

the year 2002 and put additional financial burdens on physicians and hospitals. I fear that such deep cuts could do serious damage to the quality of health care provided to seniors and I hope that we can work together here in the House to ensure that these cuts are done as responsibly as possible.

In addition, there are many wasteful Government programs that were not included in the agreement that could save billions of taxpayer dollars and lessen the cuts to important programs like Medicare.

For example, mining laws are still governed by a law written in 1872, which gives away billions of dollars in mineral rights on taxpayer land for almost nothing. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that updating this law would save \$1.5 billion over 5 years and protect the environment. We also continue to subsidize the building of roads in our national forests and to sell taxpayer-owned timber at below market rates, at a cost of \$300 million annually. Subsidies for the cotton and sugar programs cost taxpayers billions each year.

I also have questions about the Pentagon's budget. While I am a strong supporter of our armed services, we must subject the Pentagon's \$263 billion annual budget to the same scrutiny at the rest of the Federal Government.

As with any major piece of Federal legislation that covers such a broad range of issues, there is a lot to like and dislike about the proposed budget agreement. But we must not succumb to the temptation to abandon the process because there may be particular provisions with which we disagree.

I believe that we must return a measure of civility to our public discourse. We mustn't fall into the abyss that the last Congress found itself in. Only by speaking with one another in a civil and honorable fashion can we hope to accomplish what the people of all our districts have sent us here to do.

Republicans and Democrats will not work in a bipartisan fashion on every issue, nor do I believe that they should. While there are distinct differences between our two parties, these disagreements should be seen as an illustration of the strength of our democracy. But we cannot let these differences stand in the way of making compromises that move our country forward, and Congress should not return to the frustrating and unproductive days of the recent past.

This budget resolution breaks the choke hold of partisan rancor that has been squeezing civility from our political life. This agreement is clear evidence that only by working together in a bipartisan fashion can we bring about solutions to very complex issues.

I urge my colleagues to support this budget resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE STEPHANOPOULOS FAMILY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a family that has demonstrated an unflinching commitment to community service. Tonight, the annual Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter [NCS] will honor the Stephanopoulos family at a Greek festival benefit in Manhattan.

Rev. Dr. Robert Stephanopoulos, a priest of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for 38 years, has been dean of the Creek Orthodox Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity since 1982. He is renowned ecumenist, theologian, lecturer, and pastor and has developed innovative social outreach programs in the greater Catholic community.

Nikki Stephanopoulos has dedicated much of her life to volunteer service. As a founding member of NCS, she has served on its board for 10 years; she is also the news and information officer of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

Father Robert and Nikki's children are just as dedicated to social causes as their parents. Anastasia spent a year in Santiago, Chile, as a housemother for orphans and assisting in the administration of a school for children under the aegis of a Orthodox convent. Anastasia is now a nun at Convent of St. May Magdalene, situated in the slope of the Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane.

George, former senior advisor to President Clinton, is now a professor at Columbia University, an ABC news analyst and a Newsweek contributing columnist. He has spent two 6 week period working at refugee camps in the Sudan. Since his undergraduate days at Columbia University, George has participated in the Big Brother Program and other philanthropic efforts in New York and Washington.

Margarite is an active member of Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Cleveland, OH, where she served for many years on the board of trustees and for 5 years, chaired their 3-day Greek festival which attracted thousands of visitors every year. Margarite recently became the office manager for an orthopedic surgeon at Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan.

Andrew, who is currently vice president/A&R for the Track Factory, was very involved in the Rock The Vote campaign during the first Clinton campaign. During the campaign, he assisted in providing music for college events; following the election, he attended the signing of the motor-voter bill at the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise with me in this tribute to the Stephanopoulos family. The Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter, whose benefit theme is "One Caring Family Can Make A Difference," has chosen an exemplary family to illustrate how one family can have an extraordinary impact on the lives of people in need. Thank you.

SPORTSMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sportsmen's Bill of Rights. I am joined today by Representatives JOHN TANNER (TN), DON YOUNG (AK), SAXBY CHAMBLISS (GA), COLLIN PETERSON (MN), BOB SMITH (OR), RICHARD POMBO (CA), VIRGIL GOODE (VA), RICK HILL (MT), JAMES BARCIA (MI), and CHRIS JOHN (LA).

THE SPORTSMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

The Sportsmen's Bill of Rights is intended to provide a clear policy for Federal agencies to follow in their administration and management of our Federal public lands. This policy is for

Federal agencies, within the limits of the statutes that they administer, to allow access to the Federal public lands under their jurisdiction for the purpose of fishing and hunting. The policy also requires that in the administration of their authorities, the Federal agencies act so as to improve and enhance the quality of fishing and hunting opportunities on the Federal public lands.

