

Whereas, Intermixed land ownership means that Colorado's federal land managers, state land managers, and private property owners are all responsible for the protection of private property; and

Whereas, USDA Forest Service research has demonstrated that fuel reduction within the immediate vicinity of structures and the use of nonflammable building material are the most important factors determining whether a structure will survive a wildfire; and

Whereas, A primary purpose of the National Fire Plan is to reduce the risk of severe wildfires in the wildland-urban interface where communities adjoin or intermingle with federal public lands, and substantial funds have been appropriated to the federal land management agencies to implement this plan; and

Whereas, At a 1998 Colorado forest conference sponsored by Governor Romer and the USDA Forest Service, consensus developed between the environmental community, the timber industry, and the USDA wildland-urban interface red zone; and

Whereas, In January 2002, the General Accounting Office concluded that USDA Forest Service accounting and tracking is so poor that there is no way to determine whether the USDA Forest Service had appropriately spent over \$750 million allocated to thinning and prescribed fire in the wildland-urban interface red zone; and

Whereas, The USDA Forest Service has aggressively fought efforts to require 60% of the National Fire Plan funds to be spent on fuel reduction projects that will provide the greatest protection to the at-risk communities; and

Whereas, The federal land managers in Colorado are using National Fire Plan moneys in some instances to assist in the completion of projects that do little to reduce fuels in the wildland-urban interface; and

Whereas, Colorado Congressmen Joel Hefley and Mark Udall have recognized this problem and introduced a bipartisan resolution, H.R. 3948, to improve implementation of the National Fire Plan by reducing the build-up of fuels in the wildland-urban interface by establishing an interagency council to coordinate implementation of the National Fire Plan, directing the council to define consent criteria to identify the communities within the wildland-urban interface that are most at risk from severe wildfires, requiring that fuel reduction be accomplished in at-risk communities before other fuel reduction efforts are undertaken in the state, and directing the council to determine the most effective and appropriate methods to utilize fuel removed pursuant to the National Fire Plan; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That the General Assembly endorses H.R. 3948 to improve the implementation of the National Fire Plan by reducing fuels in the wildland-urban interface, and urges the Colorado Congressional Delegation to support and cosponsor this resolution.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and each member of the Colorado Congressional Delegation.

DOUG DEAN,
Speaker of the House.
ED PERLMUTTER,
President Pro Tem of the Senate.
JUDITH RODRIGUE,
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

KAREN GOLDMAN,
Secretary of the Senate.

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF CONGRESS IN NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, it was a historic experience to join with my colleagues in the Special Joint Meeting of Congress held in New York City. I have visited New York many times since the terrorist attacks on September 11 2001. It is a city that has recovered from, but not forgotten, the events of that tragic day.

The families and friends of those who perished have endured a year of unbearable loss. They have my deepest sympathy. Rarely have we felt vile acts of terrorism perpetrated on our shores, and never on the scale of September 11th, 2001. Our response has shown the strength of character of the American people. The sadness that we all felt that day, and in the days since, has hardened into a resolve to honor the memories of those who perished, to heal our wounds so that our nation is even stronger than before, and to bring righteous justice to those who perpetrated the attacks.

The Congressional Session in New York was a fitting salute to that great metropolis, and a dramatic affirmation that all Americans stand united with the people of New York as we move forward to root out terrorism and build a free and secure world community.

TRAINING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS IN ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, protecting the people of the United States is Congress' number one responsibility. Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, we have passed laws in the House to improve our readiness at home, and our agencies are meeting with state and local governments to share information and formulate emergency plans with our first responders.

I wanted to let you know about a private initiative that took place this summer in the district I represent that will improve local readiness and help protect the people in northern Illinois.

On July 20, 2002, Marathon Ashland Petroleum invited members of the Winnebago, Rockford, Blackhawk, Win-Bur-Sew, West Suburban, Byron and North West fire departments, along with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department and Bomb Disposal Team to a full-scale bomb drill at its Rockford terminal. The drill was designed to not only familiarize local, area and regional responders with the terminal's facilities and equipment, but to also train and prepare our first responders for a credible threat against the terminal. The drill was the first of its kind in the petroleum industry following the Sept. 11 attacks on our nation.

