

largest concentration of university staff funded by NOAA research. So, NOAA is very important for Colorado.

Funding for NOAA in this bill is \$113 million below this year's levels, and fully \$530 million below the levels of the request. These cuts will have a devastating effect on NOAA's ability to maintain a top quality scientific workforce and to conduct crucial research into climate change and weather phenomenon.

In particular, the Committee has recommended a cut of \$34 million to NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) from this year's levels. OAR's dedicated scientists forecast solar storms and conduct research activities into diverse atmospheric phenomenon such as air pollution, climate change, hurricanes and tornadoes. A cut of \$34 million would result in layoffs of 10 percent of OAR's workforce, and the elimination of 41 university positions that NOAA currently supports through research grants. In addition to these workforce reductions, the vital research projects that these staff are engaged in will be delayed or terminated while other nations move forward with these important scientific endeavors.

The Appropriations Committee also failed to provide funding for several key research initiatives that are important to this country's future. For example, NOAA had requested \$28 million for a Climate Observations and Services Initiative to make the transition from climate research to climate forecasting. Improving our forecasts of the future climate, including seasonal predictions and even into future decades, would result in billions of dollars in economic benefits to the agriculture and transportation industries.

A shortfall that directly impacts researchers in my district is in rent and related costs for the new NOAA research facility in Boulder. This facility, which became fully occupied in May of 1999, consolidates all of the six NOAA laboratories and two NOAA data centers in the Boulder area. The \$1.5 million increase is needed to fund the incremental charges assessed by the General Services Administration (GSA) for space, above standard utilities, maintenance and security. A failure to provide this requested amount will result in a reduction in NOAA's Boulder base programs of approximately 5 percent, which will impact key programs in climate, weather research and data collection management. I hope that this oversight will be corrected as the appropriations process moves forward.

I am also concerned about funding for the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS), a program that will replace two aging environmental satellite systems currently operated by NOAA and DOD.

The Committee cut NPOESS by \$6.6 million from the request, but did include favorable language in its report, noting that "the NPOESS program should be the first priority for any reprogramming of funds." A failure to provide adequate funding for NPOESS would greatly jeopardize the U.S. ability to provide reliable meteorological support to NOAA for weather forecasting, to NASA for its science mission, and to support the Department of Defense's combat forces. This cut would also result in a loss of as many as 70 jobs in my district, where Ball Aerospace is deeply engaged in the NPOESS program. I am hopeful that NPOESS will be fully funded in the course of the appropriations process.

I am also concerned about the bill's provisions for the National Institute of Standards and Technology. NIST also has a laboratory in Boulder, where a staff of about 530 scientists, engineers, technicians, and visiting researchers conduct research in a wide range of chemical, physical, materials, and information sciences and engineering. Their worthwhile contributions to NIST's work cannot continue at funding levels that are 34 percent below the numbers for fiscal 2000.

NIST's laboratories in Boulder have a backlog of critically needed repairs and maintenance, approaching \$70 million. As technology advances, the measurement and standards requirements become more and more demanding, requiring measurement laboratories that are clean, have reliable electric power, are free from vibrations, and maintain constant temperature and humidity. Most of the NIST Boulder labs are 45 years old, many have deteriorated so much that they can't be used for the most demanding measurements needed by industry, and the rest are deteriorating rapidly. Every day these problems go unaddressed means added costs, program delays, and inefficient use of staff time, but the bill eliminates the very modest fiscal 2001 request to begin to address the maintenance and construction needs.

The bill also insufficiently funds NIST initiatives for eCommerce, nanotechnologies, computer security, and assistance to small manufacturers in the area of eCommerce. It also completely eliminates funding for NIST's Advanced Technology Program, which has helped develop high-risk technologies with significant commercial potential through cost-shared projects. These funding decreases—at a time when we have all acknowledged the important role that technology has played in driving our current prosperity—make no sense.

The bill also has other serious shortcomings. It does not provide adequate funding for the Legal Service Corporation, the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, and the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission. It does not do enough for community-based crime prevention. It also fails to provide enough for coastal protection or for management of fishery resources.

