

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY ROSE
CLARK WALKER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand before this body of Congress to pay tribute to an outstanding woman from my district. Mary Clark Walker passed away recently at the amazing age of 108. Mary was one of a small number who had witnessed the dawn of two centuries, and the astounding advancement of technology in the United States over that time. Mary was lucky enough to see the beginning of the airplane, the television, and the modern automobile.

At a very young age, Mary moved from California to Ouray, Colorado where her original house on Oak Street still stands today. Mary gained a reputation as a hard worker. At a very young age, Mary began working to provide her family with extra spending money. She would often travel by train to Montrose, Colorado, where she would work a week at a time for the Ashenfelter Ranch. Mary sometimes stayed at the ranch for up to a month before she would return home to her family. It was this kind of work ethic that garnered Mary the respect of her town, which congratulated her by throwing a special 100th birthday party in her honor. Mary was also blessed with two sons, Jack and Lester, who claim her secret for a long and healthy life was nothing more than clean living and hard work.

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Mary that constitute the heart of our great nation as well as the spirit of the West and I am honored to recognize her life before this body of Congress and this nation. While we are all saddened by the loss of such a great woman, we can take some solace in knowing that she lived a long and happy life. My thoughts and prayers go out to Mary's friends and family during their time of mourning.

TRIBUTE TO TAIWANESE
PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the leadership demonstrated by Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian. During his three years in office, President Chen has worked diligently to strengthen the friendship between Taiwan and the United States. I have had the privilege meeting with President Chen in the United States and in Taiwan. The relationship between our countries stands as a great example of the cooperation and understanding that can be reached between two nations that share the goals of fostering democracy and human rights, protecting the world against terrorism, and expanding the global economy through trade.

We are extremely grateful for the friendship and support Taiwan has extended us during our own country's very difficult times. President Chen immediately and publicly lent his

country's unwavering support to the War on Terrorism. Taiwan has also agreed to devote financial resources and other humanitarian assistance to the recently freed peoples of Afghanistan and Iraq.

As Taiwan and Asia experience the threat of SARS, we see how critical it is to admit Taiwan (or at least allow it observer status) into the World Health Organization (WHO). While some nations suppressed information about this outbreak, Taiwan reported freely on it and offered to work with WHO in combating SARS. The 23 million people of Taiwan ought to be included in the international medical community's efforts to control infectious diseases and the world not deprived of the benefits Taiwan can offer it.

Mr. Speaker, under this President's guidance, Taiwan's vibrant democracy has continued to thrive, human rights have been safeguarded, and freedom of the press has never been stronger. For these reasons I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating President Chen.

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today the House considers legislation to address the susceptibility of our national forests to insects, diseases, and wildfires. In 2000, 8.4 million acres of land burned, costing approximately \$1.3 billion in suppression costs. In 2001, 3.6 million acres burned, costing more than \$900 million. Last year, 6.9 million acres burned, costing approximately \$1.6 billion. This year, conditions are ripe for another big fire season.

From 1960 through 1990, the Southern Pine Beetle has caused \$900 million in damage to pine forests. Red and White Oak Borers have devastated 33% of standing Red and White Oak timber in Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. These insects and others are threatening forests throughout the South and East, including in my state of North Carolina.

H.R. 1904 proposes to give the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management authority to treat our public forests so they will be less susceptible to fire, insects, and diseases. The bill certainly is not a perfect bill; it is not everything I would have wanted. However, it is a noteworthy attempt to deal with these threats to the health of our public forests.

If used properly, the tools provided in this bill will ease the path of projects designed to reduce the risk of fire in those areas where fire would most threaten lives, homes, and water supplies. It will also allow the federal government to better respond to insect and disease infestations before they spread out of control. However, it is not my intent for this authority to be used to increase commercial logging or circumvent public interest in our national forest.

Should this bill become law, I would caution the agencies not to use their new authority for expedited treatment and review except in the most dire cases and on lands in desperate need for attention. Over 190 million acres of

public forests are at risk to damage from insect, disease, and wildfire. However, the bill limits this new authority to less than 21 million acres. This clearly demonstrates Congress' interest in ensuring that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management do not use their new authority as a mandate for clear cutting or sacrificing healthy old growth forests.

The provisions in H.R. 1904 dealing with biomass, the Healthy Forest Reserve Program, the establishment of a new remote sensing program to diagnose insect and disease threats to forestry, and watershed management will benefit private landowners in my state. They also promote environmentally responsible practices, which in turn will generate healthier forests. While not perfect, H.R. 1904 will go a long way to protect our nation's forests, which is why I will vote for final passage.

REGARDING FCC TREATMENT OF
UNBUNDLED NETWORK ELEMENTS

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the Federal Communications Commissions recent ruling regarding unbundled network elements. It seems the FCC just can't learn from past mistakes since their network unbundling rules have twice been found by the courts to be contrary to Congressional intent under the 96 Telecommunications Act. Now, these rules have led to massive job cuts among carriers and their suppliers, discouraged investments in new plant and equipment, and slowed the introduction of new, innovative services to consumers.

I call on the FCC to implement strong, regulatory reform that will fix its unbundling rules, to help restore this vital sector of the economy. Among the needed reforms is the removal of switching as an unbundled element. Switching is competitive and widely available. FCC policies should promote real facilities based competition not false, parasitical, government regulated competition. Real competition stimulates investment and benefits consumers and should be encouraged.

It is important that any reform the FCC undertakes should undermine its earlier decisions on special access services, particularly on safe harbors that have been approved by the courts.

When addressing wireline DSL, or broadband, the FCC must arrive at new rules that reflect the state of intermodal competition from cable providers, who have the dominant share of today's broadband marketplace. Competition is needed in broadband and I hope the FCC rules will stimulate that.

Not updating the regulations further discourages investment and undermines a national broadband policy that would benefit rural areas like those in my district. Congress gave the FCC the responsibility to address these issues and it is time the FCC moves forward.