The all-day event began with tours of the facility and opportunities for police and fire responders to familiarize themselves with the equipment and set-up at the terminal, which can store up to 20 million gallons of fuel, including gasoline and diesel. The Winnebago County Bomb Squad then participated in a simulation where area Emergency Medical Technicians were able to familiarize themselves with the special suits that bomb squad members must wear.

The bomb squad commander, Chris Cowan, then briefed drill participants on likely tactics and targets within the terminal that terrorists might consider. A safety discussion and tips for locating a device followed.

The day was capped off with a detonation of a small explosive device designed to show the impact that even a small device can make.

Mr. Speaker, this is the kind of leadership from our local governments and our business community that we need to win the war on terrorism and protect our homeland. We in Congress have passed legislation to tighten security in America and provide funding to help our nation prepare. But our first responders in our communities are the ones who will make homeland security work.

The people at Marathon Ashland Petroleum and the brave police officers, firefighters, and EMTs from northern Illinois are leading the charge to protect our people. And I commend them for that.

COMMEMORATING ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the one year anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

Last September, the lives of all Americans were forever changed. Loved ones have been lost, and the grief we feel is as sharp now as it was one year ago. There is an emptiness in families, in offices, in communities, where sons and daughters, husbands and wives, parents, siblings and friends once were.

Our country has changed. We have focused intently on the task of ensuring our homeland security—a term seldom heard before this past year. We have invested billions of dollars in securing our ports and borders, water and food, and airways. We have enhanced the strength of our military and intelligence capacities, undertaking an unprecedented campaign to end the threat of international terrorism. We have a new appreciation for the hard work of our men and women in uniform—whether they are soldiers, police officers, emergency medical technicians, or firefighters.

We joined together with the President, the Governor, and former Mayor Giuliani in passing an emergency spending bill which provided \$21 billion to fund the rescue and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center site and cleanup in lower Manhattan. This funding has also helped alleviate some of the economic ramifications of the terrorist attacks, provide counseling to New York schoolchildren affected by 9/11, and it is now being used to modernize the transportation systems that were devastated by the towers' collapse. The

wounds remain, but our community has shown extraordinary courage in dealing with the challenges before us. We will never forget, but we will recover.

Shattering as this ordeal has been, the fundamental character of America has remained the same. And for this we should all be proud. We are still a strong and diverse nation, focused on the pleasures and challenges of everyday life, caught up in the struggle to provide good homes for our children, achieve meaning in our lives, and leave this world a better place after we've gone. We still believe in the importance of our democratic ideals—the foundation on which our country was built, and continues to thrive.

As a nation, we have joined together to provide support for our neighbors, friends, co-workers and fellow Americans. As I have traveled around New York, I have seen remarkable displays of the resilience of the American spirit as we have worked in the recovery effort, giving from both our hearts and our wallets. The tragedy of September 11th was once unimaginable as were the courage and empathy that were displayed that terrible day. Now, it is this strength and this concern for our fellow citizens that redefine us as Americans.

This is what gives us hope. And this is what gives us confidence that, despite the dangers of the world and the challenges our country faces, we will prevail in perpetuating the values we hold dear. I am humbled and honored to stand before you today in remembrance of the tragedy of September 11th and the heroism and patriotism of New Yorkers and all Americans over the past year.

THE THREAT OF WILDFIRES

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the Colorado General Assembly concerning the mitigation of the threat of wildfires in the national forests through the removal of dead fuel. Resolution 02S-1002, passed by Colorado's General Assembly urges federal action on a fire strategy to comprehensively reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and improve the overall condition of Colorado's forests. The bill further supports utilizing an appropriate mix of fire-prevention activities and management practices including forest restoration, treatment of at-risk forest stands, grazing, selective tree removal, and other measures to control insects and pathogens, removal of excessive dead ground fuels, and small-scale prescribed burns. I commend the work of the Colorado General Assembly for its strong efforts toward the betterment of the state and well being of the people of the great state of Colorado.

