

created by a dominating presence of Federal lands, whether those lands be national parks, national forests, Indian trust lands, or other Federal holdings.

While these lands are located in our States, they serve national interests and national priorities. Despite that fact, States often are obliged to serve those lands with roads funded either through the State's Federal allocation or from State tax dollars. The fact is these lands—though important—are largely unproductive in economic terms and make it difficult to support the infrastructure.

To ensure national interests are served, there must be a mechanism in place that allows States to maintain transportation infrastructure to and across Federal lands. My bill would do this.

As my colleagues are aware, the present surface transportation program authorized under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act provides funding for roads serving Federal lands. However the funding is confined to certain roads maintained by the Federal Government. Some examples include Indian reservations roads, public lands highways, and parkways and park highways. By no means does the current program support many of the important transportation links that serve Federal lands.

The Federal Lands Transportation Improvement Act would establish a new category of funding within the existing Federal Lands Highway Program. The program, to be known as the Cooperative Federal Lands Program, would complement existing programs for investments in Federal holdings. The bill would authorize \$200 million for this program. This amount, combined with present funding levels for existing Federal lands programs, would increase the overall Federal Lands Highway Program's effort to a level roughly proportionate to the overall program increases that have been discussed in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Under this proposal, funding for the important needs in the current Federal Lands Highway Program would be maintained while making room for the previously mentioned critical need.

The criteria establishing qualification is simple. States that have at least 4.5 percent of their total land area owned or held in trust by the Federal Government would qualify for a portion of these funds. These States then would be eligible to apply to the Secretary of the Department of Transportation to receive funding for specific project needs. Once applications have been filed, projects would be funded in qualifying States in proportion to the percentage of the State which is Federal lands. The approval of the Secretary would help ensure the projects serve Federal lands, and are separate and apart from the other needs the State may have.

Serving Federal lands should be a shared responsibility. As the Federal Government holds lands in the public interest, there comes the responsibility to provide the public adequate access to, across, and from those lands. States do enjoy some benefits from public areas. However, the ability of States to generate tax revenue within those areas is limited. A modest reserve of Federal lands may provide few problems and some tax-generating opportunities. However, expansive Federal lands do not provide proportional enhancement. States then suffer from the diminishing marginal utility of additional Federal

lands. In other words, the presence of an inordinate amount of Federal lands creates more of a burden than it reaps in benefits.

Representing a State that has a significant Federal lands presence has its own unique challenges when it comes to transportation infrastructure. This bill would improve the responsiveness of the Federal Government to meet the transportation needs on Federal lands.

I have submitted a chart to be printed in the RECORD following my remarks that outlines which States would qualify under this legislation as well as the level of funding for which each State could qualify.

I thank my colleagues, Representatives YOUNG of Alaska, HILL of Montana, and CUBIN of Wyoming for joining me as original cosponsors of this bill. I hope other Members will join them in their support of this legislation.

COOPERATIVE FEDERAL LANDS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Est. Funds Provided to Secretary of Transportation To Be Utilized On Projects in States That Have Significant Federal Land Holdings Descending Order Distribution

State	Total State land owned or held in trust by Federal Government (percent)	Total distribution (sect. 206) (percent)	Estimated distribution (sect. 101(5)(B))
Nevada	92.77	7.50	\$37,500,000
Arizona	71.94	7.50	37,500,000
Utah	68.55	7.50	37,500,000
Alaska	66.55	7.50	37,500,000
Idaho	63.74	7.41	37,034,743
Oregon	61.20	7.11	35,557,673
Wyoming	52.79	6.13	30,671,114
California	47.39	5.51	27,536,041
New Mexico	43.33	5.03	25,172,713
Colorado	37.45	4.35	21,755,042
Montana	33.45	3.89	19,433,113
Washington	32.68	3.80	18,986,531
Dist. of Columbia	24.24	2.82	14,085,782
Delaware	19.09	2.22	11,090,356
Hawaii	16.76	1.95	9,738,069
South Dakota	15.93	1.85	9,255,826
Minnesota	15.75	1.83	9,153,717
New Jersey	13.26	1.54	7,703,270
New Hampshire	13.22	1.54	7,680,985
Michigan	12.97	1.51	7,538,281
Virginia	11.85	1.38	6,884,715
Wisconsin	9.54	1.11	5,540,516
Arkansas	8.73	1.01	5,071,024
Maryland	8.39	0.97	4,873,581
Florida	8.06	0.94	4,682,675
North Carolina	7.98	0.93	4,633,560
Vermont	7.28	0.85	4,231,503
West Virginia	7.09	0.82	4,118,025
North Dakota	6.08	0.71	3,529,762
Tennessee	5.85	0.68	3,399,695
Missouri	4.76	0.55	2,768,253
Mississippi	4.55	0.53	2,644,933
Oklahoma	4.50	0.52	2,615,275
Georgia	4.50	0.52	2,612,425
Total (34)		100.00	500,000,000

