

I urge my colleagues to join me today in support of the Social Security and Medicare Lockbox Act.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN HEART MONTH

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, on Valentine's day, a time of celebration of our loved ones, we should take a moment to recognize American Heart Month, established by the Congress in 1963. This February the American Heart Association's 22.5 million volunteers and supporters are joining together with the message that we can combat heart disease.

I worked on this issue in California, authoring a bill to fight against heart disease, and standing with the American Heart Association on this important issue.

Cardiovascular disease, including heart attack and stroke, is America's No. 1 killer and a leading cause of permanent disability. An American dies from cardiovascular disease every 33 seconds. Nearly 61 million Americans suffer from cardiovascular diseases. Cardiovascular diseases kill nearly 1 million Americans every year—about 41% of deaths in the U.S. If cardiovascular diseases were eliminated, life expectancy would rise by almost 7 years. Cardiovascular disease, will cost Americans an estimated \$300 billion in medical expenses and lost productivity in 2001.

Coronary heart disease (including heart attack and crushing chest pain) is the single largest killer of all Americans. Every 29 seconds someone suffers a heart attack and every 60 seconds someone dies. This year, more than 1 million Americans will suffer a heart attack. More than 40% of these victims will die.

This tragic illness affects women, too. Heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases actually kill more American women than men. Cardiovascular diseases, including heart disease and stroke, remain the No. 1 killer of American females. More than 500,000 die each year. Cardiovascular diseases kill more females each year than the next 14 causes of death combined. Heart disease kills five and a half times as many American women as breast cancer. Stroke kills more than twice as many women as breast cancer. Cardiovascular diseases kill almost twice as many American females as all forms of cancer.

The American Heart Association and other organizations are working relentlessly to reduce the burden—both physical and economic—that heart disease places on Americans of all walks of life. This tragic illness affects the lives of almost all Americans in some way. We can win the fight against this devastating disease with the support of every man, woman, and child in our nation. We can save a life, if we are prepared for cardiac emergencies. We should know the signs. Call 9–1–1 immediately. Give CPR.

Unfortunately, too many Americans are not aware of the heart attack warning signs. The warning signs include uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of the chest lasting more than a few minutes; pain spreading to the shoulders, arm or neck; chest

discomfort with lightheadedness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath.

Together we can save a life. We will fight and win against this illness.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF CHARLES T. HARRIS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Charles T. Harris—one of our Federal Government's finest public servants and a long time resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This March he will retire from an exceptionally distinguished career of service to his country. He has served our nation both in uniform and as a career civil servant for over 38 years. He has been an exceptional leader and manager of the nation's treasure and his efforts have materially strengthened our national defense. It gives me pride to have the opportunity to honor him today for his tremendous accomplishments.

Mr. Harris began his career in public service in the summer of 1962 when he entered the Corps of Cadets at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. After graduation, he served ten years on active duty including two tours of duty with the U.S. Army in Vietnam, first as a platoon leader and then as a company commander. After leaving the Army, Mr. Harris began his civilian career in the Department of the Army as a supervisory budget analyst responsible for the Army's logistics programs. In 1985, Mr. Harris began work in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), where since 1988 he has served in the Senior Executive Service in various leadership roles, including: Associate Director for Air Force Operations, Deputy Director of the Revolving Funds Directorate, Deputy Director and then Director for Operations and Personnel.

Mr. Harris' professionalism and significant contributions have been recognized by every administration he has served. Among his many awards, he has received the Outstanding Department of the Army Civilian Award (the PACE Award), the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service, and most recently, the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest award granted to civilian employees in DoD.

Through his civilian career as a financial manager, Mr. Harris has steadily and continuously accumulated a comprehensive knowledge of the workings of the Federal budget process particularly as it pertains to financing the nation's military forces. Year after year, Mr. Harris has succeeded in transforming the administration's defense priorities into a clear, defensible and compelling, articulation of the resource requirements necessary to execute the nation's peacetime and wartime military operations. In his role as Director of the Operations and Personnel Directorate, he is directly responsible for fully 65 percent of the Department of Defense annual budget. He has become an acknowledged expert on Military Readiness, Recruiting and Retention, Quality of Life, Contingency Operations, Military Healthcare, Training and Education.

