

community, including National Urban League President Hugh Price and Raul Yzaguirre, president of the National Council of La Raza.

"The problem isn't only excessive use of force but dragnet techniques" that include racial profiling of suspects on traffic stops and the random stopping and frisking policies employed by New York City police, Price said.

Later, Bill Lann Lee, acting assistant attorney general for civil rights, told the caucus members that although his office is limited in its ability to bring federal prosecutions in local police jurisdictions, it has reached settlements with the cities of Pittsburgh and Steubenville, Ohio, which were judged by the Justice Department to discriminate in policing.

Lee said investigations of the Washington, New York City and New Orleans police departments are continuing.

"We have seen several tragedies in the last few months," Lee said. "We have to see how we as a nation as a whole respond, not by pointing fingers but by moving forward."

Witnesses like Dorothy Elliott provided tearful testimony of how their loved ones died at the hands of police. Mrs. Elliott's son, Archie Elliott III, 24, was stopped by Prince George's County, MD, police in June 1995 for driving erratically.

Police said Elliott, with his hands cuffed behind him in a police car, pointed a gun at them. The official version of events was that after refusing police orders to drop the gun, Elliott was shot 14 times and died.

"You can call it a tragedy, but I call it a murder," Mrs. Elliott sobbed. "My son didn't resist arrest, My son's life had value."

The shooting was ruled justified by authorities. Seated next to Mrs. Elliott was Saiko Diallo, whose son Amadou Diallo, a street vendor from Guinea, was killed Feb. 4 outside his apartment in the Bronx when four white police officers fired 41 shots, striking him 19 times and making the young immigrant a national symbol of police abuse.

"The police officers have been indicted for (second-degree) murder," Mrs. Diallo said in halting tones. "But they are still working full time with a full salary. This is unfair. This is not right."

Additional hearings are planned for New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago and Atlanta.

**BELL ATLANTIC WORKERS SUE COMPANY FOR \$100 MILLION**

(By Genaro C. Armas)

PHILADELPHIA.—A group of current and former employees of Bell Atlantic Corp. filed a \$100 million federal lawsuit against the company Monday charging that a racially hostile environment led to the suicides of three employees who worked at a company garage.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court alleges that company executives did not do enough to stem the discrimination allegations lodged by 10 plaintiffs against two men who were supervisors at the garage where the suicide victims worked. The three workers, all black males, died between 1994 and 1997.

The suit said the alleged harassment against the victims, as well as other black workers in the Philadelphia garage by white supervisors, Thomas Flaherty and Nick Pomponio, who were named as defendants in the lawsuit, was so harsh that some workers considered "taking the laws into their own hands."

"But (they) opted to endure the suffering instead, believing that Bell Atlantic would take the action it promised to take (to inves-

tigate complaints and take corrective action)," court documents said.

Both Flaherty and Pomponio have since been transferred out of the garage, plaintiffs' attorney John Hermina said. Flaherty, reached by phone, referred comment to corporate attorneys. A number the company provided for Pomponio was incorrect and he could not be reached for comment.

Joan Rasmussen, a Bell Atlantic spokesperson in Arlington, VA., said Hermina had tried to file a similar lawsuit in federal court in Washington seeking class status but a judge "denied their claim of a pattern of discrimination.

"Bell Atlantic is proud of its record on diversity," said Ms. Rasmussen, who declined to comment specifically on the Philadelphia lawsuit because she had not seen it. "Discrimination is totally unacceptable in the workplace at Bell Atlantic."

The lawsuit accuses the company of racial discrimination and retaliation, negligence, breach of contract, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

"Bell Atlantic knew this was going on," Hermina said. "It's a culture of neglect, because apparently Bell Atlantic felt that these African-American employees don't matter."

**IN SUPPORT OF COLORADO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 99-1020**

**HON. BOB SCHAFER**

OF COLORADO

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

**HON. JOEL HEFLY**

OF COLORADO

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Thursday, June 24, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, in the matter of designating certain additional wilderness lands in Colorado, the Colorado General Assembly has spoken clearly.

By the passage of Colorado House Joint Resolution 99-1020, the General Assembly has established Colorado's official position on pending federal legislation designating approximately 1.4 million acres of land in Colorado as wilderness.

