extraordinary political realignment. None of which could have happened without Ben Gilman's leadership.

For years I have been preaching the message: "Human Rights for Ireland is an American issue—not just an Irish-American issue." And I deeply believe that. Nonetheless, I am still deeply touched when someone who is not Irish stands up for Ireland. And there are many in the Congress who do: African-Americans, Italians, Polish, Jewish, etc.

Rep. Gilman is Jewish American. Isn't it extraordinary that it took a Jewish American to move the Irish agenda to the very top of the U.S. Congress? Isn't it truly amazing that while some powerful Irish Americans in Congress were too scared to take a stand, this quiet, unassuming man has emerged as Ireland's best friend in the U.S. Congress.

Every Irish-American worth his or her salt must stand up and cheer Ben Gilman. He is my Irish Hero.

I should end by explaining that the Irish National Caucus is nonpartisan: neither Democrat nor Republican. So I do not want readers to think this is a pro-Republican article. It is not. In fact, I've personally never voted Republican in my life. But then, I've never lived in Ben Gilman's district.

TRIBUTE TO DICK HOAK

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, when I think of the past 35 years of the Pittsburgh Steelers organization, certain memories come to mind. The rough and tumble Steelers of the early sixties with Bobby Layne and John Henry Johnson; the glory years of the seventies when the Steelers won an unprecedented four Super Bowls coached by Chuck Noll and under the leadership of Terry Bradshaw, Mean Joe Greene, Jack Lambert, Franco Harris, and

other stars too numerous to mention; and finally the current Steelers, the reigning AFC champions. All these memories have one constant. That constant is Dick Hoak.

As we honor Dick Hoak this evening, we remember the enormous contribution he has given to the Steelers as both player and coach. When Dick graduated from Penn State in 1961, he was drafted by the Steelers in the seventh round. During his 9 years as a player, Dick led the Steelers in rushing for 3 years and also was named to the Pro Bowl in 1969. Dick is the fourth highest leading rusher in Steelers' history.

Dick also has made a profound impact as a Steelers' coach. For the past 24 years, Dick has been in charge of the offensive backfield and most recently has exclusively coached the running backs. Under Hoak's guidance, the Steelers have produced such notable running backs as Franco Harris, Rocky Bleier, Frank Pollard, Earnest Jackson, and more recently Barry Foster and Bam Morris. Dick has the distinction of being the longest-tenured coach in Steelers' history.

I am honored to present Dick with this letter of commendation. The city of Jeanette is truly blessed to call Dick one of its own.

A VISION OF VALUES

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, all too often people dwell upon the failings of our society, and ignore the true accomplishments of many devoted Americans. Nowhere is this more evident than in the case of talking about the misfortunes of those who either lose their jobs or simply fail to find one all together. I want our colleagues to know about a man who believes that success breeds success, and who for more than 30 years has worked to have that success serve as the foundation for even more success. I am talking about Rev. Leon H. Sullivan, the founder of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Inc.

There are many people in our society who need retraining to gain improved skills to find new jobs, and others who need basic training to find meaningful jobs. Since 1964, Reverend Sullivan has worked to provide comprehensive employment training and placement for disadvantaged, unemployed, and unskilled Americans. Many of us recognize the symbol, OIC, and have seen it in our congressional districts. I am sure, however, that not many fully appreciate the effort and devotion demonstrated by Reverend Sullivan over these years.

The first OIC was founded in an abandoned Philadelphia jailhouse. It expanded to more than 70 centers around the country, and 28 centers overseas. In its more than 30 years of operation, OIC has trained and provided assistance to more than 1.5 million people.

Particularly at times like these when we are looking for private solutions to significant national problems like unemployment, Opportunities Industrialization Centers are more important than ever before. Growing from his ministry at the Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Reverend Sullivan established a day care center, a credit union, an employment agency, a community center for youth and