

will join me by cosponsoring the bill whose stated goal is to prevent thousands and thousands of people suffering from cardiac arrest from dying by making equipment and trained personnel available at the scene of the emergency.

TOBACCO SMUGGLING ERADICATION ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the World Bank recently issued a report entitled, "Curbing the Epidemic: Governments and the Economics of Tobacco Control," which finds disturbing trends in tobacco use around the globe. This report concludes that, in another 2 decades, tobacco will become the single biggest cause of premature death worldwide, accounting for 10 million deaths each year. That is 10 million unique human beings choking to death with emphysema, withering away with lung cancer, or perhaps feeling the sharp pain of a heart attack as a result of nicotine addiction. Half of these deaths will occur to individuals in middle age, who will each lose 20 to 25 years of their life.

Effective and aggressive action against tobacco smuggling represents one key strategy necessary in what should be a comprehensive global effort to address this pandemic, according to both the World Bank and the World Health Organization. To assure that our country is participating in such action, I am today introducing the Tobacco Smuggling Eradication Act. This measure is important in both fighting organized crime and in promoting public health.

In a statement endorsing this bill yesterday, ENACT, a coalition of 55 major national medical and public health organizations, including the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, and the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, had this to say of my bill:

"Your bill would strengthen domestic antismuggling efforts and address the shameful fact that lax oversight of U.S. cigarette exports is fueling an international black market in U.S. cigarette brands. Researchers estimated that about one-third of all cigarette exports disappear into the black market. U.S. brands such as Marlboro, Camel, Winston, and Kent are the most commonly smuggled. Tobacco smuggling seriously undermines public health laws in other countries and is an embarrassment to our nation."

Just how big an embarrassment is reflected in this national news story from the Washington Post last December, entitled, "Tobacco affiliate pleads guilty to role in smuggling scheme." An affiliate of the RJ Reynolds Company, one of the tobacco giants, was

caught up in illegality in participating in a scheme to avoid \$2.5 million in U.S. excise taxes.

Nor is RJR the only tobacco giant caught up in such criminality. Last year, a senior judge in Hong Kong concluded that British-American Tobacco and Brown and Williamson were helping international organized crime by selling duty-free cigarettes "worth billions and billions of dollars with the knowledge that those cigarettes would be smuggled into China and other parts of the world."

While most of the attention with our relations with the country of Colombia focuses on the illegal drugs from there to here, a study last year found that more than four-fifths of the 5.5 billion Marlboro cigarettes that are produced here by Philip Morris and sold there in Colombia are illegal smuggled goods.

Far from hurting business, tobacco companies have found that they can move their lethal products around the world by assisting smugglers. Big tobacco profits from selling cigarettes to smugglers who reduce the price for the black market and increase consumption and sales, helping them build a global market.

My bill requires that packages for export be clearly labeled for export to prevent illegal reentry into the United States. That is the scheme that the RJR affiliate used, claiming that cigarettes were reentering our country for export to Russia and Estonia when, in fact, they were going on the black market smuggled from New York into Canada.

Our bill also requires that packages of tobacco products manufactured here or imported here also be uniquely marked. Law enforcement agents have said will give the opportunity to trace the products, verify the source, and have the labeling requirements that they need for effective law enforcement.

Under this bill, retailers and wholesalers will be required to keep documents on tobacco shipments which will greatly assist law enforcement. As our Treasury Secretary Larry Summers said last year during congressional testimony, "The Treasury Department believes that the creation of a sound regulatory system, one that will close the distribution chain for tobacco products, will ensure that the diversion and smuggling of tobacco can be effectively controlled."

With the help of the Treasury Department, that is exactly what this bill will do. It will also assist the States in enforcing and collecting their excise taxes on all tobacco products. Recent studies have indicated that the States of Washington, Michigan, Massachusetts, New York, and California each lose \$30-100 million per year in excise taxes on tobacco products because of smuggling. Last year, big tobacco spent millions to promote false claims that our Federal legislative proposals to reduce youth smoking would cause smuggling. Now is the time for big to-

bacco to get behind this effective law enforcement legislation or once again to reveal its hypocrisy,

Mr. Speaker, with the introduction of this bill, we hope to stop the smuggling and stop the mugging of the world's children through nicotine addiction.

FRESHMEN REPUBLICANS INITIATE BEYOND THE BELTWAY PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, 19 Republican freshmen stood shoulder to shoulder on the front lawn outside this very building. We did so to launch our class-wide project that we are calling Beyond the Beltway.

The Republican freshmen are a diverse group coming from diverse backgrounds and representing equally diverse parts of America. But despite that diversity, we are all excited by some of the innovative reforms that we are seeing take place in State capitals throughout the land.

Governors and legislative leaders, Republicans and Democrats from States from California to New York, are meeting their policy challenges in exciting, innovative ways. With our Beyond the Beltway project, we are hoping as freshmen to open new doors for these leaders.

We know that, for far too long, Federal rules and bureaucracies have held them back and smothered their efforts through unnecessary burdens and restrictions. Now the freshmen are reaching out to leaders like my own Governor, Governor Tommy Thompson, in an effort to help them unleash a whole new wave of creativity and innovation in State after State.

It is the freshmen who are initiating this project because, even though we are Members of Congress, we are very much still State legislators, local officials, and private sector small business persons at heart.

Here specifically is what the beyond the Beltway project will do. The freshman class, as a group, have asked our governors, legislative leaders, directly and through the various associations to help us identify some of those Federal rules and restrictions that are holding them back. We want to turn these suggestions into an ongoing action agenda. Member by member and issue by issue, we want to provide relief.

