

3. Requires self-regulatory organizations to comply with specific minimum requirements.

4. Specifies that States must notify the FTC when it brings action against a network game provider and allows the FTC to intervene in any action brought on by the state and file petitions for appeal.

I know feelings run strong on both sides of the gaming question. It is a policy area with which I have some issues. The fact exists, however, that gaming websites are available for everyone's entertainment. It is my hope that this legislation will prevent present and future abuses and reduce the incidence of fraud. America has a chance to become a leader in this emerging global industry, but we presently lag behind other countries which are dealing honestly and openly with the issue of on-line gaming.

I hope that Congress will seriously study this proposal and raise the level of debate on this issue. I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve this measure as it travels through the legislative process.

ROUTE 11 GREENWAY ACT OF 2003

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my first legislative initiative of the 108th Congress—the "Route 11 Greenway Act of 2003." This bill authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to acquire land for a greenway along the proposed construction of Route 11 in eastern Connecticut.

Route 11 is a state road, initially intended to connect Connecticut's state capital region to its southeastern shoreline, making it a vital transportation link for the region. The road has been unfinished for over thirty years. As a result, traffic is forced onto Route 85—a local, 2-lane, 18th-century country road incapable of absorbing today's volume of traffic in a safe and efficient manner. And the problem is only getting worse.

The site of numerous accidents—and many of those fatal—the Federal Highway and Transit Administration gives the Route 11 corridor a failing service grade in many places and projects mostly failing grades in the coming years as traffic increases.

The bottom line is simple: the completion of Route 11 is critical to the safety of Connecticut motorists. And further inaction is unacceptable.

Unfortunately, the environmental review process has delayed completion of Route 11 for three decades. Connecticut travelers have paid the price for this delay—some of them, with their lives. This is unacceptable.

I am here today to reject the idea that environmental concerns and transportation safety are mutually exclusive ideals. In fact, I have long believed that environmental stewardship and transportation projects do not have to be inherently competitive pursuits. Instead, if we are willing, these interests can serve each other.

That is why I stand before my colleagues today to introduce legislation establishing a greenway along the proposed construction of Route 11, from Salem to Waterford, Connecticut.

My bill specifies that the land acquired for this greenway will be in addition to any land otherwise required to mitigate the environmental impacts of the roadway construction.

This region has seen rapid sprawl and unprecedented economic change, making it increasingly ripe for growing development. Knowing this, the Route 11 and greenway projects offer an environmental opportunity to preserve land that will otherwise be lost to development. This is a win-win. It is time to move forward.

The completion of Route 11 and an associated greenway have been unanimously endorsed by the chief elected officials of the twenty municipalities in the region acting through the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments.

I am honored to have the support of several of my Connecticut colleagues for this bill and proud to introduce this important legislation in the interests of environmental preservation and the safety of Connecticut motorists. I look forward to working with my colleagues in passing the Route 11 Greenway Act of 2003.

TRIBUTE TO BEN R. DRAKE, PRESIDENT OF THE TEMECULA VALLEY WINEGROWER'S ASSO- CIATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to Southern California are exceptional. Southern California has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give time and talent to making their communities a better place to live and work. Bob Drake is one of these individuals. On January 8, 2003, Ben will be stepping down as President of the Temecula Valley Winegrower's Association after a year of dedicated service.

The Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association represents 17 wineries and 49 grower members in their efforts to promote the making and growing of quality wine and winegrapes in the Temecula Valley appellation located in Riverside County. During his year as president, Ben has shown exemplary leadership skills as he has guided the association through a period of dynamic growth, vital to the associations' representation and promotion as one of the world's premiere wine and winegrape producing regions.

Ben has represented the association on critical community and political matters, such as land use, beautification efforts, state shipping restrictions and continuing issues dealing with Pierce's Disease and the glass-winger sharpshooter. He has worked diligently to keep open lines of communication with our membership, regional vintner and grower groups and elected officials.

Ben has placed much of his energy and focus on enhancing the recognition of the region as one of quality through educating association members through monthly enology and viticulture seminars. He has made himself available for countless media interviews and community outreach programs. Because of his personal and intensive involvement with asso-

ciation fundraising activities, he is leaving the association in a position of strength and financial stability.

