

give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority it needs to make informative and scientific decisions about the safety of dietary supplements.

The Dietary Supplement Information Act requires manufacturers, producers and distributors of dietary supplements to register with the FDA. They would be required to submit all serious adverse event reports to the FDA within 15 days. Supplement manufacturers and the FDA will work as partners to investigate and analyze these reports. To make sure that consumers know how to report an incident to the FDA directly, my legislation will require the FDA's MedWatch phone number and website to be printed on all dietary supplement product labels. If the FDA determines that a specific supplement may have serious health consequences, it can require the manufacturer to do a postmarket surveillance study to ensure that the product is safe.

Many of these dietary supplements contain ephedra, also commonly listed as ma-huang or ephedrine alkaloids. Sadly, a number of consumers, including some of my own constituents, have experienced adverse reactions after using ephedra-based supplements. Lured in by product claims of more energy, quick weight loss or improved athletic performance, consumers experienced depression, agitation, heart attacks, and strokes. In some cases, people have died after taking ephedra supplements. These severe effects demand increased public awareness, especially since the average customer profile includes young people.

The Ephedrine Alkaloid Consumer Protection Act gives consumers information about the potentially lethal side effects and drug interactions of ephedrine alkaloid products. First, it will require a standardized warning to be printed on the label. The bill will also make sure that consumers know how to report any concerns or adverse reactions by requiring the FDA's MedWatch phone number and website to be printed on the product label. Finally, the bill will protect our kids by prohibiting the sale of ephedrine to minors. No person under the age of 18 years old will be able to buy ephedrine products.

To ensure that this provision is enforced, products will be kept "behind the counter" so that sales personnel are more aware of the age restriction. Putting the product behind the counter will also make adults more aware of the risks associated with ephedra. If they have to ask for assistance to get the product, they will be more likely to read the warning label and talk to the pharmacist about possible side effects.

Since I first introduced these bills two years ago, momentum has clearly grown for improving consumer safety regarding ephedra. I have seen a growing number of organizations that are addressing the issue on their own. The American Medical Association and its Canadian counterpart recommend banning ephedra. The National Football League recently joined the ranks of the International Olympic Committee, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association in prohibiting ephedra use among their athletes.

Collaborating developments in the science community and courtrooms support these actions. A recent study conducted by the University of California at San Francisco reported that dietary supplements containing ephedra accounted for 64 percent of all adverse event reports related to dietary supplements. The emergence of "ephedra-free" products indi-

cates conflict within the industry, possibly a sign that the supplement industry is also slowly realizing the negative effects of ephedra. Allegations against ephedra supplement manufacturers include sloppy research practices, the omission or destruction of negative research data, study design violations, unreported adverse events, along with deception and fraud. In fact, last year a jury in Alabama awarded \$4.1 million to four people who suffered strokes or heart attacks after taking ephedra diet pills.

Despite the growing list of allies and evidence, there is still much work left to do within our own communities. Earlier this year, I received a compelling letter from a young woman in San Diego. She said,

"Being a 23-year-old woman, I am exposed to hundreds of diet pills and the need to be thin. One of my dear friends had a stroke from taking an over-the-counter diet pill. She went from a coma, to a vegetable, graduated to a wheelchair and now walks with a cane one year later. She is unable to go to school or work and cannot function as a normal 23-year-old."

"These dietary supplements are dangerous and harmful. People do not realize the consequences of these magical pills. They are given the notion that they are going to become this "model-type image" from taking supplements, but the adverse effects of them outweigh any benefits."

It is heartbreaking to think of how an innocent purchase irrevocably changed this young woman's life. Ephedra has opened eyes about the need for regulation of the entire dietary supplement industry. Ephedra is a symptom, a deadly symptom, of a larger issue, which is the lack of regulatory control over a multibillion dollar industry.

A change in the current law is critically needed. The FDA must be allowed to collect and distribute accurate information about dietary supplements. At present, its hands are tied. I want to make it very clear that my legislation will not ban dietary supplements. Rather, they offer a common-sense approach to giving the FDA the authority to regulate the industry while maintaining freemarket access. Consumers have a right to know what they are putting into their bodies. We cannot continue to stand on the sidelines and watch them suffer serious medical consequences from these products. Our young people and loved ones are at risk.

I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in swiftly passing these two bills into law.

