

and are flocking to the authoritarian regimes around the world—the kinds of regimes we say are not good. More to the point, if given a choice between an emerging democracy and an authoritarian regime then US corporations take US taxpayer subsidies and choose the regimes that don't respect human rights, worker rights, or the environment.

For example, Charles Kernaghan in "Made in China" states that at one of the factories where Kathi Lee handbags are being made for Wal-Mart, the workers are forced "to work 12 to 14 hours a day, seven days a week, with only one day off a month, while earning an average wage of 3 cents an hour. However, even after months of work, 46 percent of the workers surveyed earned nothing at all—in fact, they owed money to the company."

Companies are allowed to get away with this kind of worker treatment in authoritarian regimes, not democracies. Furthermore, democracies tend to be more transparent and less corrupt. Yet US private investment currently favors the authoritarian over the democratic.

Supporters of PNTR dribble on about the need of engagement to facilitate a "movement" toward democracy. Yet the facts are that US corporations are leaving democracies at an unprecedented rate. US taxpayers subsidize this new "corporate flight." And unfortunately, one need only look at Chevron Corporation and Occidental Petroleum Company to see examples of just the kind of "movement" that we ought not want to export. In fact, Chevron is in federal court today for aiding and abetting in the murder of Nigerian citizens demonstrating to protect their environment against Chevron's wanton pollution of their indigenous lands. Occidental Petroleum seems to be on the same path as Chevron, willing to run over Colombia's fledgling democracy in order to despoil the sacred lands of the Uwa people. The U'wa have vowed to die before Occidental is allowed on their land. None of this bodes well for anyone involved—except the stockholders, perhaps, of both Chevron and Occidental. And in China, workers who protest their conditions are fired or could face prison for life!

Americans who buy Huffy bicycles, Alpine car stereos, RCA TV's, or Timberland, Keds, Fubu and Nike shoes or Spiegel clothing should have a right to know the conditions under which those items are made. American workers who used to make those items and who are now struggling to find their place in the new economy, certainly should have a right to know why their jobs "fled" to China.

Despite the rhetoric, the vote on China PNTR will not protect the US worker, nor will it protect the Chinese worker. There is a need for something more. That is why I will soon be introducing the Corporate Code of Conduct Act. This bill will establish minimum human rights, labor rights, and environmental protection guidelines based on US and internationally recognized standards. This legislation will allow us all to put our money where our professed values are: fair trade, democracy, respect for workers, sensible environmental standards, and no child labor.

I believe that our corporations can export freedom, prosperity, equality, and justice; and our bill, the Corporate Code of Conduct Act, will ensure that they do.

# THE WATER POLLUTION PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000 (H.R. 4502)

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman and Ranking member of the House Committee on Agriculture, we are pleased to introduce the Water Pollution Program Improvement Act of 2000 on behalf of farmers, ranchers, woodland owners, local governments and states throughout America.

In August of 1999, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed two changes to the regulations governing the implementation of the Clean Water Act which, if finalized, would fundamentally alter the agency's role in the management of nonpoint sources of pollution. While we agree with the EPA's stated intent of improving the quality of our nation's waters, we strongly oppose both the substance of these rules and the accelerated process employed by the EPA to bring them to finality. Our bill is designed to address these two concerns directly.

Our criticisms of EPA's proposed rules generally fall into two categories: (1) lack of authority and (2) lack of information.

## LACK OF AUTHORITY

Congress has clearly identified the responsibilities of the federal government and the states for maintaining the quality of our nation's waters. When Congress enacted the Clean Water Act in 1972, the primary emphasis of that legislation was to address point source pollution discharges. Congress at that time established a clear role for the Federal Government in the regulation of point source pollution through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) program.

Congress was also careful to define the point sources of pollution that would be subject to the NPDES program. This definition specifically excluded agricultural storm water discharge from the point source designation, thereby placing discharges from farming, ranching and silvicultural operations outside of the reach of the federal permitting program.

In 1987 Congress amended the Clean Water Act to establish a framework within which states could carry out their responsibility to manage nonpoint sources of pollution. It was the intent of Congress at that time to preserve the distinctions between point and nonpoint sources of pollution established in the 1972 Act so that there would be no ambiguity with regard to the role of the state in relation to the federal government.

At no time has Congress granted the federal government an affirmative regulatory role in the management of nonpoint sources of pollution. Neither has Congress granted the EPA the authority to unilaterally change the clear distinctions between point and nonpoint sources of pollution currently established in law.

