

from the two-thirds of workers who earn their living here; no payment from the government for the 42 percent of real property it uses for federal office space and facilities and land; and no ability to make up for it by building above a height limit on all city structures.

No city in the United States lives with this built-in mandatory financial imbalance. We cannot continue to carry the resulting federally imposed structural deficit and remain stable. The 1997 Revitalization Act removal of some state functions reduced operating costs enough to allow the city to recover from insolvency but made no pretense at relieving the city of all state costs or even of addressing the structural deficit. The District, for example, continues to carry at least \$500 million in state costs annually, according to the city's Chief Financial Officer. Today, I am releasing a letter requesting that the General Accounting Office (GAO) elaborate, document, and verify the federally imposed expenditures and restrictions on the District.

The Fair Federal Compensation Act allows the federal government to pay for part (but certainly not all) of the cost of services rendered to federal employees, without taxing commuters or raising taxes on other Americans. A simple transfer of 2 percent of the federal taxes commuters already pay would be transferred to a designated D.C. infrastructure account. Commuters would experience no change in either their taxes or their tax filings because the credit would be administered by the Federal Government. Commuter salaries simply assure an amount that is calculable, limited and related to infrastructure and other services rendered to federal employees.

There are four important reasons for the credit. It affords a reasonably accurate calculation of services used by federal workers; it assures a sustainable and predictable amount that allows the District to do the necessary budgetary forecasting; it costs commuters nothing; and it increases automatically at a modest rate tied to increases in commuter salaries. The chief strengths of the Fair Federal Compensation Act—its predictability, its gradual increase each year with inflation; and the disbursement of funds without an annual appropriation—were the principle weaknesses of the old federal payment.

A particularly important feature to the bill reinforces its purpose to compensate for the costs of services to federal employees. The funds transferred from the Federal Government will be deposited in a specifically dedicated and earmarked Infrastructure Fund. The use of this money is limited to infrastructure that benefits the region and the Federal Government as well as the city. Specifically, these funds may be used only to pay for transportation (including roads and Metro); technology; school construction and maintenance (because it is second only to roads in D.C.'s debt service costs); and debt service, because most of the city's debt service is for infrastructure debt. Directing infrastructure funds to payment of debt service has the additional, critical value of helping the District to more rapidly improve its relatively low investment bond rating that costs taxpayers millions annually in excessive interest.

The bill would generate \$413 million in FY 2003, according to the CFO. Particularly considering that infrastructure debt service alone accounts for nearly \$500 million and that public safety and public works amount to \$240

million, our bill is more than fair to the Federal Government.

Mayor Williams, Council Chair Cropp and the Council should take great pride in the extraordinary turnaround they each have helped engineer for their city—from a half billion dollar deficit to a half billion cash surplus. It is fair to ask them to continue to reduce the cost of government, to improve services, to rationalize the tradeoff between tax cuts and budget cuts, and to produce a balanced budget. Of course, it is not fair to ask city leaders, and particularly D.C.'s fragile base of taxpayers, to subsidize federal workers and services.

The landmark Revitalization Act of 1997 was an emergency measure that always contemplated that there would need to be a second and final step. After five balanced budgets and surpluses by a local government that has shown itself willing to make tough decisions, it is time for the Federal Government to work with us to make the necessary tough decisions of its own.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ALLEN YOUNG

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career has come to an end. Mr. John Young, of Jefferson City, MO, has retired as director of the Division of Air and Land Protection in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Young joined the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in 1973, after receiving bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern Kentucky University. His career with the department has been full of achievements. He was directors and deputy director of the Division of Environmental Quality. He was affiliated with the Water Pollution Control and Land Reclamation Programs and has been a member of numerous state and national environmental committees.

Mr. Young has also been a recipient of several awards. He was honored by the FBI for his criminal investigation efforts and by the Missouri Conservation Federation for his leadership in contamination cleanup at Times Beach.

Mr. Speaker, John Young has dedicated nearly 30 years to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, serving with honor and distinction. I know that the Members of the House will join me in wishing him all the best in the days ahead.

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE BISHOP LARRY D. TROTTER

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2002

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Bishop Larry D. Trotter, Pastor of Sweet Holy Spirit Church of Chicago, IL. Bishop Trotter was called to the ministry in 1974 and was called to the pastorate of Sweet

Holy Spirit Church in 1981. Since that time, God, through him, has made and continues to make a difference in many lives.

Under his leadership and vision, the Sweet Holy Spirit's membership has grown from 22 members to over 5,000. He preaches four Sunday services in two locations and is aired on radio and television each week. Over 28 years of untiring service, faithful dedication to the community, and strong leadership have earned him the deserved respect and admiration of all whose lives he has touched.

Bishop Trotter has been instrumental in shaping the future of the community, state, and country. I applaud his leadership and commend him for toiling so long to provide the type of guidance which has empowered so many to make meaningful contributions to the community. He is currently the Third Presiding Bishop—International, assisting in the oversight of more than 1,500 churches and ministries. In addition, he serves as a Board Member for the Joint College of Pentecostal Bishops. His accomplishments are far too numerous to list but I applaud him for each and every one of them and for having the dream and desire to use his faith as a vehicle to effect social, political and economic change. He is a true testament to his faith and an asset to our country. I commend Bishop Larry Trotter and wish him many more years of exemplary service to the Lord.

RATIFY CEDAW

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of International Women's Day and to urge the U.S. Senate to ratify The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

CEDAW is the only comprehensive international treaty guaranteeing women's human rights and the prevention of discrimination against women. This treaty requires States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in political and public life, law, education, employment, health care, commercial transactions, and domestic relations.

In the past few months, we have been actively engaged in our continuous struggle for freedom and equality for women around the world. CEDAW is highly critical to ensuring that Afghanistan will have a democratic government that protects and upholds fundamental human rights for women.

Under the Taliban regime, women in Afghanistan had no rights. They were unable to hold jobs, go to school, or leave their homes unless accompanied by a close male relative. Now that the Taliban has been toppled, we must work together to implement CEDAW within the new Afghan government. CEDAW will ensure that women in Afghanistan will have the right to an education, health care, employment, and other basic rights. However, it is unfortunate that since the United States has not ratified CEDAW, we cannot employ CEDAW's universal standards in our efforts to assist the women in Afghanistan.

CEDAW is a tool that women around the world are using in their struggle against the effects of discrimination including violence against women, poverty, lack of legal status, right to inherit or own property, and much

more. Most of these problems exist here in the United States.

Now is the time for the U.S. Senate to ratify CEDAW in our fight to promote human rights for women worldwide.

CEDAW will give the force of international law to our efforts on behalf of women's rights. I urge the Senate to ratify CEDAW and give women the rights they have been denied for so long.