THE COURAGE TO DREAM

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, risk and danger are constant companions of progress. And last Saturday morning, we were reminded again that progress at times inflicts a painful price.

Fate has called the brave crew members of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* home, and, here on Earth, we maintain our faith that they have now begun a far better journey—one of our Creator's design.

Words are small comfort today to those closest to this tragedy, the families and friends of Rick Husband, William McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark and Illan Ramon. A grateful Nation

mourns their loss and honors their courage and sacrifice.

We also offer heartfelt condolences to those left behind, especially the twelve children who have lost a mother or father. We pray that time, and a recognition of this great mission, provide some comfort and help to heal this wound.

The history of America is marked not only by sacrifice in the service of others, but by a yearning to explore, to discover, to progress . . . from the first permanent settlers in the new world at Jamestown . . . to the expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark . . . to the Wright Brothers' first flight at Kitty Hawk . . . to Neil Armstrong's first step on the moon a mere 66 years later.

The crew of the *Columbia* now joins that pantheon of American heroes who had the courage to dream, as well as the willingness to turn their vision into reality.

Although they traveled millions of miles in space, they sought answers to the questions that lie closest to the human heart.

The most fitting tribute that we can pay to their legacy is to fulfill this solemn pledge: We will continue the work that you have advanced.

And we will do so with the realization that it is our responsibility to determine the cause of this tragedy and to minimize the risk to those engaged in the exploration of space and the unknown.

Our Nation has always risen to a challenge and overcome adversity through perseverance.

That is a measure of our greatness. And, today, that is the calling that our national character commands us to undertake and continue.

COOPERATIVE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing a bill to authorize a program to help states, local governments, and private groups protect open space while enabling ranchers and other private landowners to continue to use their lands for agriculture and other traditional uses.

The bill, entitled the "Cooperative Landscape Conservation Act," is based on provisions that were previously passed by the House as part of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) but on which the Senate did not complete action. It is also similar to a bill I introduced in the 107th Congress.

I think the program that this bill would establish would be good for the entire country and it would be particularly important for Colorado.

In Colorado, as in some other states, we have experienced rapid population growth. That brings with it rising land values and property taxes. This combination is putting ranchers and other landowners under increasing pressure to sell their lands for development. By selling conservation easements instead, they can lessen that pressure, capture much of the increased value of the land, and allow the land to continue to be used for traditional purposes.

That's why conservation easements are so important for our state. It's why the state and many local governments are interested in acquiring conservation easements on undeveloped lands. It is also why non-profit organizations like the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy—to name just two of many—work to help ranchers and other property owners to make these arrangements and so avoid the need to sell agricultural lands to developers.

I strongly support this approach. Of course, by itself it is not enough—it is still important for governments at all levels to acquire full ownership of land in appropriate cases. But in many other instances acquiring a conservation easement is more appropriate for conservation and other public purposes, more cost-effective for the taxpayers, and better for ranchers and other landowners who want to keep their lands in private ownership.

But while it is usually less costly to acquire a conservation easement than to acquire full ownership, it is often not cheap—and in some critical cases can be more than a community or a nonprofit group can raise without some help. That is where my bill would come in.

Under the bill, the Secretary of the Interior would be authorized to provide funds, on a 50 percent match basis, to supplement local resources available for acquiring a conservation easement. For that purpose, the bill would authorize appropriation of \$100 million per year for each of the next 6 fiscal years—similar to the amount that would have been authorized by the CARA legislation that the House passed last year.

The bill provides that the Secretary would give priority to helping acquire easements in areas—such as Colorado that are experiencing rapid population growth and where increasing land values are creating development pressures that threaten the traditional uses of private lands and the ability to maintain open space. Within those high-growth areas, priority would go to acquiring easements that would provide the greatest conservation benefits while maintaining the traditional uses—whether agricultural or some other uses—of the lands involved.

The bill would not involve any federal land acquisitions, and it would not involve any federal regulation of land uses—conservation easements acquired using these funds would be governed solely under state law.

Mr. Speaker, the national government has primary responsibility for protecting the special parts of the federal lands and for managing those lands in ways that will maintain their resources and values—including their undeveloped character—as a legacy for future generations. Regarding other lands, the challenge of responding to growth and sprawl is primarily the responsibility of the states and tribes, the local governments, and private organizations and groups—but the federal government can help.

This bill would provide help, in a practical and cost-effective way. For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a summary of its main provisions.