Ben's diligent work as the Temecula Valley Winegrower's Association has contributed unmeasurably to the betterment of Riverside County. His involvement in the community makes me proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that all of the residents of Riverside County are grateful for his service and salute him as his term comes to an end. I look forward to working with him in the future for the good of our community.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH- MENTS OF RICK WINDBIGLER

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rick Windbigler the 2002 President of the Fallbrook, California Chamber of Commerce. Rick Windbigler is an exceptional community leader, business leader and model citizen of Fallbrook.

Mr. Windbigler has provided leadership by working on programs of importance to Fallbrook and San Diego County with local, county, state and federal officials. His work on the Gavilan Fire Victims Fund, Keep Fallbrook Clean and Green, Valley Center Mexican fruit-fly emergency and Christmas programs with the Marine Corps are all examples his outstanding leadership skills.

In addition to his leadership he has been a model of personal involvement. Rick has assisted in such community projects as the re-decoration of the chamber's office, placing flags on Main Street, Avocado Festival logistics, volunteering during Holiday celebrations and attending hundreds of events to represent the Fallbrook Chamber and its members.

Rick has demonstrated his community leadership in many successful chamber programs which has resulted in an increase in chamber membership. Under Rick's leadership the Fallbrook Chamber experienced a year of record breaking fundraising with successful events such as the Honorary Mayor Race and Golf Tournament, record attendance at the Avocado Festival, SunDowners, Friendly Village Forums and Christmas Parade.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally thank Mr. Windbigler for his service to the people of Fallbrook and wish him good fortune in the future.

RESTORATION OF FAIRNESS IN IMMIGRATION ACT OF 2003

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced today the "Restoration of Fairness in Immigration Act of 2003."

Since this nation's founding, more than 55 million immigrants from every continent have settled in the United States. Immigrants work hard to make ends meet and pay taxes every

day. They have lived in this country for decades, married U.S. citizens, and raised their U.S.-citizen children. Laws that single these people out for no other reason than their status as immigrants violate their fundamental right to fair treatment.

Yet, for too many years, Congress has witnessed a wave of anti-immigrant legislation, playing on our worst fears and prejudices. Since 1994, we have considered proposals to ban birthright citizenship, ban bilingual ballots, and slash family and employment based immigration, as well as to limit the number of asylees and refugees. In 1996 we passed laws denying legal residents the right to public benefits and denying immigrants a range of due process and fairness protections.

We continue to see the tragedy of September 11th used as an excuse for even more assaults on the rights of immigrants. The Justice Department is now registering certain classes of immigrants and arresting them when law abiding immigrants arrive to register. The Department is holding deportation hearings in secret and detaining immigrants even after they are ordered released. The Attorney General is reducing both the independence and number of judges that handle the appeals of immigration cases. We are fending off legislation almost daily intended to reduce if not eliminate immigration to this country.

Those who urge us to restrict the due process rights of immigrants forget the reason these rights were established in the first place. We grant due process rights to citizens and non-citizens alike; not out of some soft-hearted sentimentality, but because we believe that these rights form an important cornerstone to maintaining civilized society.

The "Restoration of Fairness in Immigration Act of 2003" furthers this proud legacy by restoring our nation's long standing compassion for individuals seeking to build a better life and reunite with their families.

The bill restores fairness to the immigration process by making sure that each person has a chance to have their case heard by a fair and impartial decision maker. No one here is looking to give immigrants a free ride, just a fair chance.

Justice and fairness, as well as our own economic interests, demand no less.

SUPPORTING THE EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act being introduced by Democrats today.

Democrats have made it a top priority to help out-of-work Americans struggling to make ends meet in this tough economy. Given the difficulty many are having finding work, extending unemployment benefits an additional 26 weeks in every State is a necessity. Our Democratic bill does this while also retroactively extending unemployment benefits to the 800,000 Americans that exhausted their benefits on December 28th. Democrats also provide an additional 7 weeks of benefits—on top of the 26-week extension—in those States especially hard hit by unemployment.

Republican proposals for unemployment extension fall far short. They are seeking only to extend benefits a mere 13 weeks. It seems Republicans are more generous when it comes to tax breaks for their wealthy friends than for those who can really use a helping hand.

