

I must say, I was extremely pleased to note President Bush's recent remarks to the Environmental Youth Award winners about environmental policy. As you know, the President stated that decisions regarding environmental matters in his Administration would be, and I quote, "based upon sound science, not some environmental fad or what may sound good—that we're going to rely on the best evidence before we decide [on policy]."

After representing the Congress at two Conferences of the Parties (COP) to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as well as having chaired several hearings in the Congress about the sustainable use or renewable resources on the international level, I know the United States is certainly a nation that supports the consumptive use of renewable wildlife and marine resources under scientific management.

As such, I respectfully request that any future policy regarding various species—whether the subject species are elephants, whales, turtles, or trees—be based on sound science and the legal ramifications of the Uruguay Round Agreements of GATT.

I appreciate your attention to this request, and I look forward to your response. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 3, 2001.

Hon. DON EVANS,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY EVANS: I am writing to express my strong support for the need for science to be the fundamental guide in United States participation in international conservation commitments as legally recognized under the Uruguay Round Agreements of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Unfortunately, the United States policy under the former-Clinton administration acted contrary to this legal concept under the tenets of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW). Specifically, it did so by continued opposition and obstructionist positions on the resumption of limited and managed whaling by island and coastal nations.

Although it is true that there was over exploitation of certain whale stocks in the 18th and 19th centuries for commercial oil products, this is not the case today. In fact, no whale stocks were ever threatened by whale harvests for human food consumption. The Scientific Committee of the governing body of the ICRW and the International Whaling Commission (IWC) has found that limited harvests would have no adverse impact on population stocks.

However, in the past, the United States and other nations have consistently opposed the resumption of limited whaling on what amounts to purely a political agenda. For instance, the United States supported the adoption of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary for whales without any scientific basis for such a position. Further, the United States is supporting the adoption of a Pacific Ocean Sanctuary where there is no scientific basis for the establishment of such a sanctuary. Even after the Bush administration took office, the Department of State has opposed legal trade in whale products between Norway and Japan. I would sincerely urge the Bush administration to carefully review the United States policy in terms of science and law.

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ERADICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, as you know, infectious diseases are needlessly killing millions of people every year and cost the global community billions in healthcare costs and lost revenue. Diseases such as Tuberculosis (TB) are on the rise around the world, and due to their infectious properties, are threatening the health and welfare of Americans. TB cannot be stopped at our national borders and the only way to eliminate TB here at home is to control it abroad. In fact, according to the National Intelligence Council, new and re-emerging infectious diseases will pose a rising global health threat and will complicate U.S. and global security over the next twenty years. We must take action to address these dangers now.

I feel strongly that Congress should make a significant investment in low-cost, high-impact programs like TB control. Mr. Speaker for just \$20 to \$100 invested in a quality TB program, a life can be saved. This is one of the most cost-effective health interventions available today. In FY2001, Congress provided \$60 million for international TB control, a solid step towards addressing this killer. More must be done this year. Fifteen million people in the U.S. are infected with the TB bacteria, and nearly two million people perish world-wide each year. In addition, eight million people are afflicted with this disease annually and every second of every day, someone in the world is infected with the disease.

TB is the biggest killer of people with AIDS, and TB rates have skyrocketed in sub-Saharan Africa due to the AIDS/TB co-epidemics. Direct Observed Therapy treatment or "Dots" is one of the most cost-effective ways to pro-

long and improve the lives of people with HIV. As we increase resources for HIV and AIDS, it makes sense to increase funding for TB control as well.

If we do not act promptly, new deadly drug-resistant strains of TB and rising HIV rates will make TB very difficult or impossible to control. I have asked that we provide \$200 million in the FY2002 foreign aid budget for the international TB control program.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Congress from a international borer city, I know the importance of combining TB at our borders. Now is the time to combat tuberculosis and eradicate this horrible disease before it begins more impacting our population.

HONORING METRO SCHOOLS DIRECTOR, DR. BILL M. WISE, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Metro Schools Director Dr. Bill M. Wise on the occasion of his retirement from the Metropolitan/Davidson County/Nashville, Tennessee school system after thirty-one years of outstanding service to students, teachers, and personnel.

Dr. Wise is to be commended for the impact he has made on the local, state, and national levels through his tireless work to achieve unity during legal battles over court-ordered desegregation busing. His leadership proved pivotal in the successful resolution of this important matter. Leaders from across the Nation have sought his advice and expertise in this area and he has offered consultations and hope in times of crisis to schools in Texas, South Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Alabama. Wise is also recognized nationally for his successful management skills and expertise in school facilities management.

His philosophy has always focused on what is best for students and student achievement including improving physical conditions in school facilities and fostering morale. Because of his strong leadership skills combined with character and courage, Wise's efforts have proven extremely fruitful.

A native Tennessean, Bill Wise was educated at the University of North Alabama in Florence, where he received a Bachelor of Science in 1963, and a Master's Degree in 1965. He continued his education at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, earning a Doctorate of Education in 1970.

Wise began his career as an Alabama school teacher in 1963 working for the Florence City School system and later moving to the university level as an instructor and coach at the University of North Alabama until 1968.

After a two-year stint as a Ford Foundation Fellow at the University of Tennessee, Wise was named Assistant Superintendent for the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Public School System in 1970. He was promoted to Deputy Superintendent, where he served from

1994–1997. He then became Interim Director of Schools and nine months later was named Director of Schools.

