

REGARDING SECTION 110 OF THE
ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION REFORM
AND IMMIGRANT RESPONSIBILITY
ACT OF 1996

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I am in support of repealing Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. While I certainly support the goal of enhanced immigration enforcement through better record-keeping at our nation's borders, implementing Section 110 prior to the establishment of a speedy automated entry-exit system will cause serious problems on the borders. Specifically, mandatory documentation will create massive traffic delays that would clog both the Northern and Southern borders, and obstruct trade and tourism nationwide.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service does not have the technology in place to carry out the entry-exit system required by Section 110 without unacceptable delays at all border crossings. As a representative from the State of Washington, my constituents will be adversely affected by the implementation of Section 110. In 1999, Washington State alone exported close to \$3 billion worth of goods to Canada. Applying Section 110 without adequate technology in place will create lines of waiting vehicles stretching several miles that would severely cripple trade, travel, and tourism between Washington State and Canada.

Likewise, in 1999, Washington State had close to 5.5 million border crossings at its 5 border stations. Of this, over 300,000 crossings were at the border station in Oroville, Washington, which is in my district. Oroville is a relatively small community in Central Washington that is not equipped to handle the extensive traffic jams that would be caused by Section 110. The City of Oroville recently adopted Resolution 391, and I submit the resolution to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In the Resolution, the City of Oroville requests that Congress delay the implementation of Section 110 until the United States Attorney General has addressed and resolved the issues and concerns relating to implementation.

Until technologies are developed to allow for extensive record-keeping at our border stations while ensuring timely border crossings, it is simply unreasonable to try and implement Section 110.

RESOLUTION No. 391

A resolution to urge the United States Congress ("Congress") to repeal or delay the implementation of Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 ("Act").

Whereas, Section 110 of the Act requires the establishment of an automated entry-exit control system at all airports, seaports and land border crossings to "collect a record of departure for every alien departing the United States and match the records of departure with the record of the Alien's arrival in the United States";

Whereas, implementation of Section 110 will add to the congestion at international crossings and increase the size and amount of delays and holdups at border crossings;

Whereas, delays and holdups at the border crossings will limit the potential for indus-

try expansion and will have negative national and international economic impacts on efficiency, service and jobs;

Whereas, trade and tourism between the United States and its North American neighbors has grown considerably since the enactment of NAFTA;

Whereas, trade and tourism are becoming an increasingly important sector of both the local border economies and the national economy;

Whereas, the World Travel and Tourism Council predicts that travel and tourism will ultimately account for 100 million jobs in this decade;

Whereas, through steady, incremental efforts, current alien arrival and departure data collection and sharing systems at ports of entry may be improved in ways that will advance important national objectives including expanded trade, travel and tourism, enhanced national security and law enforcement;

Whereas, future advances in data collection technology will enable federal, state and local governments and the private sector to increase the flow of goods and persons across our national borders.

Whereas, the appropriate agencies within the Administration, through advances in technology over time, may be able to recommend to Congress how to improve alien arrival and departure data collection and sharing systems at land and sea ports of entry in ways that advance important national objectives, including expanded trade, travel and tourism, enhanced national security and law enforcement;

Whereas, any such recommendations from the appropriate agencies should involve cooperative efforts between the public and private sectors including federal, state and local governments to ensure appropriate realization of these objectives;

Whereas, the technology to collect the data required by Section 110 of the Act is not yet commercially feasible;

Whereas, it is of critical importance that the data collection system created pursuant to Section 110 of the Act not interfere with the ebb and flow of goods and persons across our national borders.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of the City of Oroville, That that City of Oroville urges the United States Congress to delay implementation of Section 110 of the illegal immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 until the United States Attorney General has addressed and resolved the issues and concerns of this resolution in coordination with the private sector and state and local governments.

Passed this 2nd day of May, 2000.

DAVID K. REYNOLDS, Mayor.

KATHY M. JONES, Clerk-Treasurer.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM CEN-
TENNIAL ACT

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act. I am joined in this important effort by the distinguished chairman of the House Resources Committee, DON YOUNG, the ranking Democratic member of the Committee, GEORGE MILLER, the ranking Democratic subcommittee member, ENI

FALEOMAVAEGA, the Dean of the House of Representatives, JOHN DINGELL, and our colleague, DUKE CUNNINGHAM.

