

Chesapeake Bay gateways and watertrails network throughout the bay and its tributaries. This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to identify and protect resources throughout the watershed, to identify these individual sites as Chesapeake Bay gateways, and to link them with trails, tour roads, scenic byways and other sites. It also directs the Secretary to establish important water routes as Chesapeake Bay watertrails, and connect these watertrails with gateways sites and other land resources to create a Chesapeake Bay gateways and watertrails network. This bill encourages the affiliation among all of these sites in an effort to improve overall access to the bay and its resources, as well as provide opportunities for education of visitors and residents alike.

A similar effort is already underway in Maryland, where our Department of Natural Resources has been working on a program to feature the connections among a variety of protected lands, parks, and other special natural areas. This bay link system, as it is called, seeks to highlight each site's role in maintaining the integrity of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem while providing a unique recreational opportunity. The collection of sites also acts to educate visitors as to the regional significance of the site by providing historical and ecological information. Such information will eventually be provided to virtual visitors who visit the bay via the Internet as well.

Many residents of the watershed are familiar only with specific sites; many visitors to the bay are exposed only to particular areas. The Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Act of 1997 would promote the creation of a network of important sites across the entire watershed and provide residents and visitors alike the opportunity to recognize the connections between different parts of the watershed. It would provide financial and technical assistance for the conservation of important areas in the bay's watershed and promote linkages among national parks, waterways, local or regional heritage sites, wildlife refuges and other regionally or locally significant areas in the watershed. While encouraging visitors to experience the history and beauty of the bay, the gateways and watertrails network would also enhance public education, outreach and access around the bay and its tributaries.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to let everyone know just how special the Chesapeake Bay is to Marylanders and everyone in our region. I am pleased to be introducing these two bills to further coordinate efforts to protect and conserve the treasures of the Chesapeake Bay and her watershed. I ask unanimous consent that the text of H.R. 1579, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Act, be printed in the RECORD at this point.

H.R. 1579

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Act of 1997".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS SITES.—The term "Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites" means the Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites identified under section 5(a)(2).

(2) CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS NETWORK.—The term "Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Net-

work" means the network of Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and Chesapeake Bay Watertrails created under section 5(a)(5).

(3) CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED.—The term "Chesapeake Bay Watershed" shall have the meaning determined by the Secretary.

(4) CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERTRAILS.—The term "Chesapeake Bay Watertrails" means the Chesapeake Bay Watertrails established under section 5(a)(4).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the National Park Service).

#### SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and a resource of international significance;

(2) the region within the Chesapeake Bay watershed possesses outstanding natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources that combine to form nationally distinctive and linked waterway and terrestrial landscapes;

(3) there is a need to study and interpret the connection between the unique cultural heritage of human settlements throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and the waterways and other natural resources that led to the settlements and on which the settlements depend; and

(4) as a formal partner in the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Secretary has an important responsibility—

(A) to further assist regional, State, and local partners in efforts to increase public awareness of and access to the Chesapeake Bay;

(B) to help communities and private landowners conserve important regional resources; and

(C) to study, interpret, and link the regional resources with each other and with Chesapeake Bay Watershed conservation, restoration, and education efforts.

#### SEC. 4. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to identify opportunities for increased public access to and education about the Chesapeake Bay;

(2) to provide financial and technical assistance to communities for conserving important natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; and

(3) to link appropriate national parks, waterways, monuments, parkways, wildlife refuges, other national historic sites, and regional or local heritage areas into a network of Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and Chesapeake Bay Watertrails.

#### SEC. 5. CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS NETWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide technical and financial assistance, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector—

(1) to identify, conserve, restore, and interpret natural, recreational, historical, and cultural resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed;

(2) to identify and utilize the collective resources as Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites for enhancing public education of and access to the Chesapeake Bay;

(3) to link the Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites with trails, tour roads, scenic byways, and other connections as determined by the Secretary;

(4) to develop and establish Chesapeake Bay Watertrails comprising water routes and connections to Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and other land resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; and

(5) to create a network of Chesapeake Bay Gateways sites and Chesapeake Bay Watertrails.

(b) COMPONENTS.—Components of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network may include—

(1) State or Federal parks or refuges;

(2) historic seaports;

(3) archaeological, cultural, historical, or recreational sites; or

(4) other public access and interpretive sites as selected by the Secretary.

