

music in the Memphis region, across Tennessee, and to people the world over.

The Blues is a historic treasure that must be preserved and studied for posterity. The Blues, created to express the hardship and tough times faced by many in the Delta region, have comforted millions, brought diverse communities of people together, and created a uniquely American tradition.

Almost all the music we know and love today—including jazz, country, even some classical—has been influenced by the Blues. America's musical heritage cannot be understood without the Blues, and Rock and Roll as we know it wouldn't exist.

Memphis has been a wellspring of musical creativity since the first Mississippi Delta bluesmen started drifting north. When the great W.C. Handy arrived on Beale Street from the Delta in 1908, he brought along this magical new genre. Memphis legends like W.C. Handy and B.B. King are just a few among the many legends of Blues music in the United States who should be recognized.

As Co-Chairman of the House Songwriters Caucus and a Tennessean, I am proud to help represent one of America's true music capitals.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in support of H. Con. Res. 13.

TRIBUTE TO BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB COMPANY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company's Syracuse, New York facility, which will receive the 2004 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award in the alternative synthetic pathways category presented by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Bristol-Myers Squibb earned this great honor through the development of an environmentally friendly synthesis for the cancer drug Taxol®. The EPA's Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Program has been promoting pollution prevention through voluntary partnership with the chemical community since 1996. The annual awards recognize outstanding accomplishments in the development of chemical technologies that incorporate the principles of green chemistry into chemical design, manufacture, and use. To date winning technologies have eliminated over 460 million pounds of chemical and solvent pollutants, saved over 440 million gallons of water, and eliminated over 170 million pounds of atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions.

I express my congratulations to the men and women of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company in Syracuse for receiving such an outstanding honor. Bristol-Myers Squibb has truly shown itself to be a leader in environmental technology innovation.

POPULATION CONNECTION'S 2004 "KID-FRIENDLY CITIES REPORT CARD"

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, last week Population Connection released its 2004 Kid-Friendly Cities Report Card. This report rates cities in terms of the quality of life they provide for children by using data in sixteen comprehensive areas including health care, education, and community.

I am proud that Madison, my hometown, ranked third among large cities in America in terms of providing a high quality of life for children. We scored very highly in the education and community categories. The people of Madison deserve to feel proud of the quality of life we provide for the children in our city.

There is much good news for Madison in this report, but there's much more to be done. We must remember that far too many children in our city and, indeed, across America are being left behind. I applaud Population Connection for their efforts in working hard to achieve the day that every city is kid-friendly, the day that every kid can look forward to a future that offers unlimited opportunity. This report from Population Connection shows us the map to get there. And while cities and states can do a lot on their own, many of the problems that young people face are national problems that require national solutions.

The first step is to get serious about reducing teen pregnancy. In Madison, like in much of America, this is one of the most significant challenges we face. We should act to ensure that not one more federal penny is spent on ineffective programs, like "abstinence-only" programs that leave kids simply uninformed at best and woefully ill-equipped for real-life decision-making at worst. Such programs have been shown to have little to no impact on the likelihood that young people will be sexually active, but they do reduce the chance that young people will use contraceptives when they do have sex, leading to unintended pregnancy and exposure to sexually transmitted infections. Let's put our money into more effective, more worthy programs that can be shown to have a real impact on the lives of young people.

Also, we should act to ensure that every woman, every mother, has access to affordable reproductive health care, family planning and effective contraceptives. Too often, contraceptives are excluded from prescription drug coverage in health insurance plans. Federal funding for family planning for low-income Americans has fallen nearly 60 percent in real dollars over the past two decades, leaving fully half the women who need subsidized family planning aid without access to services. Family planning gives mothers the ability to properly space their births. It makes it more likely that they will receive pre-natal care, and it helps to ensure that every pregnancy is planned and every child is wanted. These programs are worthy of increased investment. The return is enormous. In fact, research has shown that every dollar of public money invested in family planning and reproductive health care saves more than four dollars in future costs.

I urge my colleagues in the United States Congress to take the funds that the president has proposed for failed abstinence-only programs and use it to double the funding for the Title X family planning program. This program has a long history of success in providing basic reproductive health care, family planning information and contraceptives to low-income Americans. We must always remember one basic fact: healthy mothers and healthy children go hand in hand.