Since becoming chairman of the House Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, I have held many hearings on the operation, maintenance, and management of our nation's National Wildlife Refuge System. This unique system of Federal lands provides essential habitat for hundreds of fish and wildlife species, including more than 258 species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

The first wildlife refuge was created at Pelican Island, FL, in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt. Today the System has 521 refuges and 38 wetland management districts, which are located in all 50 States and the 9 Commonwealths, Territories, and island possessions. These units range in size from the smallest of less than one acre, the Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota, to the largest of 19.3 million acres in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Money for refuge land acquisition primarily comes from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

During the past 5 years, my subcommittee has taken a leadership role in approving legislation to improve our National Wildlife Refuge System. Without question, the most important change was the enactment of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. This landmark Act, P.L. 105-57, was sponsored by Chairman DON YOUNG and, for the first time, it created a comprehensive "organic law" governing the management of the world's largest and most diverse network of lands devoted to fish and wildlife. This historic measure also created a statutory shield to ensure that hunting and fishing and other forms of wildlife-dependent recreation will continue within the Refuge System, and it facilitates these traditional activities where compatible with conservation.

The second improvement, which I was honored to sponsor, was the National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer and Community Partnership Enhancement Act. This legislation will improve the infrastructure of the Refuge System by encouraging volunteer activities. In 1999, over 28,000 individuals volunteered more than 1.3 million hours, which was worth more than \$11 million in services. These services included staffing visitors centers, conducting hunter safety classes, landscaping, and operating heavy equipment. My bill, which was signed into law on October 5, 1998, will encourage additional volunteers by establishing up to 20 pilot projects for the purpose of hiring full-time volunteer coordinators. It also made it easier for interested individuals and groups to donate money or services to a particular refuge.

Finally, during the past 4 years, a bipartisan group of Members, including myself, DON YOUNG, GEORGE MILLER, ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, JOHN DINGELL, and others have vigorously lobbied the House Appropriations Committee to increase funding to reduce the Refuge System's operations and maintenance backlog. Together with the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), we were successful in persuading our Appropriations colleagues to increase funding for this account by \$86 million, which is a down payment on the maintenance backlog. While these increases were significant, there is

much work to be done to reach the goal of having a fully operational Refuge System by 2003.

The legislation I am introducing today recognizes the vital importance of the Refuge System and the fact that the System will celebrate its centennial anniversary in 3 years. Under the terms of this bill, a Commission will be established to promote awareness of the System; develop a long-term plan to meet the priority operations, maintenance and construction needs of the System; and to improve public use programs and facilities.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Commission would be composed of 11 voting members, including the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, the chairman and ranking minority members of the House Resources and Senate Environment and Public Works Committees, plus the congressional members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, would serve as ex officio members.

The Commission would be charged with the responsibility for preparing a plan to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the System, coordinating activities to celebrate that event, and hosting a conference on the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Commission would issue annual reports and would terminate no later than September 30, 2004.

Finally, this bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to prepare and submit to the Congress a long-term plan to address priority operations, maintenance, and construction needs of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Mr. Speaker, I anticipate that my subcommittee will conduct a hearing on this legislation in the near future. The American people deserve the finest Refuge System in the world. This bill is an appropriate next step in our efforts to ensure that the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, one of our Nation's greatest conservationists, will live on in the years ahead.

Ahead, I want to thank my distinguished colleagues for joining with me in this endeavor, and I urge enthusiastic support for the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ELIZABETH ROSE CARROLL—CELEBRATING THE FIRST PLACE WINNER OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ART COMPETITION, AN ARTISTIC DISCOVERY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I honor a very talented young lady from my congressional district, Elizabeth Rose Carroll of Springdale High School. Elizabeth is the top winner of the 2000 18th Congressional District High School Art Competition, An Artistic Discovery.

Elizabeth's pen and ink entitled "Petals in the Past" depicting a veiled woman of a bygone era holding a bouquet, was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition. I know that, with her obvious talent, many successes await Elizabeth.

I look forward to seeing "Petals in the Past" displayed along with the artwork of the other competition winners from across the country,

and I am pleased to be associated with Elizabeth's artistic talents.