As Director of Schools, Wise has been responsible for an operating budget upwards of \$300 million and a capital budget of nearly \$100 million, while implementing and overseeing The Strategic Plan for the Metropolitan Nashville Public School District. The school district includes more than one hundred twenty-five public schools with thousands of students from all walks of life.

Wise has been honored numerous times by his peers. Recent awards include: the Council of the Great City Schools First Annual Bill Wise Award in 2000; the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame, Middle Tennessee Chapter, Distinguished American Award in 2001; and the Tennessee School Plant Management Association's Superintendent of the Year for 2001.

Additionally, he has been active in numerous professional organizations including: the American Association of School Administrators; the Tennessee Association for Supervision and Administration; the Council of the Great City Schools, Business Officials Group; the Southeastern Association of School Business Officials; Phi Delta Kappa; Iota Lambda Sigma; and Council of Educational Facility Planners.

His civic contributions include involvement on the Board of Directors for the following organizations: Green Hills YMCA; Nashville Chapter of the American Red Cross; National Kidney Foundation of Middle Tennessee (Past President); Nashville Institute for the Arts; Cumberland Science Museum; Boy Scouts of America's Middle Tennessee Council; Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee, Inc.; and Metropolitan Nashville Public Education Foundation.

With the obvious challenges and changes that Wise has faced during his career in public education, I am pleased to honor him for facing adversity with courage and using the tools available in an imperfect system to craft a successful educational program for students in our community. I respect his philosophy of focusing on learning, support systems and appropriate settings for equity and excellence for all students and promoting change as positive and necessary for continual personal improvement.

In closing, Dr. Wise is to be commended for building a solid foundation for those who will follow in his footsteps and strive to meet the goal of improving educational opportunities for all Tennesseans. I have no doubt that his dedication and service to our community, our state, and our nation, will be remembered for many years to come.

SECTION 245(i) EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I voted in favor of H.R. 1885, a bill sponsored by Immigration and Claims Subcommittee Chairman GEORGE GEKAS, which will extend by four months the time illegal immigrants may apply for legal residence while remaining in

the United States. The measure requires illegal immigrants who utilize Section 245(i) of the immigration law to have been in the United States as of December 21, 2000. In addition, H.R. 1885 requires that the family relationship or employment existed by April 30, 2001. These two important provisions contained in H.R. 1885 will ensure that the extension of Section 245(i) does not provide future incentives for illegal immigration or punish legal immigrants waiting in line for their applications to be processed.

I supported this short-term extension of Section 245(i) because it will assist those immigrants who were eligible to apply for a green card as of April 30, but were unable to meet the deadline due to administrative problems, such as the INS not issuing regulations on Section 245(i) until March of this year. At the same time, H.R. 1885 will not reward those who enter illegally with the hope of becoming legal without first returning to their native country. Most importantly, it will send the message that legal immigrants, who waited in line and obeyed our immigration laws, should get first priority in the processing of immigration applications.

Although I supported this four-month extension of Section 245(i) for the reasons discussed above, I will not support any extension beyond this time period. This is not the first time that this ill-conceived provision has been extended. Section 245(i) was first added to the immigration law in 1994. Since that time, it has been extended on numerous occasions, including most recently in December of last year. This has provided persons who wanted to apply for permanent residency status more than enough time to submit their application to INS.

A longer extension than the period of time contained in H.R. 1885 will further encourage illegal immigration and punish legal immigrants waiting for their application to be processed. Also, because U.S. State Department consular officers are better suited than INS employees to determine if the illegal immigrant has a criminal background, a longer extension of Section 245(i) will undermine the important law enforcement goal of preventing criminal aliens from remaining in our country.

CONGRATULATING JOSE DE ESCANDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED A "BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL"

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Jose De Escandon Elementary School in the La Joya Independent School District in my South Texas district on being named a "Blue Ribbon School."

Quality education is the passport to a successful future and Escandon Elementary has been relentless in its pursuit of educational excellence. This award truly symbolizes the many successful futures this school has forged for its students.

La Joya is not a wealthy school district. The majority of the students are Hispanic and many live below the poverty level. It is in an isolated, rural community along the Texas-

Mexico border. Despite these seeming disadvantages, under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Robert Zamora and principal Benita Salazar, Escandon has demonstrated what can be achieved when parents, teachers, school officials and the community join together to utilize every resource to its fullest potential. In addition to the Blue Ribbon Award, Escandon has been recognized by the State of Texas as an Exemplary Elementary School, having over 90 percent of its students pass the 3rd grade Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test.

Blue Ribbon Awards are exclusive in nature and are presented to only 264 elementary schools across the country including both public and private institutions. Schools receiving the award must demonstrate strong leadership; a clear vision and sense of mission; high-quality teaching; challenging up-to-date curriculum; policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning; solid evidence of family involvement; evidence that the school is helping ALL students achieve high standards; and a commitment to share best practices with other schools.

On Monday, I will be visiting Escandon Elementary to celebrate its great achievement. The citizens of La Joya are fiercely proud of their town and their school. This award is not only a reflection of the exemplary work that the children have done, but also a reflection of the values and dedication of the whole community. I would encourage every locality to follow La Joya's example. When the entire community works together and commits to helping every child succeed, it will happen and all of our children will receive the quality education they deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, because my flight to Washington was delayed, I was unable to vote yesterday evening on rollcall No. 126, concerning a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONCERNING PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 428, a bill which calls for Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization (WHO). I would also like to commend the author of the legislation, my friend and colleague from Ohio, Mr. SHERROD BROWN, for his leadership on this issue. I am proud to join as a co-sponsor of this important bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the World Health Organization is the most important international health organization in the world. In its