

Management Practices (BMP) to build soil through conservation programs, BMP implementation to improve water quality, and utilizing the best crop protection practices available, corn producers are truly planting a crop that can help clean up the environment, from both a water and air quality standpoint. The growing concern within agriculture is the small, vocal, hard-line environmental groups trying to impose regulations on production agriculture that are uneconomical, unproven and that could have the effect of driving our nation's food production capabilities off our shores.

Agricultural producers in Colorado are struggling with poor economic conditions in the marketplace due to burdensome supplies—supplies that could be sold in international markets—and environmental regulations that will choke off sustainable food production capabilities. Much has to be done in short order to protect one of our nation's most valuable resources—America's farmers and ranchers.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to express to you just some of the issues and concerns that Colorado corn producers will be focusing on in the near future.

Our last panelist of the evening was Ms. Elena Metro, State Executive Director of the Colorado Pork Producers Council. Her thoughts focused on the state initiative, earlier alluded to, Amendment 14. Ms. Metro's presentation included this statement which I ask to be included in the RECORD:

The Colorado pork industry has been singled out by individuals and groups to be "controlled" by harsh rules and regulations. Amendment 14 here in Colorado is the result. The Colorado Pork Producers Council on behalf of the pork industry in Colorado asks that if rules and regulations are written and become law, whether on a state or national level, that these rules be based on "sound science," be fair and equitable, and not "socially engineered."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by thanking all of the participants for their input. Former Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, Mr. Carl "Bev" Bledsoe moderated the forum in Hugo. Ms. Sparky Turner moderated the forum in Lamar. Both did an outstanding job and helped draw many helpful thoughts and comments from all speakers.

It's obvious after hearing from my constituents that more needs to be done to expand trade with foreign countries. We need to bring some sanity to the Endangered Species Act, and we need to use sound science when making decisions about regulations which will affect a very important segment of our population—the farmer.

REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR VETERANS

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1401, the bill to authorize our all-important national defense programs and in support of the en bloc amendment which includes language that addresses a crisis in our veterans community.

Throughout their lives, the men and women of our armed services make great sacrifices in the service of our country. Yet, many families requesting honor guards at the burials of veterans

are being told "NO"—that we do not have the resources to honor those who have served so nobly. As Americans, the very least we can do is make sure that our veterans are given a proper burial when they die.

My amendment strengthens the current language in the bill by requiring, not just permitting, the Secretary of Defense to provide necessary materials, equipment, and training to support non-governmental organizations—namely our VFW, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, and other veterans groups—in providing honor guard services.

Mr. Speaker, the newest of our National Cemeteries, Saratoga National Cemetery, will be opening in the heart of my district this July and will conduct funerals every thirty minutes for the next several years. Our active duty and reserve servicemen and women cannot keep up. Mr. Speaker—this is unacceptable!

Everyone who served in the armed forces gave something. Some who served gave everything. And we have a responsibility to give back!

Our veterans are eager to fill this void on a volunteer basis, but they do not possess the resources to do so. The committee bill will give private individuals the tools necessary to provide honor guard services, thereby reducing the demand on active duty servicemen or reservists.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and reaffirm our commitment to our veterans.

IN HONOR OF DR. DAVID KIRCHER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in tribute to Dr. David Kircher, Superintendent of Fairview Park Schools in Rocky River, Ohio. As he celebrates his retirement, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting his outstanding service and leadership in the Fairview Park Schools.

Dr. Kircher has dedicated a substantial portion of his life to the betterment of the Fairview Park Schools. For the past 30 years, Dr. Kircher has served as an important figure for the Fairview Park School district. He has held several positions throughout his tenure, but none as important as Superintendent of Fairview Park Schools, a position from which he will be retiring as of August 1, 1999.

As the fifth superintendent in the history of the Fairview Park Schools, Dr. Kircher worked his way up from an Earth Space Science teacher to Superintendent in 1996. Throughout his career he has been recognized for his hard work and dedication in the Fairview Park Schools. Many students and staff members are not only inspired by his motivation and hard work, but also appreciate the fact that he has helped create excellent schools. That is why in 1998 he was nominated for the National Superintendent of the year. The following year he received a resolution from the city of Fairview Park recognizing his 30 years of dedicated service to the Fairview Park Schools.