Congratulations, Elizabeth. I wish you the very best of luck in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING VIETNAMESE-AMERICANS AND OTHERS WHO SEEK TO IMPROVE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN VIETNAM

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce this House Concurrent Resolution which expresses the sense of Congress regarding Vietnamese-Americans and others who seek to improve social and political conditions in Vietnam.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon to Communist forces. The current Socialist Republic of Vietnam continues under an oppressive Communist regime that limits and denies its citizens fundamental rights, such as the right to free speech, the right to religious worship, and the right to associate with others who do not agree with the government. During the past 25 years, many people, including Vietnamese-Americans have participated in peaceful protests, freedom rallies, candlelight vigils, hunger strikes, and other demonstrations to bring awareness and attention to the social and political situation in Vietnam.

It is important that we recognize the work of Vietnamese-Americans and others who labor continuously to bring attention to the injustices and human rights conditions in Vietnam. In addition, we must never forget those who risked and gave the ultimate sacrifice—their lives—in defending and attempting to bring freedom and democracy to Vietnam.

Traditionally, the former Republic of South Vietnam and presently in Vietnamese-American communities all across America, June 19 represents a day to commemorate and honor both fallen and living heroes who have dedicated or are continuing to dedicate their lives to bringing international attention to the human rights situation in Vietnam. The Vietnamese-American community may be relatively young, but it has a consistent record of bringing issues such as human rights abuses, political and religious persecution, and labor exploitations committed in Vietnam, to the attention of the American public.

Many of my own constituents have shared with me the horrors and their own personal stories of how they and their families have endured living under Vietnam's Communist regime without fundamental human rights. While many of them were lucky enough to escape from Vietnam, many more people have not been as fortunate.

It is my strongest hope that the citizens of Vietnam will one day be free: free to elect their own leaders and government, free to worship as they please, free to speak and print their own opinions without fear of persecution or harassment, and simply free to live their lives without government intrusion. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this

important resolution because it reaffirms Congress' commitment to Vietnamese-Americans and others whose work keeps the spirit of freedom alive for those still living in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MYRA (CASIMIRA) LENARD

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I have a heavy heart. It is in great sadness that I honor my dear friend, Myra (Casimira) Lenard, who fought her courageous and long bout with grave illness so valiantly. On Monday afternoon, May 1, Myra passed from this life after having served as the long time Executive Director of the Washington Office of the Polish American Congress. For nearly 20 years, she became the much revered force representing Polish Americans here in our Nation's Capital. Her fortitude was to be admired as she guided the Congress through the tumultuous times of Solidarity and Martial Law. What a gift that she lived to witness the fall of the Berlin Wall, and then saw the fulfillment of a life-long quest as Poland left the Warsaw Pact and became a member of NATO. She may be best remembered, though, for leading the charge to convert proceeds of the Polish American Enterprise Fund into the Polish American Freedom Foundation. It was Myra who worked tirelessly with the White House and Members of Congress ensuring that voices of Polish Americans in our country would be heard. It was Myra who sacrificed so much to fight for those unable to do it themselves.

Born in Poland, she emigrated to the United States as a small child, where she spent many years involved in Chicago's Polonian organizations. There she met the love of her life, Casimir I. Lenard, whom she married and then moved with him to Washington, DC in 1962. Once here, she immediately began volunteering her time to needy, worthy causes. Her talents were recognized as she ultimately achieved a leadership position at the Polish American Congress. Myra was the worthy recipient of numerous awards, including the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit—the highest civilian award granted by Poland, presented by Polish Foreign Minister Wladslaw Bartoszewski in 1995. At a meeting of the Supervisory Council of the Polish National Alliance in December 1998, she and her husband were enrolled in the PNA's Legion of Merit. The list of her accomplishments cannot fully capture the fullness of this dynamic, gracious, dedicated and politically brilliant woman. Truly she was a freedom-lover.

Mr. Speaker, may we gain some small comfort in knowing the spirit and fire that Myra carried through her life that helped bring freedom to her first homeland inspired thousands who have been touched with her light and love. May peace bless her always. And may the work to which she dedicated her life—with family and career—stand as a living testament to this regal and loving woman. America is fortunate indeed that she chose this nation as her permanent homeland.