We should all be grateful to Population Connection for providing us with this information that can help guide the policies we adopt. Now that they've provided the information, we in Congress must act to adopt policies that will bring us quickly to the day that such a report is unnecessary . . . the day when every city gets an "A".

PROTECT PERSONAL PRIVACY BY NOTIFYING CONSUMERS OF THE PRESENCE OF TRACKING DEVICES IN EVERYDAY ITEMS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing privacy legislation in response to the growing use of technology known as "radio frequency identification," or RFID, that businesses are beginning to use as a means of tracking shipments of goods.

RFID chips, which can be embedded by manufacturers in clothing or other products, transmit unique identification data to a receiver so that a merchant can track the movement or presence of specific goods, such as to verify that a container has a complete order of items inside without opening it. It makes good business sense to keep track of inventory, and RFID offers an easier, more efficient way for many companies to do so.

However, in an age in which the advent of new technology is often accompanied by a loss of control over one's personal information or privacy, consumers should be made aware when an item that they have purchased contains technology that potentially allows for their movements or purchase history to be tracked. Furthermore, a person that so desires should be able to have the tracking chip disabled or removed.

Presently, RFID chips come in all shapes and sizes, with some the size of a grain of rice or smaller. Many of these chips are only able to transmit to a receiver in close proximity, and do nothing more than signal the presence of a specific item of clothing or other retail product. As technology advances, it will be easier for such technology to be linked to the individual's personal information, such as the purchaser's name, address, transaction history, and so forth. In addition, the distances over which RFID chips could transmit to a receiver will undoubtedly increase, enabling the tracking of RFID-tagged goods far from the point of purchase.

My legislation would require the Federal Trade Commission to craft rules to ensure that businesses could not sell products with RFID devices unless the product carries a warning label and the person purchasing the item is provided with the option of having the RFID

device removed or permanently disabled at the time of purchase. This is a common sense solution would allow businesses to continue to utilize this technology while at the same time it would grant consumers the ability to protect their privacy.

Although I recognize that time is running out in the present session of Congress, it is important that this issue be raised. Congress should act to give our constituents the opportunity to have these tracking devices removed or disabled on articles they purchase, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that I am joined by TOM LANTOS and 28 of our colleagues in introducing a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) through FY 2007. This bipartisan conservation incentive program helps to protect the world's most valuable tropical forests through "debt-for-nature" mechanisms.

This bipartisan reauthorization we are introducing today was developed with the Bush Administration, the Nature Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. The Administration and these highly respected environmental organizations are to be commended for all of their excellent work on the TFCA and this bill.

In the 105th Congress I, along with our former colleagues Lee Hamilton and John Kasich, introduced the legislation that established the TFCA. It was overwhelmingly approved and enacted in 1998. The TFCA was reauthorized in 2001 through the end of this year.

The TFCA is based on the previous Bush Administration's Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI) that allows the President to restructure debt in exchange for conservation efforts in Latin America. The TFCA expands on the EAI and allows protection of threatened tropical forests worldwide. A conservative estimate of 39.5 million acres of tropical forests will be protected by TFCA agreements since its enactment in 1998.

The United States has a significant national interest in protecting tropical forests in developing countries. Tropical forests provide a wide range of benefits. They harbor 50–90 percent of the earth's terrestrial biodiversity. They act as "carbon sinks," absorbing massive quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby reducing greenhouse gases. They regulate rainfall on which agriculture and coastal resources depend, and they are of great importance to regional and global climate. Furthermore, tropical forests are breeding grounds for new medicines. Twenty-five percent of prescription drugs come from tropical forests. The United States National Cancer Institute has identified over 3000 plants that are active against cancer. Seventy percent of them can be found in rainforests.

