

Cong. BOB CLEMENT—Cong. CLEMENT, elected in 1988 and currently Ranking Member of the Railroads Subcommittee, has worked on a bipartisan basis with his counterpart, Subcommittee Chairman JACK QUINN, to rebuild our Nation's railroad infrastructure. They have worked together to move the Shortline Railroad Infrastructure bill, the Amtrak Reauthorization bill, and RIDE 21. Although movement on those bills has stalled, BOB CLEMENT hasn't given up and continues to work to improve our Nation's rail infrastructure. In addition, Cong. CLEMENT and Chairman QUINN have had numerous meetings with the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Transportation regarding the Administration's failure to approve any rail loans or loan guarantees under the Railroad Rehabilitation and Infrastructure Financing (RRIF) program.

Cong. CLEMENT has also aggressively worked on behalf of the Tennessee Valley Authority and commuter rail. His bill (TRAIN 21) would help resolve a growing problem in Nashville and throughout the Nation—the ability of commuter railroads to get access to freight railroad rights-of-way.

He leaves us to seek a seat in the Other Body, and I pass onto him the advice I received many years ago when I myself heard the Sirens' call to that body: There are more bleached bones scattered along the path between the House and Senate Office Buildings than there are on the Old Chisholm Trail.

Cong. BOB BORSKI—BOB BORSKI has spent two decades serving this Committee. From 1995 to 2001, Cong. BORSKI served as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. BOB BORSKI was raised in the great bipartisan tradition of this Committee and he brought that willingness to work together to the Clean Water, Brownfields, and Superfund issues of the Subcommittee—the issues that are often the most difficult for our Committee to bridge the partisan divide. He spent countless hours working with then-Subcommittee Chairman BOEHLERT, then-Chairman SHUSTER, EPA Administrator Brown, and me to bridge the divide on the Superfund bill. In the end, this Committee passed a Superfund bill (H.R. 1300) that reauthorized the program; provided for the redevelopment of brownfields; provided exemptions and limitations on Superfund liability for small businesses, innocent landowners, and recyclers; and called for funding the program with a re-authorization of the Superfund Trust Fund taxes. Our committee approved the bill on a vote of 69 to 2—a tribute to Cong. BORSKI's perseverance, patience, and willingness to find common ground.

In this Congress, Cong. BORSKI has served as Ranking Member of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee. He and Subcommittee Chairman PETRI have held more than a dozen hearings on TEA 21 reauthorization and Cong. BORSKI has aggressively worked to ensure that we have a balanced transportation system. Earlier this week, Cong. BORSKI attended the American Public Transportation Association's annual conference where he received its distinguished person of the year award. How often does an association, with a major reauthorization bill just around the corner, honor a retiring Member of Congress? It is a tribute to Cong. BORSKI that APTA rightly recognized the role that he has played in ensuring that our communities have transportation choices,

like transit rail systems, pedestrian walkways, Amtrak, and bike paths.

I will miss him, not only for his policy expertise but also for his friendship. I have always considered BOB a close friend and a kindred spirit. I know his heart and home are in Philadelphia but I hope he will often come back to see us here.

And that sentiment is true for each of our departing colleagues. On behalf of all Democrats on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I thank them for their distinguished public service and wish them well in their new careers.

RECENT RAIDS ON SINK FEIN OFFICES IN STORMONT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in spirit with several of my constituents and hundreds of other Irish Americans in the New York Metropolitan area, as they stage a protest outside the New York City consulate of Great Britain. I wish I could be there in person to join in their fight.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the PSNI, formerly the RUC, raided the government offices of Sinn Fein in the Northern Ireland Assembly at Stormont. This unprofessional and haphazard raid appears to be politically motivated—with those involved hoping to unravel the power-sharing government established under the Good Friday Agreements.

The raid of these offices and several homes of Sinn Fein party workers once again show that the PSNI/RUC remains nothing more than a political tool of unionists hoping to undermine a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland. These raids were obviously done to publicly embarrass Sinn Fein, with the hope that this will be the final straw that will force the demise of the Good Friday Agreements.

Soon after these raids, both Ian Paisley of the DUP and David Trimble of the UUP called for Sinn Fein to be excluded from the power sharing government. Also, Mr. Paisley, withdrew his party's support from the government. These actions show the unionists true feelings—they hope that by excluding Sinn Fein the Accords will collapse and force the Crown to retake complete control of the North.

It is quite obvious to me that the only way a lasting peace can occur in Northern Ireland is by protecting the power sharing institutions and fully implementing the Patten Commission's recommendations. The actions of the PSNI last Friday shows that the police as a whole are still quite loyal to the crown and quite often use their influence and authority for political purposes. Northern Ireland is in dire need of a police service that is more representative of the community and is responsive to the needs of all the citizen of Northern Ireland.