We are coming forward now with the Beyond the Beltway initiative because we have also introduced the first measure result from this new dialogue. This legislation would direct each Federal agency to develop an expedited review process for waiver requests.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, oftentimes States need Federal approval or waivers to initiate their State programs if

those plans deviate from the details of Federal programs.

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The idea of this legislation is that where a State has been granted a waiver on a particular program, if another State seeks a similar waiver, we believe that they should only have to go through a streamlined or expedited waiver review process. We want to encourage the laboratories of democracy. We want to encourage modeling. We want to encourage benchmarking. We want to encourage borrowing of ideas.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that my colleagues would join us in this expedited review bill and, more importantly, join the Republican freshmen in developing beyond-the-Beltway ideas. This is more than a short-term project. We hope it is the beginning of a new, longer, more open relationship between Congress and the States. Instead of the governors coming to us on bended knee, we are hoping to go to them for ideas and suggestions. We want to turn them loose. We believe that there is no telling how many of our major social, political challenges can be met if only we will move power and authority out of Washington and beyond the Beltway.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS BILL HAS SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR ARMENIA, NAGORNO KARABAGH, AND U.S. CAUCASUS POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this week the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations of the House Committee on Appropriations is expected to mark up the fiscal year 2000 bill regarding foreign assistance and other programs vital to maintain and enhance American leadership throughout the world.

This legislation is extremely important for the Republics of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh as they emerge from the ashes of the former Soviet Union to establish democracy, market economies, and increased integration with the West. Thus, in my capacity as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I am asking my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join with me this week in urging the members of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations to express our concerns on several key issues regarding Armenia, Nagorno Karabagh, and U.S. policy in the Caucasus region. This Subcommittee has many friends of Armenia, and I look forward to their support on these important issues.

First, Mr. Speaker, we will be urging that the Subcommittee earmark assistance for the Republic of Armenia at the highest level possible. The legislation that has been adopted by the other body, the Senate, last month earmarks \$90 million for Armenia, with a sub-

earmark of \$15 million for the earthquake zone. We hope that the House subcommittee will consider providing a similar figure. It is important for the United States to maintain our support and partnership with Armenia as this country continues to make major strides toward democracy, most recently evidenced by the May 30 parliamentary elections. U.S. assistance also serves to offset the difficulties imposed on Armenia's people as a result of the hostile blockades maintained by their neighbors to the east, Azerbaijan, and to the west, Turkey.

I would also like to see the subcommittee continue humanitarian aid for Nagorno Karabagh, an historically Armenian-populated region that has proclaimed its independence and exercises democratic self-government but whose territory is still claimed by the neighboring country of Azerbaijan. The subcommittee took an historic step in the fiscal year 1998 bill by providing for the first time humanitarian assistance to Nagorno Karabagh. Unfortunately, much of that American assistance has not yet been obligated. I hope that the subcommittee, in the fiscal year 2000 bill, will make efforts to ensure that this assistance be fully obligated for the people of Nagorno Karabagh by directing the Agency for International Development to expedite delivery of this assistance.

Mr. Speaker, another key priority is to maintain Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, which restricts certain direct government-to-government assistance to Azerbaijan until that country lifts its blockades of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh. Last year, the full House voted to strip a provision from the fiscal year 1999 bill that would have repealed Section 907, and last month the other body defeated a provision to waive Section 907. Clearly, there is a bipartisan consensus in both Houses that the conditions for lifting Section 907 have not been met.

Another way in which the Foreign Ops bill can make a big difference is by encouraging progress on the Nagorno Karabagh Peace Process. The U.S. has been one of the countries taking the lead in the peace process, as a co-chair of the Minsk Group under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Late last year, the U.S. and our negotiating partners put forward a compromise peace plan, known as the "Common State" proposal, as a basis for moving the negotiations forward. Despite some serious reservations, the elected governments of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh have accepted this proposal in a spirit of good faith to get the negotiations moving forward, while Azerbaijan summarily rejected it. I hope the subcommittee would include language urging the administration to stay the course on the compromise peace proposal and to use all appropriate diplomatic means to persuade Azerbaijan to support it.

To further promote the peace process, we would ask that the sub-

committee consider language calling on the State Department to work with the parties to the conflict to initiate confidence-building measures. These measures should be geared both towards a reaching of a negotiated settlement, such as strengthening the current cease-fire, as well as for establishing a framework for better integration following a negotiated settlement, such as transportation routes and other infrastructure, trade, and increased people-to-people contacts.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the members of this subcommittee are grappling with many competing demands in a complicated world with limited budgets. The fiscal year 2000 Foreign Ops Appropriations bill provides us with a chance to shape U.S. foreign policy for a new century and a new millennium. Armenia is a nation that measures its history in millennia, yet the Republics of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh are very young democracies that embrace many of the same values that Americans cherish.

I hope that the legislation that the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations adopts this week will make a priority of supporting both Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh.

PROMOTING LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Michael Pollan in the New York Times Magazine article this weekend, "The Land of the Free Market and Livability," is certainly correct that government can and should be thinking of ways to align our policies for the types of communities that our hearts desire.

What I find disappointing is the assumption somehow that the choices consumers are making now based on their pocketbook are somehow solely the result of benign, inevitable market demands.

Having worked my entire career on the promotion of livable communities, I am struck by how the increasingly dysfunctional communities that are facing Americans across the country are a result of direct government interference in the marketplace. Consumers are behaving rationally by investing in ways where their incentives are skewed by government.

The most dramatic example is to be found in our treatment of the automobile. Seventy-five years ago, communities all across the country had profitable, private transit streetcar systems privately owned and profitable. Massive government spending, literally trillions of dollars, were used to promote automobile traffic, while at the same time there was no support given to transit; and indeed in many communities government contributed