Mr. Harris is an imaginative leader and exceptional manager who inspires his people to

produce work of the highest quality. Throughout his career he has repeatedly sought out opportunities to materially improve the ways in which the Department of Defense allocates its resources to effectively execute the National Military Strategy. By actively working with stakeholders in the Congress and throughout the Department of Defense he has successfully streamlined and rationalized the submission of budget justification materials so that they are both more timely and more useful to decision makers.

Senior leaders, both in the Congress and in the Department of Defense have benefitted enormously from his unsurpassed experience, wisdom and clarity. His efforts have enabled our nation's leaders to make the most effective use of defense resources to ensure America's military strength in the twenty-first century. Mr. Harris is retiring from a career of exemplary merit and has earned the profound respect of a grateful nation. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank him for his service to our country and wish him well on his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CALIFORNIA RECLAIMED WATER ACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the California Reclaimed Water Act for the 21st Century. I introduced almost identical legislation in the 106th Congress (H.R. 5555).

The dry winter we are experiencing in California should be a reminder that water shortages and drought are quite normal in our State. I strongly believe that investment in reclaimed water technology—water recycling—can help us “drought-proof” many of our community water supplies in California.

Projects that recycle water result in a net increase in available local water supplies and can decrease the need for water that must be supplied and often imported from other sources. Because wastewater for recycling is available even when other water supplies are diminished, recycled water can assist in providing a long-term, reliable, local source of water even during droughts.

Our farmers, urban dwellers, sport and commercial fishing interests, tribes, mountain communities and environmentalists all seek a more reliable and a more certain water future. Recycled water plays an important part in meeting California's water needs today and will play an even more important role in the next several decades.

About 3 percent of the water supply in the San Francisco Bay Area is now recycled. Water managers hope that eventually as much as 40 percent of the water will be recycled, perhaps as much as 500,000 acre-feet per year. California cities need planning help and financial assistance to find markets for the recycled water, and to construct the treatment and conveyance facilities needed to get the treated water to identified markets.

Recycled water can be used for irrigation of golf courses, parks, school lands, business campuses, and highway medians, and for groundwater recharge, wetlands development;

and industrial purposes. We have to start thinking about recycled water as a critical component of the water supply picture in California.

Californians and government agencies have recently affirmed their support for water recycling, first with the passage of the California water bond last year, and more recently with the approval of the CALFED water agreement which broadly sets a course for California's water future. Water recycling and reuse is a major element of both these new actions and policies.

The Federal government's support for water recycling was initially authorized in the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act of 1992. The Bureau of Reclamation's so-called "Title XVI" program originally approved financial assistance for planning, design and construction of four water recycling projects in California. More projects were approved in 1996.

The legislation I introduce today builds upon these Congressional efforts, voter ballot initiatives and agency studies.

The bill authorizes a series of new Title XVI water recycling projects and directs the Secretary of the Interior to work with various water districts throughout the State on water recycling activities. Specific projects included in the bill are: Castaic Lake Water Agency; Clear Lake Basin Water Reuse Project; San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Project; Inland Empire Regional Water Recycling Project; San Pablo Baylands Water Reuse Project in Sonoma, Napa, Marin and Solano Counties; State of California Water Recycling Program; Regional Brine Lines (salt removal) in Southern California and in the San Francisco Bay and the Santa Clara Valley areas; Lower Chino Dairy Area Desalination Demonstration and Reclamation Project; and the West Basin Comprehensive Desalination Demonstration Program.

These projects will have the capacity to produce hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of useable water. Each acre-foot of recycled water produced by these projects will reduce the demand in California for imported water from the Bay-Delta and the Colorado River.

Unlike traditional Bureau of Reclamation water projects, these water recycling projects require a majority of funds to be locally provided. Consistent with Title XVI limitations on recycling projects as authorized in 1992 and 1996, the projects proposed in my bill require 75 percent local funding. Federal cost sharing is limited to 25 percent. Moreover, this bill specifies that none of the funds can be used for annual operation and maintenance costs. Those annual expenses are the responsibility of the local water districts or management agency.

I strongly believe that water recycling will continue to play an important and growing role in total water management strategies to provide a safe and sustainable water supply in California and in many other parts of the country. The water recycling projects authorized by the legislation I am introducing today are part of a long-term solution to some of California's most difficult challenges. Water recycling is not the only solution. But, water recycling and water reuse can play a significant part as these projects can be designed, built, and placed in service within a short time.