These raids are just another example of how the PSNI has not moved away from the tactics of the RUC in the '60s, '70s and '80s. The PSNI is anti-Catholic, anti-Sinn Fein and anti-Good Friday Agreement. PSNI must be forced to stop its sectarian efforts and truly protect all parties.

I hope that Mr. Trimble, Prime Minister Blair and all the other parties involved continue their commitment to peace in Northern Ireland by standing by the original Good Friday Accords and most importantly fully implementing the Patten Commission's recommendations. Patten and the Accords are our only true hope that peace can survive in Northern Ireland.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT OF 2002

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Environmental Justice Act of 2002. I am proud that my colleague Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS is joining me as an original cosponsor of this bill.

Representative SOLIS and I long have been concerned about the fact that past federal actions have had disproportionately adverse effects on the health, environment and quality of life of Americans in minority and lower-income communities. Too often these communities—because of their low income or lack of political visibility—are exposed to greater risks from toxins and dangerous substances. It's a regrettable commentary on our society that too often it has been possible and convenient to locate waste dumps, industrial facilities, and chemical storage warehouses in these communities with less care than would be taken in other locations.

Too often these communities are thought of as expendable—without full appreciation that human beings, who deserve to be treated with respect and dignity are living, working, and raising families there. Instead, by providing clean, healthy and quality environments within and around these communities, we provide hope for the future and enhance the opportunities that these citizens have to improve their condition.

Our bill would help do just that. The bill essentially codifies an Executive Order that was issued by President Clinton in 1994. That order required all federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice considerations in their missions, develop strategies to address disproportionate impacts to minority and low-income people from their activities, and coordinate the development of data and research on these topics.

Although federal agencies have been working to implement this order and have developed strategies, there is clearly much more to do. We simply cannot solve these issues overnight or even over a couple of years. We need to "institutionalize" the consideration of these issues in a more long-term fashion—which this bill would do.

In addition, as this issue was addressed through an administrative order, that federal policy could be swept away with a stroke of a pen by new administrations. Thus, we need to make these considerations more permanent—which is also what this bill would do.

It would do this by requiring all federal agencies to: make addressing environmental justice concerns part of their missions; develop environmental justice strategies; evaluate the effects of proposed actions on the health and environment of minority, low-income, and Native American communities;

avoid creating disproportionate adverse impacts on the health or environment of minority, low-income, or Native American communities; and collect data and carry out research on the effects of facilities on health and environment of minority, low-income, and Native American communities.

It would also establish two committees: an Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group to develop strategies, provide guidance, coordinate research, convene public meetings, and conduct inquiries regarding environmental justice issues. Makes permanent the group set up by the Executive Order; and a Federal Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, appointed by the President, including members of community-based groups, business, academic, state agencies and environmental organizations. It will provide input and advice to the Interagency Working Group.

In a nutshell what this bill would do is require federal agencies that control the siting and disposing of hazardous materials, store toxins or release pollutants at federal facilities, or issue permits for these kinds of activities to make sure they give fair treatment to low-income and minority populations—including Native Americans. What this bill does is say to federal agencies, “In the past these communities have endured a disproportionate impact to their health and environment. Now we must find ways to make sure that won’t be the case in the future.”

Both Representative SOLIS and I recognize that it likely will not be possible for the Congress to complete action on this measure in this Session. But we are today taking the first step toward its enactment, and will persist in our efforts to accomplish that goal.

For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a brief outline of the provisions of the bill.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT OF 2002

REPRESENTATIVES MARK UDALL AND HILDA SOLIS

Summary: This bill would essentially codify a Clinton Administration Executive Order which directed a number of federal agencies and offices to consider the environmental impact of decisions on minority and low-income populations.

Background: On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.” The President also issued a corresponding Memorandum to all federal departments and agencies further explaining the order and how the agencies should implement it to address environmental justice issues. The Order and Memorandum called for the creation of an interagency working group to provide guidance on identifying disproportionate impacts on the health and environment of minority and low-income populations, develop strategies to address this disproportionate impacts, and provide a report on that strategy. Since the order was promulgated, the affected agencies have developed reports and strategies.

Need for the Bill: Although federal agencies and offices have been complying with the Executive Order, disproportionate impacts related to human health and the environment still exist for many minority and low-income communities. These impacts must be addressed over the long term. In addition, due to the lack of resources and political clout of many of these impacted communities, vigilance is required to make sure that disproportionate impacts are reduced

and do not continue. As the effort to date has been primarily administrative based on the presidential order and memorandum, these strategies need to be incorporated into the routine functioning of federal agencies and offices through federal law.