The argument that any extension of unemployment benefits is too costly is just plain wrong. The Democratic proposal requires no new spending. It simply requires drawing on the trust fund that these workers and businesses have paid into for exactly this kind of economic downturn.

As we reconvene the 108th Congress today, it will be up to the President and Congressional Republicans to extend unemployment benefits for millions of out-of-work Americans since the Republican party controls the House, Senate and the Presidency. I hope the President and his Republican friends in Congress will finally put their money where their mouths are and join Democrats to fully extend unemployment insurance for America's families.

I urge my colleagues to support the Democratic Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act to achieve that goal.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY OSMOND

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, as Americans celebrated a season of renewal and the coming of the new year, many from northern Illinois observed the holidays with heavy hearts. In the days before Christmas, State Representative Timothy Osmond was taken from his family, friends and constituents by a sudden heart attack.

It is my honor to call Tim both a colleague and a dear, dear friend. His advice was valuable to me and to his fellow members of the Illinois General Assembly. Tim approached public service with the same gentlemanly spirit with which he built his insurance business in Antioch, Illinois. As a businessman, he built a reputation as someone his customers could count on, someone who was a problem solver, and someone you knew would always give you a straight answer.

In 1989, Tim was elected an Antioch Township Trustee, and went on to serve as Township Supervisor, before being elected to the Illinois House in 1999.

In Springfield, Tim made friends quickly. One thing I appreciated most about Tim was that he thoroughly researched legislation, reading the full text of most bills. He was down-to-earth, a sincere and genuine man. It was that demeanor that defined his approach as a legislator. He saw every constituent as a neighbor, a customer and a friend, deserving his every effort, every day. That is why many constituents who never knew Tim personally felt touched by his service to the people of Illinois.

Of course this loss is most deeply felt by the Osmond family. Tim's wife, JoAnne, and their children, Michael and Colleen, shared Tim with the community. This is the often unseen sacrifice of the spouses and children of those who serve in elective office. As the Osmond

family bears this heartfelt loss, they can take solace in the respect and admiration Tim earned in public life, and the way in which he touched so many lives. I count myself among those helped by Tim. And while I will always be grateful for all Tim's professional help, it is our friendship I treasure most. He will be deeply missed.

I offer the condolences of the Congress to his family. Local leaders honored his memory by appointing his widow to serve out his term in office. We wish JoAnne well and know that she, better than anyone else, will continue Tim's work.

REINTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased on this first day of the 108th Congress to introduce four pieces of legislation that I have been pursuing over the years, and for which I will continue to advocate these next two years.

First, together with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE), I introduced bill H.R. 804, a bill to repeal the 2 percent excise tax on private foundations. The United States is blessed with a deep spirit of philanthropy. Charitable organizations serve the interest of both the individual and the community. Private foundations in particular have made measurable differences in the lives of Americans, from access to public libraries, developing the polio vaccine, and even leading in the creation of the emergency number 911. Each and every American has experienced the benefits of the tireless efforts of these foundations. Under current law, not-for-profit private foundations generally must pay a 2 percent excise tax on their net investment income. This requirement was originally enacted in the Tax Reform Act of 1969 as a way to offset the cost of government audits on these organizations. So some 34 years ago, we instituted a tax on these foundations to cover the audit expense. However, when you look at the number of audits that have been performed, particularly since 1990, the IRS audits on private foundations has decreased from 1,200 to just 191. Yet the excise collection during these 31 years has grown from roughly \$200 million in 1990 to \$500 million in the year 1999.

In addition, private foundations are bound by a 5 percent distribution rule. Foundations must make annual qualifying distributions for charitable purposes equal to roughly 5 percent of their fair market value of the foundation's net investment assets. The required 2 percent excise tax, which is payable to the IRS, actually counts as a credit to the 5 percent distribution rule.

So in a nutshell, what we have here is a private foundation making a charitable grant to the Federal Government every year, and since 1969 the number of audits have gone down; yet the number of charitable foundations has gone up.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Americans have been more than charitable in giving the government their hard-earned dollars. It is time that we begin the process of returning the money to the people and the foundations to which it is intended.