DIGEST OF "COOPERATIVE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION ACT"

The bill is based on provisions included in the House-passed Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) legislation of the 106th

Congress. It would provide federal financial assistance to states, local governments, Indian tribes, and private groups working to preserve open space by acquiring conservation easements.

Background: In Colorado and other rapidly-growing states, rising land values and property taxes are putting farmers and ranchers (and other landowners) under increasing pressure to sell their lands for development. By selling conservation easements instead, they can lessen that pressure, capture much of the increased value of the land, and allow the land to continue to be used for traditional purposes. The party acquiring the conservation easement would have an enforceable property right to prevent development.

WHAT THE BILL WOULD DO

Program—The bill would establish the "Cooperative Landscape Conservation Program," to be administered by the Department of the Interior. The program would provide grants to assist qualified recipients to acquire conservation easements.

Funding—Bill would authorize appropriations of \$100 million/year for fiscal years 2002 through 2007. Funds would be used for grants, would be on a 50%-50% matching basis, for purchase of conservation easements on private lands in order to provide wildlife, fisheries, open space, recreation, or other public benefits consistent with the continuation of traditional uses by the private landowners. Up to 10% of annual funds could be used by Interior Department to provide technical assistance.

Priority—(1) Priority for grants would be to help acquire easements in areas where rapid population growth and increasing land values are creating development pressures that threaten traditional uses of land and the ability to maintain open space; (2) within those areas, priority would go for acquiring easements that would provide the greatest conservation benefits while maintaining traditional uses of lands.

Eligible Recipients—would be agencies of state or local government, tribes, and tax-exempt organizations operated principally for conservation.

Enforcement—Only an entity eligible for a grant could hold and enforce an easement acquired with program funds; at time of application, state Attorney General would have to certify that an easement would meet the requirements of state law.

WHAT THE BILL WOULD NOT DO

Bill would NOT involve any federal land acquisition.

Bill would NOT involve any federal regulation of land use.

IN APPRECIATION FOR SHARING AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of a brave and resourceful veteran from my district. Recently, I had the pleasure of presenting him with the Distinguished Flying Cross medal—nearly sixty years after the flight engineer saved his plane by repairing it mid-flight.

Ray Huntsinger served as a flight engineer with the United States Army Air Corps, now

the Air Force, during World War II. During a mission to bomb Nazi oil reserves in Romania, Huntsinger's plane suffered damaged from anti-aircraft fire. He examined the plane and found that its hydraulic lines, which affect the air brakes and landing gear, had been ruptured. After notifying the pilot that he would have to make an emergency landing, Huntsinger set to work. Using materials he found on the plane, he constructed a patch over the damaged lines, and he strapped parachutes to the plane's waist to slow it down after landing. After circling the airfield until all emergency vehicles were in place, the pilot began his descent, and executed a perfect landing—the makeshift patch saved the day.

Years later, after retiring to Hot Springs Village, Huntsinger recounted the story to a friend of his who happened to be a retired Air Force Colonel. That friend submitted the story to the Air Force, and almost sixty years after that mid-flight repair, Huntsinger was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal.

I am so pleased to have the opportunity to properly honor one of our veterans. Mr. Huntsinger had an outstanding military career with the U.S. Army Air Corps during the Second World War. He flew fifty combat missions out of Italy, and in the incident that earned him the Flying Cross distinction, he demonstrated incredible ingenuity and resourcefulness, saving the lives of his fellow soldiers as they fought for their country. I welcome any opportunity to thank our veterans and to hear their stories, and this is quite a story!

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLEAN WATER PROTECTION ACT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Clean Water Protection Act, legislation to protect the beauty and quality of our nation's water resources. This legislation would add a definition to the Clean Water Act that would place a specific prohibition on the use of wastes in "fill material" that is placed in waters of the United States. I am pleased that my colleague, Representative Christopher Shays, has joined me in this effort.

This legislation was predicated by an executive rule change on May 3, 2002, that altered the long-standing definition of "fill material" in the Clean Water Act regulations enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The Administration's new definition allows the Corps to permit waste to be used to fill streams, wetlands, and other waters. Importantly, the rule change would have nationwide effects, by allowing all industries to seek permits from the Corps to dump their wastes in waters.

On May 8, 2002, a federal court in West Virginia decided that the Administration's rule change violated the Clean Water Act and was