To make matters worse, while the Election Board was clearly unprepared for the massive voter turnout, they were also slow to react to the growing voter confusion they created as the day progressed.

An equally troubling was the Election Board officials' resistance to reasonable remedies designed to ensure that every qualified voter be afforded the opportunity to cast his or her vote without obstruction.

Clearly, such a situation cannot and must not be tolerated. Such conditions not only create confusion among voters; they also threaten the integrity of the Electoral process itself.

It is imperative that federal, state and local officials join in a common effort to reform how we conduct our elections. The nation should never again be subjected to the voting travesty of the last presidential election. The system is broken and it is time that we admit it and work towards common sense solutions.

First, we must take legislative action to provide the necessary funds for modern, state-of-the-art uniform voting equipment, paying particular attention to lower income communities that have long been burdened with outdated and obsolete voting equipment.

And to the maximum extent possible, we must mandate uniform ballot designs and eliminate the current 40-year old punchcard system.

We must also require that local election officials develop comprehensive training standards for their workers and hold them accountable for implementing such training.

Lastly, and most importantly, we must mandate election procedure reform to ensure that qualified voters are not arbitrarily or inadvertently removed from active voter rolls.

This was a major failure in the City of St. Louis and I suspect this situation is widespread across the country.

Voters should not continue to suffer disenfranchisement because election officials are unwilling or unable to safeguard their fundamental right to vote.

If we fail to act now, we will not only inflict further damage to the democratic process, we will also fail in our sworn duty to protect and defend the fundamental rights of every citizen.

RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 180

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California and I, rise today to recognize the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 180 as this organization celebrates its 100th anniversary.

One hundred years ago on May 6, 1901, Local 180 was chartered by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Since its inception, Local 180 has been integrally connected to shipbuilding at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo. Electrical workers helped build the 513 ships, that were launched at Mare Island between 1859 and 1970, from the Saginaw, a wooden hulled steamer, to the Drum, a nuclear powered submarine.

When war was declared with Germany on April 6, 1917, union workers helped turn Mare Island and Vallejo into a commercial hub that could support the war effort.

In the years following World War I, no ships were launched at Mare Island and the workers turned to use their skills to help build the Carquinez Bridge.

In the 1930s, shipbuilding began again at Mare Island. The union shop was reestablished and wages and benefits that had been lost during the previous decade were renegotiated.

During World War II, shipbuilding and union activity at Mare Island escalated. Union members are proud that 95% of all electrical work that directly supported the war effort nationally was performed by the IBEW under union shop conditions.

In the second half of the 20th Century, Local 180 members helped construct Monticello Dam, the second Carquinez Bridge, the Exxon Refinery, the Benecia Industrial Park, and the Anheuser Busch Brewery as well as the country's nuclear submarine fleet at Mare Island.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of its rich history and traditions, it is appropriate that we acknowledge and honor today this pioneering union local and its members who have made an immeasurable difference in the lives of working families and the community in Napa and Solano Counties.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO SIMPLIFY AND MAKE MORE EQUITABLE THE TAX TREATMENT OF SETTLEMENT TRUSTS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill to simplify and make more equitable the tax treatment of settlement trusts established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

This bill is the product of a unique bipartisan effort over the past two Congresses. Joining me as cosponsors of the bill are—the Chairman of the Committee on Resources, Congressman JAMES HANSEN, the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, Congressman NICK RAHALL, and the former Ranking Minority Member of that Committee who cosponsored this legislation in the last Congress, Congressman GEORGE MILLER.

Additionally, I am honored to join with a number of other members of Congress in urging the enactment of this bill. The cosponsors include Ways and Means Committee Members, Subcommittee Chairman AMO HOUGHTON, Ways and Means Committee Ranking Minority Member CHARLES RANGEL, Rep. DAVE CAMP, Rep. J.D. HAYWORTH, Rep. SCOTT MCINNIS, and Rep. MARK FOLEY.

Colleagues from the Native American Caucus who are cosponsoring this bill are: the Co-chair of the Caucus along with Mr. HAYWORTH, Rep. DALE KILDEE, Rep. NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Rep. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, Rep. MARK UDALL, Rep. FRANK PALLONE, Rep. PATRICK KENNEDY, Mrs. BONO, Mr. FROST and Mr. STUPAK.

This bill would remedy several key deficiencies in the current settlement trust provision enacted in a 1987 amendment to ANCSA. That provision authorized Alaska Native Corporations organized pursuant to ANCSA to establish, from their own resources, settlement trust funds to ''promote the health, education, and welfare . . . and preserve the heritage and culture of Natives.'' Unfortunately, the Settlement Trust tax provision in existing law poses several significant impediments to the establishment and long-term maintenance of Settlement Trusts, and therefore, to the fulfillment of their purposes under ANCSA.

A version of this bill was included by the Ways and Means Committee in legislation last Congress that was vetoed and a version of it passed the Senate as well. This current version of the bill we are introducing today has been vetoed over the past several years with the tax writing committees of Congress in the House and Senate, the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Department of Treasury. It addresses the key deficiencies in the current law. I urge that it be included in tax-related legislation considered by the House in this session of the 107th Congress and that our colleagues join the co-sponsors of the bill in supporting this meritorious legislation.