Upon review of the draft rules proposed by the EPA, it is our view that the agency's proposal exceeds the authority provided by the 1972 Act and the 1987 amendments both in terms of the new regulatory role assumed by

the EPA and the designation of silvicultural activities as point sources of pollution. We further believe that while the joint statement issued by the EPA and USDA on May 1, 2000 partially addresses concerns raised by Congress and affected stakeholders regarding the EPA's authority, it does little to overcome this fundamental problem.

## LACK OF INFORMATION

Over the last 28 years, the Federal government and the states have placed great emphasis on reducing pollution levels from point sources. Both have made significant investments in technologies and scientific methods to measure and control pollution discharges. These investments have paid off as we have seen dramatic decreases in point source pollution over the last two decades.

Recently, both the Federal government and the states have begun to place increasing emphasis on the improvement of programs to reduce pollution from nonpoint sources. Understandably, because of the priority emphasis placed on point sources over the years, the technology and data needed to achieve measurable large-scale reductions on nonpoint source pollution are not yet fully developed.

States, local governments, businesses and landowners are currently poised to voluntarily spend billions of dollars over the next 20 years in an earnest attempt to acquire this technology and data. In order to realize the optimum return on these investments, however, states, local governments and other affected stakeholders must be allowed to operate within the flexible framework established by the 1987 Clean Water Act amendments. This will preserve the ability of the states to develop innovative methods to gather the information upon which sound management objectives can be based and thereafter design programs carefully tailored to meet those objectives.

Unfortunately, EPA's proposed rules move in exactly the opposite direction. By establishing arbitrary deadlines for completing TMDLs, threatening to unilaterally establish TMDLs and load allocations, and imposing mandatory guidelines for best management practices, EPA will force states to act before they have the data needed to act intelligently. In fact, the General Accounting Office has found that few states have the majority of the data needed to comply with the onerous requirements outlined in the EPA's proposed rules. Forcing states to comply with the new regulatory framework required by the EPA at this stage of the process will waste time and money and result in confusion rather than better water quality.

## PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

The purpose of the bill we are introducing today is to address the two concerns raised previously, namely, that the EPA lacks both the authority and the information to proceed with the agency's proposed rules.

Our legislation commissions an independent study of the scientific methodologies, programs, and costs associated with the development and implementation of TMDLs. We intend this independent review to provide the EPA, the Secretary of Agriculture and the states a valuable tool with which to develop sound policies for the management of nonpoint sources of pollution. This approach will help remedy the current problems associated with identifying impaired water bodies and establishing TMDL allocations based on anecdotal and otherwise unverifiable data. It

will also require EPA to take a more deliberate and thoughtful look at how the agency might better cooperate with states and landowners to improve water quality rather than impose arbitrary standards and guidelines that will achieve uncertain outcomes.

We are also concerned about the workload impact on the conservation agencies that serve private landowners, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and local conservation and resource conservation and development districts. Nor do we believe that EPA has adequately reviewed the technical and financial assistance that will be needed to assist landowners under the proposed rules.

Our bill will also underscore both the language and the intent of the Clean Water Act relative to the role of the EPA in managing nonpoint sources of pollution. We believe the law is clear that the EPA has no regulatory role in the management of nonpoint source pollutions. We also maintain the EPA has no authority to unilaterally change the definition of point source pollution to encompass nonpoint sources. The language of our legislation re-emphasizes these points and restricts the EPA from pursuing these unauthorized objectives in a regulatory proceeding.

To summarize, we support the objective of improving the quality of our nation's waters. However, we insist on achieving these objectives within the parameters of the law and using the best available information. The Water Pollution Program Improvement Act of 2000 is designed to help ensure that outcome. We urge our colleagues to support this important legislation.

COMMENDING ISRAEL'S REDE-  
PLOYMENT FROM SOUTHERN  
LEBANON

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2000*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for Israel's redeployment from Southern Lebanon.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak ensured Israel's compliance with the 1978 United Nations Security Council Resolution 425, which calls on Israel to withdraw its forces from all Lebanese territories. His commitment to redeploy Israeli forces by June 7, 2000 must also be commended.

Prime Minister Barak has shown remarkable leadership in Israel and in his commitment to advance peaceful negotiations with all of her neighbors; I am confident these steps will bring genuine peace to the Middle East. Prime Minister Barak's appeal to the Lebanese President, Emile Lahoud, to use the Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon as a springboard for peace is a step in the right direction. As these countries move forward in their efforts, it is also extremely important that the American government work to encourage peace in the entire region.