Education has always been Dr. Kircher first priority. He earned a Ph.D. in educational administration at Kent State University. His wisdom and educational background helped him

become one of the most influential superintendents in Fairview Park Schools.

Although his work puts extraordinary demands on his time, Dr. David Kircher has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family, especially his lovely wife, Maryann.

I ask that and my distinguished colleagues join me in commending Dr. David Kircher for his lifetime dedication, service, and leadership in Fairview Park Schools. His large circle of family and friends can be proud of the significant contribution he has made. Our community has certainly been rewarded by the true service and uncompromising dedication displayed by Dr. David Kircher.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing three bills which reflect my long-time interest in helping the economy and the people of Puerto Rico. Rather than spending taxpayer money on government programs, these bills will provide tax incentives for the private sector to help the economy of Puerto Rico.

In 1996, Congress phased out Section 936 over my objections. As a result, the economic incentives for U.S. companies to do business in Puerto Rico have dwindled, negatively impacting the economy. In an effort to reverse that trend, the Government of Puerto Rico reduced their tax burden by 19 percent in recent years. However, they need more help. We in Congress can play an important role in that effort by putting in place long-term tax incentives to spur private sector growth on the Island.

The first bill, the Puerto Rico Economic Activity Credit Improvement Act of 1999, will modify and extend the existing economic credit, which is due to expire at the end of 2005. My bill will build upon the replacement for Section 936, Section 30A, by extending the wage tax credit until the economy in Puerto Rico meets certain economic objectives designed to bring the Island up to a level more on par with the mainland. The credit will also be available to new companies locating in Puerto Rico. Companies already in Puerto Rico and utilizing the existing income credit will be given a one-time option to switch over to the wage credit before the termination date of the income credit.

The second bill will make the research and development (R&D) tax credit available to companies operating in Puerto Rico. The R&D credit has never been accessible in Puerto Rico, but, until the demise of Section 936, the lack of an R&D credit was of little tax consequence to companies operating on the Island. My bill will provide this small, but important, tax credit for Puerto Rico and the other U.S. possessions as a matter of fairness.

The third bill will repeal the limitation of the rum tax cover over. Under current law, a tax is collected on rum entering the U.S. mainland from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. A portion of this tax is returned (covered over) to the governments of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Because of a dispute in 1984, the cover over was limited to \$10.50 of the total \$13.50 per gallon tax. My bill will restore

the cover over to the full amount. In particular, the government of the Virgin Islands desperately needs the revenue from the full cover over as they are currently in critical economic straits.

In addition to restoring the cover over, this bill will also provide funding for the Conservation Trust Fund of Puerto Rico. The Fund has been very successful in preserving the natural resources of the Island for the people of Puerto Rico. In conjunction with the Governor of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Department of the Interior, we developed a plan to direct 50 cents of the per gallon rum tax to the Trust Fund for 5 years. This funding would allow the Trust to finish building their endowment in order to fund their operations in perpetuity.

I want to thank my colleagues who have lent their support in different ways to these proposals: CHARLIE RANGEL, CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELÓ, JERRY WELLER, DONNA CHRISTENSEN, NANCY JOHNSON, PHIL ENGLISH, J.D. HAYWORTH and MARK FOLEY. I urge the rest of my colleagues to support us in these efforts.

HONORING TOLEDO METAL
SPINNING COMPANY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Toledo Metal Spinning Company (TMS), a business in my district recently honored as one of only six recipients of the Blue Chip Enterprise Initiative Award. This award, given to companies who have overcome both internal and external struggles throughout their organization, was extended to TMS in recognition of their exceptional ability to cope and rebuild virtually their entire business after a fire ravaged their operation.

TMS Vice Presidents Eric and Craig Frankhauser are to be commended for their efforts to restore their corporation. After a disastrous fire that destroyed much of the plant in February 1998, the two brothers worked tirelessly to fulfill customer orders and remain in production mode. Remarkably, five days after the fire, the company was back online and serving its customers with the same level of professionalism and courtesy as before the tragedy. Clients turn to TMS for a wide range of products including parts for missiles, passenger jets, and military aircraft, as well as stainless steel, cone-shaped hoppers used for countless purposes from releasing fruit into yogurt to processing pills.

As the Frankhausers rebuilt their facility their innovation and ingenuity led the way. Forced to rebuild not only their physical building but also their business structure, the Frankhausers revamped their entire production operation. They redesigned the company's production system, stressing flexibility of machinery and workers. The two owners realized both the importance of giving their employees more responsibility and the success that results as workers interact with each other.