We hereby submit for the RECORD the full text of the resolution adopted in both houses of Colorado's General Assembly and urge all colleagues to consider the stated official policy of our state regarding this important matter.

Furthermore, we commend the leadership of the authors and prime sponsors of H.J.R. 99-1020, State Representative Diane Hoppe and State Senator Gigi Dennis.

Mr. Speaker, we hereby serve notice of our intent to support and represent Colorado's official position, as expressed in H.J.R. 99-1020, regarding the relevant legislation pending consideration by the U.S. House of Representatives.

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 99-1020**

By Representatives Hoppe, Smith, Alexander, Berry, Clapp, Kester, Larson, McKay, Miller, Mitchell, Spradley, Taylor, Webster, T. Williams, Allen, Dean, Decker, Fairbank, Hefley, King, Lawrence, Lee, McElhaney, McPherson, Nunez, Paschall, Scott, Young.

Also Senators Dennis, Anderson, Arnold, Chlouber, Dyer, Epps, Evans, Hillman,

Musgrave, Teck, Wattenberg, Wham, Congrove, Lamborn, Owen, Powers.

**CONCERNING OPPOSITION TO H.R. 829, THE "COLORADO WILDERNESS ACT OF 1999"**

Whereas, H.R. 829, the "Colorado Wilderness Act of 1999", proposes to designate another approximately one million four hundred thousand acres of land in Colorado as wilderness prior to the revision of many of Colorado's forest plans, thereby usurping the United States Forest Service's land management review process and ignoring the original wilderness recommendations made to the United States Congress by the United States Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") that totaled four hundred thirty-one thousand acres; and

Whereas, H.R. 829 was drafted without input from either the general public or local elected officials and does away with local control over land management; and

Whereas, Federal lands in Colorado have been exhaustively studied for their wilderness suitability under the "Wilderness Act" of 1964, the Department of Agriculture's second roadless area review and evaluation (RARE II), the wilderness evaluation by the BLM, the "Colorado Wilderness Act of 1980", and the "Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993"; and

Whereas, Many acres of federal lands slated for wilderness designation do not qualify as pristine as required by the "Wilderness Act" of 1964; and

Whereas, The United States Congress considered the option of wilderness designation for federal lands in Colorado and designated several areas under the "Wilderness Act" of 1964 and approved two statewide wilderness bills. One of those statewide wilderness bills was enacted in 1980 and classified one million four hundred thousand acres as wilderness. The other was enacted in 1993 and provided wilderness protection for six hundred eleven thousand seven hundred acres, bringing the total wilderness acreage in Colorado to three million three hundred thousand to date; and

Whereas, The United States Congress declared that lands once studied and found to be unsuitable for wilderness designation should be returned to multiple-use management; and

Whereas, H.R. 829 creates a federal reserved water right for each wilderness area, an approach specifically rejected in the 1980 and 1993 wilderness bills; and

Whereas, The designation of downstream wilderness areas may result in the application of the federal "Clean Water Act of 1977" requirements in a manner that interferes with existing and future beneficial water uses in Colorado; and

Whereas, The overall effect of the designation of downstream wilderness areas will be to destroy Colorado's ability to develop and use water allocated to the citizens of this state under interstate compacts, thereby forfeiting Colorado's water to downstream states; and

Whereas, Many of our rural economies are dependent on a combination of multiple uses of our public lands, such as timber production, oil, gas, and mineral development, and motorized and mechanized recreation, all of which are prohibited by a wilderness designation and also severely inhibits the ability to conduct grazing activities on public lands; and

Whereas, Wilderness designations limit the land management options available to public land managers to protect forest health and dependent watersheds; and

Whereas, Additional wilderness designation puts increased pressure on the new designated lands as well as lands currently open to multiple-use activities and limits access to only the most physically capable individuals; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

That the members of the Sixty-second General Assembly oppose H.R. 829, the "Colorado Wilderness Act of 1999".

*Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the United States Sec-

retary of the Interior, the Director of the United States Bureau of Land Management, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of Colorado's delegation in the United States Congress.

RUSSELL GEORGE,  
*Speaker of the House  
of Representatives.*

RAY POWERS,  
*President of the Senate.*

JUDITH M. RODRIGUE,  
*Chief Clerk of the  
House of Representatives.*

PATRICIA K. DICKS,  
*Secretary of the Senate.*