Regrettably, tropical forests are rapidly disappearing. It is estimated that 30 million acres (an area larger than the State of Pennsyl-

vania) are lost each year. The heavy debt burden of many countries is a contributing factor because they must resort to exploitation of their natural resources (particularly the extraction of timber, oil, and precious metals) to generate revenue to service their external debt. At the same time, poor governments tend to have few resources available to set aside and protect tropical forests. The TFCA addresses these economic pressures by authorizing the President to allow eligible countries to engage in debt swaps, buybacks or reduction/restructuring in exchange for protecting threatened tropical forests on a sustained basis.

The debt for nature mechanisms in the TFCA have proven to be an effective, market-oriented means to leverage scarce funds available for international conservation. The host country places an amount in its tropical forest fund that typically exceeds the cost to the U.S. government of the debt reduction agreement. Furthermore, because these tropical forest funds have integrity and are broadly supported within the host country, conservation organizations are interested in placing their own money in these tropical forest funds producing additional leverage of Federal conservation dollars.

Seven TFCA agreements have been concluded to date: Bangladesh, El Salvador, Belize, Peru, the Philippines, Panama and Colombia. These agreements have generated more than \$70 million in long-term income commitments for tropical forest conservation. Private donors have contributed more than \$5 million to TFCA swaps, leveraging the U.S. government funds. Active deals are currently being negotiated with Jamaica and Sri Lanka. Several other countries have expressed interest in the program including Guatemala, Ecuador, Paraguay, St. Vincent, Botswana, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, India, Indonesia, Brazil, and Kenya.

This bill will improve the TFCA and reauthorize it at \$20 million in FY 2005, which is included in the President's budget request; \$25 million in FY 2006; and \$30 million in FY 2007.

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act is an excellent program that is working well and worthy of reauthorization. I urge all members to support this important, market-oriented approach to conserving the world's most threatened tropical forests.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION PROHIBITING EXTRAORDINARY RENDITION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, the prison abuses at Abu Ghraib were a national disgrace and have rightly been the subject of anger and condemnation. But another torture practice continues to go on without any public attention. Under the name "extraordinary rendition", the CIA reportedly sends terrorism suspects, sometimes on the flimsiest of evidence, to foreign countries that are known to employ torture in prisoner interrogation. This practice is against all U.S. and international law and is a moral outrage, and it must be stopped.

The practice of extraordinary rendition, the extra-judicial removal of people in U.S. custody both domestically and abroad to foreign governments that are known to use torture, has received little attention because of the degree of secrecy with which it occurs. Attention was drawn to the practice in September 2002 when Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen, was seized while in transit to Canada through JFK airport, and sent to Jordan and later Syria at the request of the CIA. While in Syria, Arar was tortured and held in a dark, 3-by-6-foot cell for nearly a year. He was ultimately released and detailed his story to the media upon his return to Canada.

Although the more recent numbers have not been made public, outgoing CIA director George Tenet testified to the 9/11 Commission in October 2002 that over 70 people had been subject to rendition before September 11, 2001. Human rights organizations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Center for Constitutional Rights and the ACLU have detailed numerous other cases and are pursuing litigation in some of them. On June 21, the Canadian government launched an investigation into Arar's case.

My bill directs the State Department to compile a list of countries that commonly practice torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment during detention and interrogation, and prohibits rendition to any nation on this list, unless the Secretary of State certifies that the nation has made significant progress in human rights. It also specifies that written or verbal assurances from a foreign government that a person will not be tortured are not sufficient basis to override this prohibition. The bill explicitly permits legal, treaty-based extradition, in which suspects have the right to appeal in a U.S. court to block the proposed transfer based on the likelihood that they would be subjected to torture or other inhumane treatment.

Extraordinary rendition is outsourcing torture, and it is morally repugnant to allow such a practice to continue. President Bush has asserted that 'the values of this country are such that torture is not a part of our soul and our being.' The legislation I am introducing today is designed to ensure that we not only ban torture conducted by our own forces but we also stop the practice of contracting out torture to other nations. Torture enabled by extraordinary rendition is outrageous and must be stopped.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE UKRAINIAN MONUMENT TO TARAS SHEVCHENKO

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 26, 2004, the Ukrainian-American community will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington, DC. The monument inspired and united Ukrainians to speak about the cruelty and injustice of the former Soviet Union and attracted international support. Since independence, Ukraine has made significant progress in its transition to a democratic society.