BAN THE USE OF THE INTERNET TO OBTAIN OR DISPOSE OF A FIREARM

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I re-introduce a bill to ban the use of the internet to obtain or dispose of a firearm.

Internet technology has brought our world closer together. It has made our lives more convenient by having almost anything we want available at our fingertips, literally, by the click of a button. We can purchase items from groceries, a brand new car, or even a semi-automatic weapon from a private seller via the internet.

The Gun Control Act of 1968 was enacted for the purpose of keeping firearms out of the hands of those not legally entitled to possess them because of age, criminal background, or incompetence.

To curb the illegal use of firearms and enforce the Federal firearms laws, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) issues firearms licenses and conducts firearms licensee qualification and compliance inspections.

Use of the internet to dispose or obtain a firearm would bypass these Federal licensing requirements, as well as background checks and waiting periods. Compliance inspections to help identify and apprehend criminals who illegally purchase firearms would also be avoided.

Criminals having access are not all that we should be concerned about. Our children now have universal access to the internet—almost every classroom and many homes have been installed with and public libraries have at least one computer terminal with a modem. Our children must be protected from the ease the internet provides in obtaining firearms.

It may be difficult to track internet firearm purchases due to numerous security precautions available. Terrible damage may already have been done by the time the uncensored purchaser and/or seller is detected.

We have an obligation to do all we can to keep our communities safe. This bill will help prevent such weapons from getting into the wrong hands.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO APPLY THE LOOK-THRU RULES FOR PURPOSES OF THE FOREIGN TAX CREDIT LIMITATION TO DIVIDENDS FROM FOREIGN CORPORATIONS NOT CONTROLLED BY A DOMESTIC CORPORATION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am joined by Representative BOB MATSUI in the Introduction of legislation to clarify a provision of our tax code that is needlessly hindering U.S. businesses' ability to efficiently operate in overseas markets.

In some countries, U.S. investors face significant business, legal and political obstacles that prevent them from acquiring a controlling interest in a foreign company. This occurs in particular when the local government has a share in the foreign venture, the industry is heavily regulated (financial services, utilities, and oil and gas exploration, for example), or other business factors necessitate that the U.S. investor hold a minority interest. Consequently, U.S. companies must operate in these foreign countries through corporate joint ventures, many times in partnership with local businesses. U.S. international tax rules, however, tend to discourage corporate joint venture activity, even when these foreign laws require that U.S. companies take minority ownership interest in cooperative arrangements with local companies in order to do business.

In particular, the so-called "10/50 foreign tax credit rules" impose a separate foreign tax credit limitation for each corporate joint venture in which a U.S. company owns at least 10 percent but not more than 50 percent of the stock of the foreign entity.

The 10/50 regime is bad tax policy because it increases the cost of doing business for U.S. companies operating abroad by singling out income earned through a specific type of corporate business for separate foreign tax credit "basket" treatment. This provision inevitably prevents U.S. companies from fully using these tax credits, and thus subjects them to double taxation. Moreover, the current rules impose an unreasonable level of complexity, especially for companies with many foreign corporate joint ventures.

The 1997 Tax Relief Act partially corrected this inequity by eliminating separate baskets for 10/50 companies. Unfortunately, the 1997 act did not make the change effective for such dividends unless they were received after the year 2003. It further complicated the Tax Code by requiring two sets of rules—one from earnings and profits (E&P) generated before the year 2003 and one for dividends from E&P accumulated after the year 2002.

My legislation will greatly simplify the U.S. tax treatment for U.S. companies subjected to these 10/50 foreign tax credit rules. This bill will accelerate from 2003 to this year the repeal of the separate foreign tax credit basket for these companies. In doing so, so-called "look-thru treatment" will allow them to aggregate income from all such ventures according to the type of earnings from which the dividends are paid, thus conforming the treatment of this joint venture income to other income earned overseas by the U.S. companies. The proposal also ensures that pre-effective date foreign tax credits that are being carried forward also receive this look-thru treatment. Without such a rule, these tax credits will expire, a result that never was intended.

In 1999, the House of Representatives and the Senate passed the "Taxpayer Refund and Relief Act of 1999." Although former President Clinton vetoed that particular bill, his administration recommended this legislative proposal in its next budget proposal. Consequently, I am confident that this bill will have strong bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.