The bill contains several exceptions and exclusions to take into account emergency situations, national security concerns, public safety, and accepted management practices. In particular, the bill cannot be used to force the opening of national parks and monuments administered by the National Park Service to fishing or hunting. Nor can it be used to force Federal agencies to change management mandates and priorities established by statute. Its intent is to guide the Federal land managing agencies in those areas where the basic authorizing legislation for management of a particular unit leaves room for discretion and judgment by the agency.

The policy established by this bill is driven by the recognition of the important role fishing and hunting play in America. Both are recreational activities for millions of Americans. They are also the driving forces in fish and wildlife conservation. With the growing urbanization that our country has gone through in the 20th century, Americans have separated from our connection with and understanding of the fishing and hunting activities of our great pioneers and settlers. But fishing and hunting are important recreational activities for almost 75 million people. Sportsmen spend more than \$48 billion every year on their outdoor recreation, supporting more than 1.3 million U.S. jobs. In addition, the enthusiasm of anglers and hunters for preserving their outdoor heritage was tapped 60 years ago to create a system for wildlife conservation recognized worldwide for its success at bringing back many species that were decimated during the 19th century.

Over 60 million Americans go fishing each year. Fishing activities range from the excitement of opening day in lakes and trout streams to the regular jaunts of parent and child to their favorite fishing hole, where they can relax and get away from the pace of modern life. Hunting is done by 14 million Americans, who take to the woods in the autumn to put venison in the larder or call the elusive turkey gobbler in the spring. For the individual, fishing and hunting bring out the qualities of independence and self-reliance that were so important to our forefathers. In their modern versions, fishing and hunting also require participants to be law-abiding and ethical good citizens of their communities. These are important values to retain and to inoculate in our children.

To a great extent, fishing and hunting are pursued by so many people because of their outdoors aspects. Since most people live in an urban or suburban environment, a visit to the woods, the fields or fishing streams is an important contact with the land. Fishing and hunting carries this contact a step further than other outdoor activities, because in addition to knowing how to get along in the outdoors, fisherman and hunters must have a knowledge of the fish and wildlife they pursue and their place in the environment. Together, the love of the outdoors and the understanding of

fish, wildlife, and the environment make anglers and hunters important advocates for conservation. It is their critical interests that are affected whenever something threatens our fish and wildlife resources or the habitats in which they depend.

PITTMAN-ROBERTSON FUNDING

Most people are aware that President Teddy Roosevelt, an avid hunter and fisherman, launched America on its road to modern conservation. But not many people are aware that this year is the 60th anniversary of the most important piece of legislation in wildlife conservation in the world, the Pittman-Robertson Act.

Pittman-Robertson, or P-R, was sponsored and endorsed by anglers and hunters to assure funding for fish and wildlife management by the States. It came at a time when America was still recovering from the Depression. For that reason alone, P-R was a remarkable act of sacrifice in the recovery and conservation of fish and wildlife. But what is most remarkable about P-R is its record of accomplishment. The partnership between the capabilities of the State fish and wildlife agencies and the funds provided by P-R, are clearly responsible for bringing back many species that were on their way to extinction. For example, at the beginning of the century, the white-tailed deer was nearly extinct in most places. Today it is so numerous in some parts of the country that it is considered a problem. The wild turkey, beaver, black bear, elk, pronghorn antelope, and many other species have also been brought back to healthy levels thanks to the Federal-State partnership through P-R.

The role of anglers and hunters in making P-R worked was twofold. First, anglers and hunters joined the manufacturers who supply them with equipment to develop, sponsor, and support this revolutionary legislation. Second, and most important, anglers and hunters willingly pay the excise taxes created by P-R. These taxes, in conjunction with the taxes paid by later laws modeled on P-R—the Dingell-Johnson Act and the Wallop-Breaux Act—today raise \$357 million annually for wildlife restoration.

This tax money is held in a special fund and is apportioned to the States each year on the basis of approved projects that contain matching State funds. Sports men and women have jealously guarded these funds to assure that the money goes to the conservation of fish and wildlife. As a result, the United States is a world leader in conservation. This industrialized Nation has managed to restore much of its abundant original heritage of fish and wildlife. The United States has both a large human population, world class industrial base, and a wide diversity of healthy fish and wildlife populations and conserved and nurtured habitats.