Despite the terrible fire, their improved operation successfully kept sales at 83 percent of 1997 levels. The Frankhausers and all of those employed at TMS have created a family business by which all companies should fol-

low. TMS will be paid a tribute this week as it receives the Blue Chip Enterprise Initiative Award, which is co-sponsored in part by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's Ninth Congressional District, I rise to congratulate TMS, the Frankhausers, and the many employees for their outstanding success and innovation as they stood in the face of disaster. The TMS example is certainly a business model to be followed as we enter the next millennium.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the RECORD reflect that an error occurred with regard to my vote on Mr. Goss's amendment which prohibits DOD funding to maintain a permanent U.S. military presence in Haiti beyond December 31, 1999. On June 9, I was recorded as voting "nay" on rollcall No. 183 when in fact I voted "aye" on the amendment.

COMMEMORATING THE BICENTEN-
NIAL OF CAYUGA COUNTY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 200th Anniversary of Cayuga County, located in my home district in upstate New York. It has a proud and distinguished history.

Cayuga County was established by the State Legislature as the 28th designated county in New York State. Many of the first settlers were veterans of the Revolutionary War, such as Colonel John Hardenbergh, whose settlement grew to become the City of Auburn. Auburn eventually became the largest community in the State west of Utica in the early years, as it served as a junction of the major turnpikes traveled by the westward settlers.

Many prominent political and historical figures who helped to shape our nation were citizens of Cayuga County, including Millard Fillmore, the 13th President of the United States; William H. Seward, the Governor of New York State from 1838–1842, a United States Senator from 1849–1861, and the Secretary of State for Presidents Lincoln and Johnson; Enos Throop, who served as a representative in Congress from 1814–1816, the Lieutenant Governor, and later as Governor of New York State; John Tabor, the last Republican full Appropriations Committee Chairman from New York State from 1952–54, and abolitionist Harriet Tubman. Additionally, inventions that have invaluable contributed to our way of life and which stem from Cayuga County include harvesters, carriage axles, threshing machines, adding machines, and motion picture sound.

Today, Auburn is the industrial center of Cayuga County with the production of shoes, carpets, rope, railroad locomotives, air conditioners, and electronic components. Cayuga

County has three state parks, encourages higher education through Wells College and Cayuga County Community College, and is home to the Cayuga Museum of History and Art and the Schweinfurth Art Center.

The Cayuga County Legislature recently held its May monthly meeting at Wells College in Aurora, the city where the county's first government meeting took place on May 28, 1799. A Harriet Tubman pilgrimage and a Red Cross barbecue were held during the Memorial Day weekend to commemorate the bicentennial, and upcoming anniversary events this summer include the Southern Cayuga Garden Club Tour, The Wall that Heals Vietnam Memorial at Emerson Park, and a Civil War sampler at the Morgan Opera House.

In the words of the county legislature, Cayuga County's quiescent, yet noble history, its diversified resources and its scenic beauty reveal that the region remains as impressive and promising today as it undoubtedly appeared to the entrepreneurial settlers 200 years ago.

It is my distinct honor to represent the descendants and subsequent residents of this outstanding community.

IN HONOR OF THE NINTH ANNI-
VERSARY OF CROATIAN STATE-
HOOD DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise, as a Croatian-American, to join my fellow brothers and sisters in honor of the ninth anniversary of Croatian Statehood Day.

Nine years ago Croatia took a monumental step towards democracy and independence, fulfilling the life-long dream of many, by declaring statehood. With the fall of the Berlin Wall, Communism's grip over Eastern Europe began to crumble, and by the late 1980's democratic movements developed in many countries. In Croatia, a progressive movement was started with the goal to form an alternative to the Communist Party which had been in power since 1945.

In April of 1990 elections were held in which the Communist Party was defeated in a landslide, and representatives from many new political parties were elected to the Parliament. The first meeting of this new democratically elected Parliament was on May 30, 1990. This occasion is a reason for Croatians all over the world to celebrate their country's historic movement towards independence and democracy.

I ask my fellow colleagues to join me, and my Croatian brothers and sisters, in celebrating Croatia's Statehood and congratulating them on nine years of independence.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR.
STANLEY WISSMAN

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, many members of the community in my district were saddened