What the bill does

Requires federal agencies and offices to: include addressing environmental justice concerns into their respective missions; conduct programs so as not to create disproportionate impact on minority and low-income populations; include an examination of the effects of such action on the health and environment of minority and low-income populations for actions that require environmental analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act; create an environmental justice strategy to address disproportionate impacts of its policies and actions, and conduct and collect research on the disproportionate impacts from federal facilities.

Creates an Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group to develop strategies, provide guidance, coordinate research, convene public meetings, and conduct inquiries regarding environmental justice issues.

Creates a Federal Environmental Justice Advisory Committee composed of members of community-based groups, business, academic, state agencies and environmental organizations which will provide input and advice to the Interagency Working Group.

HONORING A TRUE PUBLIC SERVANT: SENATOR THOMAS KUCHEL

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago this December, California Governor Earl Warren appointed Thomas Henry Kuchel of Anaheim to the United States Senate seat vacated by Vice President-elect Richard Nixon.

A proudly progressive Republican from Orange County, Senator Kuchel represented the Golden State in the Senate with great distinction from 1953 to 1969 and played key roles in ratification of the 1963 nuclear test ban treaty, passage of the Interstate Highway Act, the Landrum-Griffin Act, Medicare, and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. With Senator Hubert Humphrey, he was co-floor leader for the 1964 Civil Rights Act, arguably the most important piece of domestic legislation in the latter half of the twentieth century. As ranking member of the Senate Interior committee, Senator Kuchel sponsored numerous laws that created and expanded reservoirs, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, and national parks. He was a fine lawyer, particularly on water law.

Senator Kuchel’s Republican colleagues elected him Assistant Minority Leader five times—a record that remains unsurpassed today—and he was literally Minority Leader Everett Dirksen’s “right-hand man” during the decade that he served as Whip. Senator Kuchel was also a formidable politician—he was the last U.S. Senate nominee to win all 58 California counties, a feat that he accomplished in 1962 as fellow Republican Richard Nixon decisively lost his gubernatorial bid.

From 1960 to 1966, I served as legislative assistant to Senator Kuchel. I had the sad duty of announcing his death to the House on November 29, 1994.

As a memorial to this distinguished public servant, Congress designated the “Thomas H.

Kuchel Visitor Center” at Redwood National Park as part of the Interior Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1999. I requested this action at the suggestion of Jason Bezis, a young Californian who has done extensive research on Senator Kuchel’s career and accomplishments. Certainly, naming the visitor center is a fitting tribute and I want to provide my colleagues with some of the history behind this action.

In February of 1966, Senator Kuchel introduced S. 2962, a bill to authorize a Redwood National Park in California. He helped to shape this legislation in meetings with Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, National Park Service Director George B. Hartzog, Jr., and other concerned parties in 1965. He re-introduced the bill in 1967, after aiding in negotiations with timber companies on an agreement that halted “spite cutting” of trees within the proposed park’s boundaries. In October of 1967, Senators Tom Kuchel, Henry Jackson, and Alan Bible jointly introduced S. 2515, the bill that established Redwood National Park when President Lyndon Johnson signed it on October 2, 1968 (Public Law 90-545).

Senator Kuchel tirelessly advocated establishments of Redwood National Park through both words and actions. On July 29, 1966, he addressed the U.S. Senate: “I have introduced S. 2962 to establish a Redwood National Park because God’s magnificent, awe-inspiring northern California virgin redwood giants ought to be preserved for humanity, rather than be chopped down from mountainsides to be made into 2 by 4’s.”

When logging companies accelerated their harvest of trees that were to be within the park, he informed their executives that they had a “moral obligation” to refrain from cutting in areas that Congress was attempting to preserve. In his “A Plea for Responsibility” Senate address on August 10, 1966, Senator Kuchel said, “Some of these redwoods have taken 2,000 years to grow into their present grandeur. Those who would sever them from the earth are not answerable to Congress or the courts. They are, however, answerable to the people of this country, and to posterity. These giant trees belong to the ages.”

Senator Kuchel repeated his “moral obligation” argument during debate on the Senate floor on October 31, 1967: “The redwoods are a national treasure which must be preserved. We, who are living when the last great primeval redwood forests are diminishing, have an obligation to preserve an area of national park stature where all Americans for now and the future, can experience the wonder of walking among these living remnants of past centuries.”

When passage of the Redwood National Park bill was imminent in fall 1968, many credited Senator Kuchel. The San Francisco Examiner dubbed it “Kuchel’s Park.” The Sacramento Bee lauded Senator Kuchel’s advocacy for the park as “an exemplar of political statesmanship.”

Senator Kuchel’s final legislative accomplishment was the Redwood National Park Act, signed by President Johnson just two weeks before the Senator delivered his Farewell Address. Rarely has a “lame-duck” senator achieved so much.

I believe that Senator Thomas H. Kuchel was among the most eminent legislators that my state of California has ever sent to our national Capital. To his wife Betty and daughter