I hereby submit for the RECORD Colorado House Resolution 02S-1002: 2002:

Whereas, The current condition of Colorado's national forest lands poses public health and safety risks to citizens of this state in the areas of air quality, water quality and quantity, and potential loss of human life and damage to property and threatens damage to municipal infrastructure; and

Whereas, The USDA Forest Service has allowed an unnatural volume of dead fuels to

build up within national forest lands that poses an immediate threat to nearly 20 million forested acres in Colorado; and

Whereas, The number of forested acres in Colorado treated by the USDA Forest Service has been grossly insufficient to mitigate the threat of unnatural, catastrophic wildfires; and

Whereas, Insect and disease infestations have impacted over 500,000 acres throughout the state, and these conditions have exacerbated the already dangerous wildfire hazard; and

Whereas, Major wildfires that occur in Colorado's backcountry decrease wildlife habitat, including that of federally-listed species, and threaten to denude critical watersheds surrounding high-mountain reservoirs; and

Whereas, The wildfires in Colorado have burned 357,000 acres in 25 counties, cost \$110 million, received 14 FEMA declarations, and burned over 1,000 structures; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

1. That we, the members of the House of Representatives, hereby recognize the dangerous conditions of Colorado's forests and urge aggressive action by the USDA Forest Service to mitigate the threat of wildfire on national forest lands in the State of Colorado through the removal of vast accumulations of dead fuels.

2. That we urge federal action on a fire strategy to comprehensively reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and improve the overall condition of Colorado's forests.

3. That we support all possible and necessary steps in order for projects to control various insect- and disease-impacted forests in Colorado.

4. That we support utilizing an appropriate mix of fire-prevention activities and management practices including forest restoration, treatment of at-risk forest stands, grazing, selective tree removal, and other measures to control insects and pathogens, removal of excessive dead ground fuels, and small-scale prescribed burns.

5. That we strongly encourage the Congress of the United States to expeditiously pass legislation, maintain sufficient National Fire Plan funding, and encourage refinements of current regulations to address the gridlock issue obstructing active land management by the USDA Forest Service and other federal land management agencies.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the USDA Forest Service and to each member of the Colorado Congressional Delegation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1646, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, first let me congratulate the Chairman of the International Relations Committee, Mr. HYDE, for successfully managing this important piece of legislation. For many years it has proven difficult to reach the stage of final congressional approval of a freestanding State Department authorization act, but in his first term as Chairman he has managed to do just that.

I also congratulate him for including authorizations of appropriations for a number of ac-

counts within the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, where I serve as Chairman. Funding is authorized for the International Military Education and Training account, the Foreign Military Financing account, the account for nonproliferation, anti-terrorism, demining and related programs, and the account for Migration and Refugee Assistance. In the case of the last account, let me say that the Appropriations Committee has recommended a funding level for refugee assistance that is \$95 million above the President's request, or a total of \$800 million. This is due in large part because of the strong interest shown by Chairman HYDE and the International Relations Committee in providing adequate funds to assist overseas refugees. This is but one example of the ways in which the authorization committee and the Appropriations Committee can work together for the public good.

The conference report also follows the lead of the Appropriations Committee in authorizing an additional \$200 million in anti-terrorism assistance for Israel, as well as authorizing ongoing assistance for Israel and Egypt.

However, I did not want this conference report to pass without expressing my strong concern about section 1224, which restricts assistance for Lebanon. This provision would reduce assistance for Lebanon by \$10 million on an annual basis unless the armed forces of Lebanon have been deployed to the border between Israel and Lebanon, and unless the Government of Lebanon is effectively asserting its authority in that area.

Like all Americans, I strongly condemn terrorist attacks that have been launched from Lebanese territory by Hizballah. If I thought this provision would save one life, I would strongly support it.

However, Lebanon is currently not in control of its own destiny, and cannot control much of its own territory, due to the presence of a foreign occupying power. That power is Syria, and it is Syria that has tolerated and encouraged terrorism against Israel.

The effect of this language could be to cut the Lebanon assistance program from \$35 million to \$25 million. Very little of our assistance is provided to the Government; the cut will primarily affect assistance to American educational institutions in Lebanon such as the American University in Beirut and the Lebanese American University. The cut will also adversely impact the other major American program in Lebanon, which promotes community development in villages and towns throughout that country. It is designed to empower local communities by providing assistance for small-scale infrastructure, such as community centers and water systems, and for micro-enterprise activities. It also allows the United States to offer social and economic benefits to impoverished Lebanese citizens, rather than forcing them to rely on the social services that terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hizballah may offer. In that sense, the provision is counterproductive and will have precisely the opposite effect of that intended by its author.

I hope we can revisit this issue very soon. If we don't, I think we will all regret the fact that this conference report will have diminished the ability of the United States to contribute to a positive future for the people of Lebanon.