Source: GSA "Summary Report of Real Property Owned by the United States Throughout the World As of September 30, 1994" August 1996

AUTHORIZING PRESIDENT TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO MOTHER TERESA

SPEECH OF

HON. VINCE SNOWBARGER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, Mother Teresa is one of the great figures of our time. Her love and compassion are extended alike to rich and poor, sick and healthy, young and old. She ministers to the least fortunate who might otherwise have no home, no food, no

family, and no hope. And she witnesses to the well-off around the world who grow complacent in their wealth and would sacrifice the unborn in pursuit of material gain.

Because of all Mother Teresa stands for, and not in spite of it, I cannot support the awarding of this congressional gold medal. As I stated on a similar occasion earlier in this session, the \$30,000 authorized for this medal is more than the average annual income of my constituents. I can only guess how many times more it is than the lifetime incomes of those Mother Teresa so diligently serves.

The American people may rightly wonder how their Congress can approve such extravagance on the same day it debates the first balanced budget in three decades. These same Americans can and do pay their own tributes to Mother Teresa and other humanitarians through voluntary contributions to charities of their choice.

While the awarding of this medal springs from nothing but the best of motives on the part of my colleagues, I suggest that a more appropriate tribute would be to support her daily work. For my part, I will honor her with a contribution to her organization, Missionaries of Charity.

Mr. Speaker, no words can adequately express our admiration for and appreciation of Mother Teresa and her work. The only fitting tribute lies not in a gold medal, but rather in our own hearts and deeds.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO JERRY AND ROSA DICKSON

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Alfred (Jerry) and Rosa Dickson's 50th wedding anniversary on June 7.

Jerry and Rosa met at the St. Aloysius Church carnival in Chicago in 1943. Jerry served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed on the S.S. *Gabian* during World War II. His service in the Navy ended in 1946 and Jerry and Rosa were married on June 7, 1947.

Jerry is retired after 40 years of service in the food industry in Chicago and Rosa is a homemaker. The couple raised 7 children and have 13 grandchildren. I join with their family today in wishing them a wonderful celebration and many more happy and productive years together.

WEST GLENS FALLS, NY FIRE CO. NO. 1 CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I have always been partial to the charm and character of small towns and small town people. That's why I travel home to my congressional district every weekend, to see the picturesque towns and scenery that marks the 22d district of New York. And my hometown of Queensbury and

the Glens Falls community are certainly near and dear to my heart.

The traits which make me most fond of such communities is the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors. Looking out for one another and the needs of the community make such places great places to live and raise a family. This concept of community service is exemplified by the devoted service of the West Glens Falls Fire Co. No. 1. For 50 years now, this organization has provided critical services for the citizens on a volunteer basis. As a former volunteer fireman myself, I understand, and appreciate, the commitment required to perform such vital public duties.

It has become all too seldom that you see fellow citizens put themselves in harms way for the sake of another. While almost all things have changed over the years, thankfully for the residents of my hometown, the members of West Glens Falls Fire Co. No. 1 continue to selflessly perform their duty without remiss. I can't say enough about the countless lives and millions of dollars in property they have saved by doing so over the course of their 50-year history.

That's why I am so glad to have this opportunity to pay tribute to them today. And for that matter, the residents of their community will have the opportunity to show their appreciation at a parade marking this momentous occasion this Sunday, June 1, 1997.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by how much they give back to their community. On that scale, the members of this fire company, both past and present, are truly great Americans. I am proud of this organization because it typifies the spirit of volunteerism which has been such a central part of American life. We would all do well to emulate the service of the men and women who comprise Fire Co. No. 1 in West Glens Falls. To that end, it is with a sense of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I ask all Members to join me in paying tribute to them on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OPPOSES LATE TERM ABORTION BAN

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, considerable press attention has been devoted to the American Medical Association's shift in position and endorsement of the late term abortion ban voted on by the Senate today.

In my view, no less attention should be devoted to the statement of the American Medical Women's Association, which has reiterated its strong opposition to any legislation intervening in medical and surgical care decisions.

My good friend, Dr. Debra Judelson, president of AMWA and a resident of California, has repeatedly pointed out that it is irresponsible for the Government to interfere legislatively with physician-patient autonomy. Physicians, not the President or Congress, should determine appropriate medical options, particularly with respect to a woman's constitutionally protected right to choose.

Mr. Speaker, I recommend my colleagues heed the strong statement of the American Medical Women's Association.

STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION ON ABORTION LEGISLATION IN THE 105TH CONGRESS

ALEXANDRIA, VA.—The American Medical Women's Association, "is committed to protecting the reproductive rights of American women and has opposed any legislative intervention for medical and or surgical care decisions," says current AMWA President Debra R. Judelson, MD. This week, AMWA reiterated its opposition to H.R. 1122 and S. 6, which seek to ban a particular medical procedure.

It is the opinion of AMWA's Executive Committee that legislative efforts to regulate abortion have been flawed. Concerns in the following areas have prevented AMWA from taking a position on recent legislative efforts focusing on abortion in the 105th Congress.

AMWA is gravely concerned with governmental attempts to legislate medical decisionmaking through measures that do not protect a woman's physical and mental health, including future fertility, or fail to consider other pertinent issues, such as fetal abnormalities. Physicians and their patients base their decisions on the best available information at the time, often in emergency situations. AMWA strongly opposes governmental efforts to interfere with physician-patient autonomy.

It is irresponsible to legislate a particular test of viability without recognition that viability cannot always be reliably determined. Length of gestation is not the sole measure of viability because fetal dating is an inexact science.

AMWA resolutely opposes the levying of civil and criminal penalties for care provided in the best interest of the patient. AMWA strongly supports the principle that medical care decisions be left to the judgment of a woman and her physician without fear of civil action or criminal prosecution.

Any forthcoming legislation will be carefully reviewed by AMWA based on the criteria outlined above, and AMWA will seek to ensure that there is no further erosion of the constitutionally protected rights guaranteed by *Roe v. Wade*. Says AMWA President Debra R. Judelson, MD, "AMWA firmly believes that physicians, not the President or Congress, should determine appropriate medical options. We cannot and will not support any measures that seek to undermine the ability of physicians to make medical decisions."

AMWA has long supported a woman's right to determine whether to continue or terminate her pregnancy without government restrictions placed on her physician's medical judgment and without spousal or parental interference.

Founded in 1915, the American Medical Women's Association represents more than 10,000 women physicians and medical students and is dedicated to furthering the professional and personal development of its members and promoting women's health.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FREEDOM FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Freedom From Religious Persecution Act. This bill, which will be introduced in an identical format in the Senate, is bipartisan and will represent, what I hope will be a fun-

damental departure from "business-as-usual" human rights policy.

The persecution of people of faith is the great untold human rights story of the decade. With the end of the cold war came freedom for millions living under Communism in the former Soviet Union, Central Eastern Europe. During those years, many people of all faiths worked together with the Jewish community on behalf of those suffering persecution at the hands of the Communist dictators. The Jewish community led the fight and the Christians, though sometimes late, raised their voices and demanded justice for their faithful. But, with the dawn of freedom came a feeling that the problem had been solved.

Sadly, it has not. Millions of people of all faiths live in daily fear of secret police, vigilantes, state repression, or discrimination.

Religious persecution—and especially the persecution of Christians—did not dissipate with the cold war. It has persisted and accelerated. It has gotten worse while the world and the United States have turned their efforts elsewhere. A few groups have tried to keep the flame flickering. I am grateful for their work and efforts to document this problem. My thanks go out to the Catholic Church, Nina Shea with the Puebla Program of Freedom House; Michael Horowitz with the Hudson Institute; John Eigner and all those at Christian Solidarity International; Steven Snyder with International Christian Concern; John Hanford and with Senator LUGAR and his associates; Voice of the Martyrs; Open Doors; Diane Knippers with the Institute for Religious and Democracy; Paul Marshall, author of "Their Blood Cries Out"; and many, many others. In the House, individuals like CHRIS SMITH, TONY HALL, TOM LANTOS, and NANCY PELOSI and others have long been champions of religious freedom.

But generally the world has been deaf. U.S. policy does not reflect an understanding of the seriousness and intensity of this human tragedy. We have turned away while 1.5 million—Christians and Muslims—have been killed in Sudan. Millions of house church Christians in China are forced to risk their lives and their freedom to worship in secret to keep their faith independent of government control. Christians in Pakistan are having a difficult time and so are the Coptic Christians in Egypt. Tibetan Buddhists have seen their holy places destroyed and their religious leaders imprisoned, tortured, raped and beaten. Bahai's are executed in Iran. Muslims in Sudan are suffering.

We cannot be silent any longer. When we come to the defense of the "least of these," those who are persecuted for their religious beliefs, we raise the comfort level for all who are persecuted by dictators. When we speak for Christians, we also speak for Muslims. When we speak for Jews, we also speak for Bahai's. We are speaking for all of whatever belief.

This legislation tracks the resolutions and bill language passed in the 104th Congress and calling for action. The American Christian community has recognized these facts and begun calling for action on behalf of the millions of Christians who are being persecuted on account of their beliefs. It has joined forces with the Tibetan community and others to urge the United States to do more, to speak out in defense of the "least of these."

The United States must take a new approach to this growing problem—an approach