

After nearly 140 years, the banner was in poor condition. It was torn and tattered and in need of restoration. With more assistance from the community and significant support from the City of Norwich, a group formed to preserve the banner—the Norwich-Lincoln Homecoming Committee—was able to send it to be expertly restored by the Textile Conservation Center at the American Textile Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts. On January 22, the banner will be returned permanently to Norwich. It will become the centerpiece of an exhibit at the Slater Museum entitled “Norwich, Lincoln and the Civil War.” After the exhibit closes, the banner will be displayed in City Hall for all to see.

Mr. Speaker, the return of the “Lincoln Banner” to Norwich brings the community full circle and closes an important loop in its history. The effort to purchase and preserve the banner demonstrates that pride in the community and our heritage is alive and well in American today. I believe President Lincoln would be proud of, and probably more than a little humbled by, the community's efforts to preserve an important part of the past. I know I speak for the entire community when I say “Welcome Back, Mr. President.”

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

### HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Plant Genetic Conservation Appropriations Act of 2000 that provides \$1.5 million for a genetic plant conservation project that collects and preserves genetic material from our Nation's endangered plants.

While the Fish and Wildlife Service continues to make strides in battling the war against further extinction of endangered species, we must do more. As of 1997 when I originally introduced this legislation, there were 513 plants listed as Endangered and 101 as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Today, there are 567 plants listed as endangered and 135 as threatened. The need to supplement the Fish and Wildlife Services work is critical.

I believe a crucial part of the solution to save our endangered species is the genetic plant conservation project, which can help save and catalog genetic material for later propagation. As genetic technology develops, we will have saved the essential materials necessary to restore plant populations.

The Plant Genetic Conservation Appropriations Act of 2000 requests \$1.5 million for activities such as rare plant monitoring and sampling, seed bank upgrade and curation, propagation of endangered plant collections, expanded greenhouse capacity, nursery construction, cryogenic storage research, and in vitro storage expansion.

In my home state of Hawaii, the endangered plant population sadly comprises 46 percent of the total U.S. plants listed as endangered. And our endangered plant list continues to grow. We cannot afford to wait any longer. By allocating the resources and allowing scientists to collect the genetic samples now, we can ensure our endangered plants will survive.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Plant Genetic Conservation Appropriations Act

2000. This necessary bill can lead us to preserving plants that many of our ecosystems cannot afford to lose.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE NEW HAVEN LIONS CLUB

### HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the achievements of a very special organization. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Lions Club of New Haven, Michigan as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary on January 23, 1999.

In 1948, the New Haven Lions Club was organized by the Richmond Lions Club and chartered with thirty-three members. Though their membership has grown and changed, their goal has remained the same: to dedicate their talents to people in need. During the 1996–97 year they assisted other local clubs in building a fully handicapped accessible cottage at the Bear Lake Lions Visually Impaired Youth Camp. In 1983, the club organized the New Haven Goodfellows. Each year during the holidays, they assist many families by providing food and toys for the children. The club is dedicated to community service through their membership.

During the last fifty year, members of the Lions Club have contributed their time and resources to the betterment of their community. Among their many contributions include building the Lenox Library, purchasing eye exams and glasses for area residents, sponsoring the Lioness Club, and funding scholarships for New Haven High School graduates. The members have also been strong supporters of Boy Scouts, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, and Leader Dogs for the Blind. The club has loaned out wheel chairs, walkers, crutches, canes and hospital beds. I would like to thank all of the members, past and present, who have donated their various talents to improve the quality of life in the New Haven community.

The self sacrificing qualities of the Lions Club members are what makes our communities successful. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Lions Club of New Haven a Joyful 50th Anniversary. Their legacy of public service is sure to last well beyond another fifty years.

#### OVERDUE FOR OVERALL—THE MINING LAW OF 1872

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, later this year, on May 10, the General Mining Law will be 127 years old—yet, it remains on the books without change in regard to gold, silver and other “hard rock” minerals. Lack of Congressional action to reform this archaic law is indefensible—albeit a testament to the strength of the mining industry's influence on certain key Members who have

consistently blocked any attempt to amend or replace the law during the past two Congresses. Written to encourage settlement of the West during the last century, the Mining Law of 1872 provides an automatic legal right to our Nation's hard rock mineral wealth to those interested in developing it. The law is long overdue for a major overhaul to save taxpayers and the environment from further losses.