For many years, I have been committed to moving forward to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in the spirit of peace. I have stood with great conviction, alongside my constituents, many of whom have close ties, to urge a

peaceful resolution to conflicts in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Selim al-Hoss has assured the safety of residents in Southern Lebanon. Lebanon has been a victim of far too much blood shed in recent decades. It now stands in the midst of a crucial transition. Therefore, the physical security guaranteed by all parties must also ensure protection for religious freedom, political independence and liberty. Only under these conditions, will Southern Lebanon be able to fully redevelop its communities and provide its people with the ability to lead fruitful lives.

Again, I offer my support and encourage Prime Minister Barak and President Lahoud to continue on the path of peace and progress.

COMMENDING ISRAEL'S REDE-  
PLOYMENT FROM SOUTHERN  
LEBANON

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2000*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the government of Israel has followed through on its commitment to withdraw its troops from Southern Lebanon.

This is a step that could end one of the most tragic episodes in the difficult recent history of the Middle East.

I commend the government of Prime Minister Ebad Barak for fulfilling its commitment to withdraw Israeli troops from Lebanon, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

I have always believed that all foreign forces should leave Lebanon.

We have seen what the cycle of violence has done to people of all faiths and backgrounds in Lebanon and throughout the Middle East. And while it is important to reflect on the past, we must also move forward.

Today, I join with the many voices which are renewing the call for peace. Those who want to perpetuate the violence will try to stand in our way but we can't let that happen.

We must stand together and demand that all the parties work for peace, seek justice, and forsake violence. That is our only option. Let that be our task in the days ahead.

Step by step, over time, the withdrawal of troops and other measures will build tolerance and mutual respect, so that differences are settled not with guns, but with compassion and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, we must all learn to not let our differences stand in the way of joining together for a common purpose. I believe that if all parties work together in good faith peace can be achieved.

PRAISING EFFORTS OF MANUEL  
STAMATAKIS

**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2000*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Cradle of Liberty

Council Boy Scouts of America in saluting Mr. Manuel N. Stamatakis as the recipient of this year's Scout Mariner Award.

Mr. Stamatakis—in addition to being a close, personal friend—is president and chief executive officer of Capital Management Enterprises, a financial service and communications conglomerate headquartered in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Mr. Stamatakis has made community service and partnerships a hallmark of his life's work. He has been and continues to be a shining example of a person of action and integrity. Manuel N. Stamatakis certainly fits the criteria of a "Scout Mariner."

The "Scout Mariner Award" is presented to one who exemplifies in his daily life the ideals of the Boy Scouts of America as expressed in the scout oath and law. The recipients are chosen by their peers for outstanding community service as evidenced by the interest and leadership given to many worthwhile organizations, as well as the respect and esteem in which they are held by their colleagues.

Mr. Stamatakis is also the Chairman of the Delaware River Port Authority. It is interesting to note that the "Scout Mariner Award" is symbolized by a Norman Rockwell painting of a seaman talking to scouts, entitled "Tales of Many Lands." Since 1998 Mr. Stamatakis chairs the Team Pennsylvania Ambassador Program—a network of business, cultural and academic leaders working to expand domestic and international business in Pennsylvania. As chairman, Mr. Stamatakis was particularly well suited to this role as he has traveled throughout the world to promote trade within the Commonwealth. In the past two years alone, he has visited Brazil, Germany, China, Finland, Russia and Japan.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Manuel N. Stamatakis and those like him who take the time to give back to their communities more than they take for themselves. Scouting is a positive force in our area and thousands of youth benefit from the program and the involvement of distinguished business leaders such as Mr. Stamatakis who have gone above and beyond the Boy Scout protocol. I ask all of my colleagues in Congress to please join me in honoring Mr. Manuel N. Stamatakis for his commitment to community service and our youth.

IN HONOR OF BONEAL, INC.—RE-  
CIPIENT OF THE 2000 UNITED  
STATES POSTAL SERVICE QUAL-  
ITY SUPPLIER AWARD

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2000*

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, too often, when we think of American manufacturing, images of industrial giants come to mind. We think of huge machinery housed in cavernous factories, men stoking enormous furnaces in an environment of hard hats, rivets and lunchtime whistles.

This image is, in large part, a vision of the past. We still make steel, iron, and heavy machinery. But today's manufacturing is also about men and women in casual attire and rather quiet workstations as they inspect computer boards and assemble complex yet compact circuitry. And, contrary to popular perception, most of the things that are made in