REVIEW OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS

The United States contains approximately 2.3 billion acres of land. Westward expansion brought the Federal Government ownership of over 80 percent of that land area. But over the years, more than 1.1 billion acres were given to the States and private sector. The following is a brief review of the agencies, authorities, and purpose of our Federal public lands:

The Bureau of Land Management [BLM], under the U.S. Department of the Interior, administers nearly 268 million acres—41 percent—of Federal lands. These lands are primarily managed under the Federal Land Pol-

icy and Management Act of 1976 [FLPMA] and the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 [PRIA]. Overall the BLM administers 521 recreation areas, 589 acres of critical environmental concern—9.5 million acres—99 research natural areas, 9 national conservation areas, and cooperates with the National Park Service in managing 43 national natural landmarks. The BLM mission is to manage the public lands primarily under a multiple-use regime on the basis of a sustained yield. BLM is also endowed to protect a variety of aspects of its lands, provide food and habitat for fish, wildlife, and domestic animals, and provide for outdoor recreation and human occupation and use.

The Forest Service, under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers nearly 192 million acres—29 percent—of the Federal lands in the National Forest System. These lands are primarily managed under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 [RPA], as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 [NFMA] and the Multiple-use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960. Overall the Forest Service administers 155 national forests, 20 national grasslands, and 103 other units such as land utilization projects, purchase units, and research and experimental area. There are also special congressional designated areas, including 13 national recreation areas, 2 national monuments, national volcanic monuments in Washington and Oregon, 15 wildlife preserves or game refuges, and numerous other sites. The Forest Service mission is to manage the public lands primarily on a multiple use, sustained yield basis, for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed and wildlife and fish purpose.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS], under the U.S. Department of the Interior, administers nearly 92 million acres—13 percent—of the Federal lands in the National Wildlife Refuge System. These lands are primarily managed under the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 and the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956. Overall the FWS administers 511 national wildlife refuges, 174 waterfowl production areas, and 51 wildlife coordination units. Outside the National Wildlife Refuge System, the FWS also administers 24,000 acres in 23 research centers, 37 administrative sites and 84 fish hatcheries. The FWS manages most of the units with the primary purpose of wildlife and plant conservation, the specific purposes often are described in the status of executive orders which established individual refuges. Other uses such as fishing, hunting, grazing, timber or mineral use are allowed if comparable with the primary purpose of the refuge.

The National Park Service [NPS], under the Department of the Interior, administers nearly 78 million acres—12 percent—of the Federal lands in the 368 units of the National Parks System. These lands are managed primarily under the individual authorizing legislative enactments, including the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act of 1980 and the California Desert Protection Act of 1993, and the National Parks Organic Act of 1916, which established the National Park Service. The NPS specifically manages 55 units which are national parks. The remainder of the lands are scattered across 21 other kinds of designations, including national monuments, national recreation areas, national seashores, national lakeshores, national historic sites and national

battlefields. The NPS primary purpose is to conserve, preserve, protect and interpret natural, cultural and historic resources for the public.

In addition, several Federal land designations are administered by more than one of the four major agencies. These are the National Wilderness Preservation System [NWPS], the National Trails Systems, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and the National Monuments.

The NWPS was established by the Wilderness Act of 1964, which designated 9.1 million acres administered by the Forest Service as wilderness. It also directed the Federal land managing agencies to study the lands under their jurisdiction and recommend lands to be set aside as wilderness. In 1980, the size of the wilderness system was tripled by lands designated under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. In 1984, another 8.6 million acres were added with the designation of 21 wilderness areas administered by the Forest Service. The BLM set aside 26 million acres for review, and has recommended 10 million of those acres for designation as wilderness. The FWS administers 81 designated wilderness areas within 64 National Wildlife Refuges. In addition, the National Park Service has an additional 29 million acres being reviewed for wilderness status. Together the entire Wilderness System now has 104 million acres. Wilderness areas are kept in an undisturbed status with primitive recreation—unaided by motorized equipment—are the only allowed use.

The Sportmen's Bill of Rights will provide a uniform policy for management of this vast array of Federal public lands. I invite my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring this important legislation.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SPORTSMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Sportsmen's Bill of Rights. As an avid hunter and fisherman, I believe that the hunting and angling community serve as the backbone for the preservation, enhancement, and protection of natural and wildlife resources. Hunters and anglers are the foremost supporters of sound wildlife management and conservation practices in Minnesota and the rest of the United States. Funds raised through license, permit, and stamp purchases, as well as excise taxes on goods used by hunters and anglers have generated over \$6,000,000,000 for wildlife research and management. Many wildlife opportunities would not exist today if these conservation efforts had not been created by hunters and anglers.

The right to hunt and fish is increasingly coming under attack. We are seeing broad based challenges to hunting and fishing, and hopefully this bill will set the standards for such challenges much higher. Traditional rights of hunters and anglers are continually attacked by various organizations whose sole aim it to outlaw these outdoor activities. This legislation is necessary to fend off opponents of hunting and fishing.