This antiquated relic allows mining operators nearly unlimited access to our Nation's hard rock minerals, no matter what other values (such as fish and wildlife habitat) may also be present. The law lets mining companies extract the minerals without paying a royalty or other production fee to the Federal Government. Finally, the lucky prospector who discovers gold or another hard rock mineral has the right to “patent” (purchase) the land and the minerals without paying fair market value.

Since Ulysses S. Grant signed the law in 1872, American taxpayers have lost about 3.2 million acres of public land containing more than \$231 billion in gold, silver and valuable minerals without benefit of royalties or other fees. This is corporate welfare that subsidizes both foreign and domestic mining companies and should be stopped.

Under the 1872 mining law, the U.S. cannot collect a royalty or fee on the production value of hard rock minerals extracted from public lands. This differs from Federal policy toward coal, oil and gas industries operating on public lands, the laws and regulations of state governments, and leasing arrangements in the private sector. The U.S. collects a 12.5 percent royalty on coal, oil and gas (and an even higher royalty is collected from offshore petroleum development). The Federal Government collects production royalties on “leasable minerals” such as phosphate, potassium, sodium and sulphur. We also require a royalty on all minerals extracted from “acquired lands,” which are lands that the federal government has purchased, condemned or received as a gift.

All western States collect a royalty or production fee from minerals removed from State lands, collecting between 2 percent and 10 percent on the gross income from mineral production. Besides a royalty, 10 western States also collect a severance tax on certain minerals extracted from any land in the States, whether it is Federal, State or privately-owned. On private lands, royalties are usually similar to those imposed on federal and state lands and are usually set at 2 percent to 8 percent of gross income.

As Stuart Udall, former Secretary of the Interior, has noted, hard rock mining has made many men wealthy, built great corporations and caused cities to spring up in the wilderness. But this prosperity has come with a price. Over the past century, irresponsible and unwise mining operators have devastated over half a million acres of land—by acting without thought for the future or by simply walking away from played-out mines. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), mine wastes have polluted more than 12,000 miles of our Nation's waterways and 180,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs. Abandoned mines threaten public safety and health while creating long-lasting environmental hazards. Toxic mine wastes endanger people, destroy aquatic habitat, and contaminate vital ground water resources. The Mineral Policy Center

estimates that clean-up will cost between \$32 billion and \$72 billion.

The only mining law reform bill Congress has sent to the President in recent years was part of the fiscal year 1995 budget reconciliation bill that President Clinton properly vetoed in December 1995, for reasons well beyond the scope of the 1872 mining law. That reform proposal, which all of the longtime mining reform advocates opposed, would have reserved a 5 percent "net proceeds" royalty on future mining operations on public lands. But, it also provided so many exorbitant and absurd loopholes that most mines could have avoided paying the royalty. Therefore, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) scored the royalty at just \$12 million over seven years as compared to nearly \$420 million attributed to the royalty provision passed on a 3-1 margin by the House in 1993.

Today, I am introducing three bills, in addition to Rep. Nick Rahall's (D-WVA) comprehensive bill to reform the Mining Law of 1872. These three bills, identical to ones that former Senator Dale Bumpers (D-AR) and I introduced in the 105th Congress would:

(1) Impose a 5 percent net smelter return royalty on all hard rock minerals mined from public lands, eliminate patents, and permanently extend the rental fee,

(2) Impose a sliding scale net proceeds reclamation fee on all hard rock minerals mined from lands that have been removed from the public domain under the 1872 Mining Law, and

(3) Close the depletion allowance loophole on all lands subject to the 1872 Mining Law. Reservation of a royalty would mean that Americans would receive a fair return on the extraction of hard rock minerals from public lands.

Imposition of a reclamation fee on lands removed from the public domain under the 1872 law would give the public a fair return on the value of hard rock minerals mined from those lands. All these revenues would be used to clean up the environment disaster we inherited from past mining operators.

The majority refused to even hold hearings on these bills during the last Congress, instead focusing on crushing Clinton administration policies that would have made miners accountable for their actions and decreased the level of environmental destruction that accompanies mining activities. I therefore call on Chairman Young to allow these bills a fair and open hearing this year.

Now is the time to act. The Federal royalty base is already small and is rapidly diminishing as mining operations go to patent. The GAO believes that nearly \$65 billion worth of gold, silver, copper, and certain other hard rock minerals still exist in economically recoverable reserves on western Federal lands. But, the longer Congress delays, the smaller the royalty base will become as ever more mining conglomerates push through the patent process.