Finally, the bill cuts \$240 million from international peacekeeping efforts, denying funding for UN missions in Africa, including Sierra Leone, Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Angola, and Western Sahara. In supporting funding for peacekeeping, I am not necessarily endorsing any single peacekeeping mission. However, we have a responsibility to pay our fair share to the troop-contributing countries, and we shouldn't abrogate that responsibility. In addition, I find it unfathomable that the Committee would ask us to place an upper limit on this funding even though we can't know a year in advance whether hostilities in different parts of the world will result in peace agreements requiring UN peacekeepers.

For all these reasons, I cannot support the bill.

A TRIBUTE TO LORNA MCNEILL,
MISS NORTH CAROLINA 2000

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Lorna McNeill who was recently crowned Miss North Carolina 2000. A native of Saddletree Township which is near Lumberton, in my home county of Robeson, Lorna's recent accomplishment is a source of immense pride throughout our county and all of southeastern North Carolina. She is also the first Lumbee Indian to win the title of Miss North Carolina.

The American historian, James Truslow Adams, once said, "Seek out that particular mental attribute which makes you feel most deeply and vitally alive, along with which comes the inner voice which says, 'This is the real me,' and when you have found that attitude, follow it." With decision, dedication, and determination, Lorna has followed her heart and mind and become Miss North Carolina 2000.

Lorna is a woman of decision who trusts in her instincts, her deeply-rooted religious beliefs, and the guidance of her wonderful parents in setting her goals. She is a woman of decision who is always looking for ways to help others. She is a woman of decision who always asks, "How can I best serve my community?"

Lorna is a woman of dedication who does not rest on her laurels. A winner of the first pageant she entered at the age of 15—Miss St. Pauls—and subsequent crowns of Miss Lumbee in 1994, Miss Fayetteville in 1998, and Miss Topsail Island in 2000, Lorna has kept the fire and energy alive to reach her dream of Miss North Carolina. She is a woman of dedication who provides a positive example for all to follow. A woman of dedication who has served as a substance abuse counselor with the Palmer Drug Prevention Program in Lumberton, Lorna will now inform young people all across North Carolina of the danger of drugs and alcohol.

Finally, Lorna is a woman of determination: a woman determined to make a difference, a woman of determination who understands that we face challenges that will define our future, a woman of determination who knows that we must address these challenges, a woman of determination motivated by the hope of making life better for all.

Personally, my family and I have come to know and love Lorna over the last few years. She sang when I first announced I was running for Congress on September 25, 1995, in Lumberton's Downtown Plaza, and she also sang during my announcement for re-election on October 2, 1997. More recently, my wife, Dee, and Lorna have been "working out" together at a local fitness center for the last six months, leading up to her recent coronation. Lorna and Dee have even been taking boxing together under the same instructor, Staff Sgt. Andrew Baker, who is retired from the U.S. Army.

Mr. Speaker, Lorna often uses the words of Pastor Robert Schuller when speaking before young people on the importance of achieving their dreams—"If it's gonna be, it's up to me."

Lorna, thank you for fulfilling those words through your decision, your dedication, and

your determination. We wish you continued success, and may God's strength, peace and joy be with you as you begin your reign as Miss North Carolina 2000 and as you compete for the title of Miss America!

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by Representatives LOWEY, MCCARTHY, DELAURO and STABENOW. This amendment would increase by \$150 million the bill's appropriation for the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program. The COPS program adds officers to the beat, enhances crime-fighting technology, and supports crime prevention initiatives.

The COPS program is a Clinton/Gore initiative that has been successful in adding cops to the beat and advancing community policing nationwide. To date, the COPS program has funded more than 104,000 officers. Community policing is a crime fighting strategy that encourages law enforcement to work in partnership with the community to solve crime problems. Mr. Chairman, this is a proven crime fighting initiative that has worked in my district and throughout the nation.

COPS is making a difference in our schools. Many communities are discovering that trained, sworn law enforcement officers assigned to schools make a difference. The presence of these officers provides schools with on-site security and a direct link to local enforcement agencies.

Community policing officers typically perform a variety of functions within the school. From teaching crime prevention and substance-abuse classes to monitoring troubled students to building respect for law enforcement among students, School Resource Officers combine the functions of law enforcement and education.