#### SEC. 6. CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS GRANTS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a Chesapeake Bay Gateways Grants Assistance Program to aid State and local governments, local communities, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector in conserving, restoring, and interpreting important historic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

(b) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall develop appropriate eligibility, prioritization, and review criteria for grants under this section.

(c) MATCHING FUNDS AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A grant under this section—

(1) shall not exceed 50 percent of eligible project costs;

(2) shall be made on the condition that non-Federal sources, including in-kind contributions of services or materials, provide the remainder of eligible project costs; and

(3) shall be made on the condition that not more than 10 percent of all eligible project costs be used for administrative expenses.

#### SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year.

#### A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM JENSEN

#### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly remarkable individual, Firefighter William Jensen. This week William's years of dedication and service to his community are being recognized by the Valley Community Legal Foundation as he is being presented with the outstanding performance award from the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Bill joined the city of Glendale fire department in 1969. In his years in the department he has consistently brought an upbeat hard-working attitude to his work. When off duty Bill enjoys spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. He also volunteers in the community by maintaining the trees, shrubs, and yards for his older retired neighbors and friends. Nearing his own retirement Bill was looking forward to 1998 and spending more time with his family and friends when he was called to fight the Malibu-Calabasas fire.

The date was October 22, 1996. Bill was in Corral Canyon fighting the brush fire when he became trapped in a firestorm. He was caught by a sudden wind shift and engulfed by the flames. He was rushed to a local hospital where surgeons doubted that he would survive the second and third degree burns that covered over 70 percent of his body. However, Bill is not only a firefighter but a fighter as well. After enduring numerous surgeries and blood transfusions in his 3½ months in the hospital, he was finally able to return home.

Bill's incredible recovery did not come as a surprise to many of his coworkers, as one

said, "If anyone could survive something like this, it would be Bill." On February 2 Bill returned home to celebrate his birthday with his family, friends, and a community that has rallied around him. His story is remarkable and should serve as an inspiration to us all.

Bill's heroism was recently recognized by the Glendale Fire Department as they honored him with the medal of valor. This week he is being recognized with the outstanding performance award from the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Truly these accolades are long overdue to a man who has been a model civil servant, community volunteer, and family man for many years. I am proud to salute Bill and his service to our community.

HUMANITARIAN AID—MOSCOW,  
RUSSIA

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 1997*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in a day and age where responsibility is shirked and leisure is honored over discipline, I would like to commend to you 14 young men who have shouldered responsibility beyond their years. These men served as Ambassadors of good will and friendship to the city of Moscow, Russia, under the direct invitation and authority of the Moscow Department of Education, between July 19 and September 3, 1996, as a part of Operation Flexibility 96-2. During this time they were involved in community assistance, demolition, construction, renovation projects, and meeting the basic needs of those around them. Their work and influence has not gone unnoticed by the Russian authorities, and indeed, the rest of the world, as they have been acclaimed and invited to several States and nations to continue the same tradition of service. The lessons and character that they are developing through their constant ministry, has and will continue to affect the lives of those they serve and meet in a positive manner.

Seth Campbell (ID), Andrew Cope (SC), Paul Elliott (WY), Ryan Gearhart (OK), Robert Myer (FL), Timothy Rogers (NY), David Servideo (VA), Adam Shelley (MO), Michael Shoemaker (IN), Scott Westendorf (OR), Brian Wicker (AZ), Matthew Yordy (IN), Joshua Meals (TN), Joshua Tanner (MI).

SUPPORT FOR ENDING ABUSE OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS IN CNMI

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 1997*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, one of the major newspapers of the Pacific region has added its highly influential support to efforts to end the well-documented pattern of systematic human rights and labor abuses in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [CNMI]. I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues this editorial from the April 25, 1997, Pacific Daily News, a newspaper based in Guam with widespread circulation both in the Pacific and the United States.

The article, "Plans to Strip CNMI of its Labor, Immigration Authority Not Surprising," supports legislation I recently introduced with nearly 40 of our colleagues to bring immigration and minimum wage policies in the CNMI under Federal jurisdiction. H.R. 1450 also would require that goods made in the CNMI be labeled "Made in USA" only if all U.S. labor laws were adhered to in the manufacture of the goods.