Mining reform is long overdue. The effort to update the 1872 law has enjoyed vigorous, bipartisan support in the House of Representatives for many years. Public opinion—even in Western states with large mining activities—is strongly in favor of mining reform that includes a royalty that raises substantial revenues to be used for abandoned mine clean-up. Four out of five Americans support mining reform, according to a 1994 nationwide bipartisan sur-

vey. In 1994, the House and Senate came close during a Conference to crafting an acceptable agreement only to be derailed by the threat of a filibuster during the last days of the session. The mining industry and a few Senators have repeatedly blocked reform from enactment during the last decade.

The 106th Congress should impose a reasonable net smelter royalty on hard rock minerals extracted from public lands, dedicating the revenues to cleaning up abandoned mine sites, permanently extend the \$100 rental fee, and close the depletion allowance loophole.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY S. GOVERNALE

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Anthony S. Governale, one of San Mateo County's most dedicated public servants. Tony passed away on December 29, 1998, leaving behind a legacy of community service that made a significant difference in the lives of innumerable Bay Area residents. He will be sorely missed by all of us who knew him and all of us who benefited from his lifetime of public service.

Many people talk about the frustration of politics and about the inability of a single individual to effect change through government. Tony Governale's life stands as a strong rebuttal to these skeptics. Tony did not merely talk about building a more vibrant America for his children and grandchildren—he volunteered his time and his considerable energy and his insight on behalf of political candidates who shared his progressive beliefs. He masterminded a number of important campaigns, and he served for some time as the president of the San Mateo County Democratic Council.

When his reputation as a community leader provided him with the opportunity to assist his beloved City of San Bruno in an official capacity, he seized that challenge. Tony served as a member of the City Council for eight years, and for two years of that time he served as mayor. He was a key figure in guiding San Bruno through a decade of growth and progress. His commitment to performing his public responsibilities, as well as his tireless efforts to reach out and involve the entire community in the decisions of its government, made him one of San Mateo County's most beloved citizens.

Tony's public service was by no means confined to politics and government. As the longtime executive director of the Daly City-Colma Chamber of Commerce, he used his organizational skills and persuasive talents to foster the development of one of California's most dynamic business areas. He was instrumental in the establishment of the San Mateo County Health Center Foundation, which raises funds to improve the lives of patients at the San Mateo County General Hospital. He served on the governing board of the Shelter Network of San Mateo County, on the Board of Directors of the San Mateo County Fair, and as an active participant in many other civic organizations throughout the Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the extraordinary life and

accomplishments of Tony Governale and in extending condolences to his wife, Helen, and his fine family. It is my hope that Tony's family can take comfort in the realization that his important contributions to our community are an outstanding and a fitting memorial to him for generations to come.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

#### HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to day with my colleague, Mr. HOYER, to introduce the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999. Mr. Speaker, this bill is identical to legislation sponsored by Senator Glenn and THOMPSON that passed the Senate in the unanimous consent in the waning hours of last Session.

Mr. Speaker, I often hear from state and local governments and constituents involved in non-profit organizations who, in an attempt to gain assistance for many worthy programs, are frustrated by the miles of red tape, regulations and duplicative procedures they encounter. Applying for the grant is not the only problem. The administrative and reporting requirements attached to certain grants often makes these entities question the cost effectiveness of entering the program in the first place.

To address this concern we have introduced this short and straight forward legislation. It requires relevant Federal agencies, with oversight from OMB, to develop plans within 18 months that do the following: streamline application, administrative, and reporting requirements; develop a uniform application (or set of applications) for related programs; develop and expand the use of electronic applications and reporting via the Internet; demonstrate interagency coordination in simplifying requirements for cross-cutting programs; and set annual goals to further the purposes of the Act. Agencies would consult with outside parties in the development of the plans. Plans and follow-up annual reports would be submitted to Congress and the Director and could be included as part of other management reports required under law.

In addition to overseeing and coordinating agency activities, OMB would be responsible for developing common rules that cut across program and agency lines by creating a release form that allows grant information to be shared by programs. The bill sunsets in five years and The National Academy for Public Administrators (NAPA) would submit an evaluation just prior to its sunset.

The bill builds on past efforts to improve program performance through the Government Performance Results Act and to reduce Federal burdens through the Paperwork Reduction & Unfunded Mandates Acts. It has been endorsed by state and local organizations such as the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislators, the National Association of Counties, and the National League of Cities. I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. HOYER and the other original cosponsors for joining me in this effort and I encourage my colleagues to join in support of this bipartisan effort.