These funds will allow the COPS program to award grants to add up to 7,000 officers to our nation's streets and to provide added safety in our schools. These funds will be used to equip law enforcement with 21st century tools to fight 21st century crime. Grants will be used to invest in interagency information networks, technology centers, ballistics testing, DNA research and backlog reduction, crime lab enhancement, and crime mapping and analysis.

Mr. Chairman, my district is comprised of cities like Watts and Compton which struggle to meet the demands of crime fighting. While the rest of the nation is experiencing unprecedented drops in crime, our nation's urban centers are being left behind. I want to urge my colleagues to support this amendment which provides additional funding for a program that has truly taken a bite out of crime.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4690) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, I regret having to oppose this amendment offered by my good friend colleague from Illinois. While I appreciate what the gentleman is trying to do, I cannot support a reduction of \$15 million dollars in the National Weather Service budget.

This bill does not provide sufficient funding for many valuable programs, and it fails to provide any funding for many others. The funding level provided in the bill for NOAA, which administers the National Weather Service is already \$500 million below the Administration's request and the gentleman's amendment would essentially level fund the weather service at last year's level. That is simply unacceptable.

Every American in this country relies upon the weather service—at times to provide information that is vital to save lives and property. Weather Service programs cost each taxpayer a few dollars per year—a modest price to pay for the protection of life and property.

We have entered hurricane season. The gentleman's amendment would cut funding from the operations budget of the Hurricane Center in Miami and from other critical weather prediction centers around the country. Base operations at the 121 weather forecast offices around the country also would be impaired by this cut. This is simply too high a price to pay.

As the gentleman knows, the Administration included \$15 million for The PRIME Technical Assistance Grants in its budget request. I am certain there are many Members who share the gentleman's desire to see this program funded, however it should not be funded by cutting funds from corps programs of the National Weather Service.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4690) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to the FY 2001 Com-

merce-Justice-State Appropriations bill to help address the area code crisis that we are facing in America. Since 1995, we have added 95 new area codes in the United States. At our current pace, some estimate that we will run out of area codes entirely as early as 2007. If we run out of available numbers, your constituents will foot the estimated \$150 billion bill.

The problem is not that there aren't enough numbers out there, it's that tens of thousands of numbers are being unused. Unfortunately companies have been forced to take numbers in blocks of 10,000—even if they were only going to use a handful of the numbers. The rest of the numbers just sit unused.

In Massachusetts, the problem has become quite large in the last few years. In 1998, we added two new area codes in the state—781 and 978—for a total of five area codes. At the time, we were assured that these new codes would last for many years and we wouldn't have to go through this disruptive process again. Unfortunately, less than two years later, we were informed that these new codes were running out of numbers already and that we would have to add four new codes in Eastern Massachusetts alone. Now the area code in Western Massachusetts is also in jeopardy. If we add all of these new codes, we'll have ten area codes in a state that had only three codes less than five years ago.

While the FCC has recently moved to reduce the amount of numbers companies can take from 10,000 to 1,000, the same companies will not have to fully comply with the order until 2002. The wireless providers have an even longer time to make this change. My amendment asks the Commission to look at the possibility of shortening the timeline for the implementation of this order. If we wait for two more years, we may have added dozens of new area codes that are not needed.

The amendment also offers several other suggestions that I believe the FCC should consider as they produce this study. These include encouraging states and telecommunications companies to work together on rate center consolidation plans. Some believe that the number of rate centers in certain areas is significantly contributing to the overall area code crisis. While I know this is a complicated issue, and there may be valid concerns about the cost, the Commission should study the issue closely.

In addition, my amendment asks that the FCC address the issue of technology-specific area codes reserved for wireless/paging services or data phone lines. As more and more Americans take advantage of the new technologies available, more and more telephone numbers must be set aside for these services. There may be an opportunity to ease the numbering problem by reserving specific area codes for these new technologies.

If none of these suggestions offer a real solution to the problem, my amendment asks that the Commission study the costs and technological problems of adding an additional digit to existing phone numbers. This should focus on any potential ways to minimize the impact and cost on consumers and the business community.

Mr. Chairman, I believe this is a common-sense amendment to help us deal with the area code crisis. We must act quickly to address this issue. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.