Contrary to promises by the CNMI government to crack down on continuing labor and human rights abuses, the government has actually rolled back worker protections. Just last week, the CNMI governor announced that he will seek to repeal current law that would have provided a 15-cent increase in the existing subminimum wage for the garment and construction industry—an increase that would at least have brought the wages of these workers into conformity with other industries. The lowest paid workers in America, these foreign laborers—and especially the women—work long hours, are often denied overtime wages, live and work in unsanitary and unhealthy conditions, and face physical and mental abuse from employers.

The editorial strongly states "If even a fraction of the numerous allegations of tolerance for illegal and immoral recruiting practices, human rights abuses and uncontrolled immigration are true, the CNMI deserves to be censured." Based on information contained in a report recently released by the Resources Committee, Economic Miracle or Economic Mirage, this threshold is easily met.

The Pacific Daily News editorial articulates the concerns of many Members of Congress, religious and human rights organizations, labor unions, and U.S. citizens, when it notes that if the CNMI government and local businesses "want to benefit from America's reputation, then they need to subscribe to the principles that founded this nation."

The article follows:

[From the Pacific Daily News, Apr. 25, 1997]

PLANS TO STRIP CNMI OF ITS LABOR,  
IMMIGRATION AUTHORITY NOT SURPRISING

If U.S. Congressman George Miller has his way, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas will be stripped of its power to control immigration, set its own labor standards or sell goods with the label "Made in the USA."

That announcement should not come as a surprise, because U.S. lawmakers and federal officials who have oversight of the commonwealth's affairs have threatened to do that for several years because of continued reports of abuse of these powers.

Besides curtailing CNMI immigration and labor powers, Miller has written legislation that will force the Saipan government to increase its minimum wage—something that Northern Marianas leaders have been reluctant to enact.

For years the commonwealth has been the subject of numerous investigations and scathing criticism about indiscriminately importing thousands of alien workers to fill low-paying jobs—frequently described as sweat shops.

Even with repeated promises from CNMI leaders to comply with federal demands to clamp down on admitted abuses, Miller isn't buying that anymore.

Along with his bill, Miller will release a 21-page report that details "systematic labor, human rights and immigration abuses in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and attempts to shield these abuses from public scrutiny."

If Miller, who is the senior-ranking Democrat on the House Resources Committee, gets the support he needs, this may be the end of the line for unchecked control of immigration and labor in the Northern Marianas.

If even a fraction of the numerous allegations of tolerance for illegal and immoral recruiting practices, human rights abuses and uncontrolled immigration are true, the CNMI deserves to be censured.

There must be competitive balance for states and territories that comply with federal rules. And it's not right that foreign workers are treated so shabbily while someone else profits.

If the CNMI government and businesses that indulge in this practice want to benefit from America's reputation, then they need to subscribe to the principles that founded this nation.

Otherwise, sew a label on every garment that says: "Made in the CNMI by Low Paid Alien Workers."

RHAWNURST-BUSTLETON AMBU-  
LANCE ASSOCIATION, INC., 35  
YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 1997*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Rhawnhurst-Bustleton Ambulance Association. For over 35 years, the volunteers of the Ambulance Association have been unselfishly dedicated to helping their friends and neighbors in need.

The members of the Ambulance Association exemplify volunteerism. They give of themselves without compensation, and often put themselves at risk. Regardless of weather or hour of the day, volunteers transport members of the community to and from hospitals.

The contributions that the Rhawnhurst-Bustleton Ambulance Association makes to the neighborhood are vital and indispensable. In the case of an emergency, this group of people can be counted on to aide those in distress and need of care.

The volunteers of this community driven organization should be honored and congratulated on 35 years of service to their fellow citizens. I applaud them for the contributions they have made, and for the people they have helped. I wish them continued success in the future.

WIC

**HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 1997*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Women, Infants, and Children [WIC] Nutrition Program. First, I want to say this is a program I wholeheartedly support. Second, I want to say I support it because it is very important to the health of this Nation, and specifically to the health of the 15th Congressional District, which I represent. I mean this literally.

You see, the WIC Nutrition Program is probably the single most successful of all Federal