

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFE CLIMATE ACT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join 12 of my colleagues in introducing the Safe Climate Act. Global warming is the greatest environmental challenge of our time, and we have a short window in which to act to prevent profound changes to the climate system. Unless we seize the opportunity to act now, our legacy to our children and grandchildren will be an unstable and dangerous planet.

There are different approaches that can be taken to climate legislation. Some bills seek a symbolic recognition of the problem. Others are premised on what may be politically achievable in the near terms.

The Safe Climate Act is drafted on a different premise: It reflects what the science tells us we need to do to protect our children and future generations from irreversible and catastrophic global warming. The bill has aggressive requirements to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. But the reality is, these are the reductions that scientists say we need to achieve to preserve a safe climate for future generations.

The science clearly tells us what we need to do—we must reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, starting now and continuing over the next few decades. To achieve this, we have to grow our economy into a new and cleaner future. It's simply too late for legislative baby steps.

I have been working to address the threat of global warming for many years. At first, the scientists' warnings about global warming came like a few early drops of rain. We knew that our activities were emitting large quantities of greenhouse gases. And we knew that greenhouse gases trap the sun's heat and warm the planet. When scientists found steadily rising quantities of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, they hypothesized that our activities could warm the planet, with unknown but potentially troubling consequences.

Over the years, these scattered warnings grew to a stream, then to a rushing river of danger signals. Over 10 years ago, the science and the threat of global warming were clear. That's why I introduced the Global Climate Protection Act of 1992, which would have frozen U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide at 1990 levels. But Congress failed to act.

Now the river of warnings has become a flooding torrent. We can no longer ignore the evidence of global warming. We're now just starting to experience some results of climate change. And they are not good.

Eight of the ten warmest years on record have occurred in the last decade. As the earth warms, its ice is melting. From the glaciers in Glacier National Park, to the snows of Kilimanjaro and the Larson B ice-shelf in Antarctica, ice that has been here since the last ice age is disappearing or already gone. The permafrost supporting towns and roads in Alaska is melting rapidly, and the summer sea ice in the Arctic Ocean is diminishing each year. These are changes we can see with our own eyes.

The seasons are changing—maple sugar producers in Vermont are tapping trees earlier,

plants are flowering earlier, and birds are migrating earlier. These changes are happening across the globe. And with warmer weather come bugs that are no longer being killed by the winter cold, such as the beetles that are destroying forests across the Southwest and Alaska.

The scientists have long predicted that as the oceans warm, rainfall episodes, storms, and hurricanes will become more intense. Last year broke hurricane records, and America experienced the devastating results of just a few such storms with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The scientists have been proven right about global warming, over and over again, across the planet. We should start listening to them.

Now they are telling us that we have about 10 years to act to avoid being locked into irreversible global warming on a scale that will transform the planet. The scientists have identified a global temperature rise of just 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit as enough to produce undeniably dangerous consequences, such as 20 feet or more of sea level rise, which would flood large parts of Florida and New York City, as well as huge population centers in other countries. And scientists have calculated the quantity of atmospheric greenhouse gases that would very likely cause such a temperature rise. The nations of the world must keep greenhouse gases below that level to avoid irreversible dangerous global warming.

The United States emits more greenhouse gases than any other country in the world—about 20 percent of the total worldwide. We simply cannot avoid catastrophic global warming without substantial cuts in U.S. emissions. Of course, every nation will have to do its part. According to the best science, under any plausible scenario of future international actions to stabilize the climate, the United States will eventually need to reduce its emissions by about 80 percent.

Fortunately, we have some time to get there, as long as we start reducing our total emissions now. And that's what the Safe Climate Act does. It caps U.S. emissions in 2010, and then gradually reduces them by just 2 percent per year until 2020. This gives us 15 years to deploy the cleaner technologies that we already have but aren't using much, such as hybrid vehicles and wind power. After 2020, emissions must fall under the legislation by roughly 5 percent per year, as more advanced technologies, such as biofuels from waste materials and capturing carbon dioxide from power plants, become widely available.

The Safe Climate Act reduces emissions through a flexible, market-based emissions trading program, as well as complementary requirements for cleaner cars and more electricity from renewable energy and efficiency. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy would oversee these programs nationally, while states would retain their authority to act on the State level. In effect, the Safe Climate Act sets the targets and then unleashes market forces and American ingenuity to solve the problem.

This sounds ambitious, and it is. But it is also completely doable, once we decide to act. Look at what we've already achieved. In just over 30 years, from the passage of the Clean Air Act in 1970 to 2002, we reduced air pollution from automobiles by over 60 percent. We achieved these reductions even as the total number of vehicle miles traveled increased by 160 percent and GDP grew by 166 percent.

From 1990 to 1996, in just 6 years, we ended production of key chemicals destroying the earth's protective tropospheric ozone layer and shifted to substitutes. Those chemicals had been widely used throughout the economy in applications from air conditioning and refrigeration to solvents and fire suppression.

In each case, entrenched industries told Congress that changes of these magnitudes would be impossible to achieve without massive economic dislocation. And in each case, they were wrong.

We've ignored the threat of global warming for almost too long, but we still have an opportunity if we act now. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this critically important bill, and I urge the committee of jurisdiction to consider it without further delay. We must face and overcome the challenge of global warming, and the Safe Climate Act is the way to do it.

TRIBUTE TO SONDRA FROHLICH

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sondra Frohlich, who is celebrating her retirement from her position as executive director of the Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce. Sondra has overseen the Sherman Oaks Chamber since 1997 and has been an active leader in the community for over 40 years.

Sondra has been a dynamic force on the Sherman Oaks Chamber. During her tenure as executive director, the chamber experienced a 100-member net increase and expanded its involvement in business and community improvements. She was one of the founders of the Village at Sherman Oaks Business Improvement Districts, which has blossomed into one of the valley's most recognized destinations for shopping. She was also the incorporator of the Sherman Oaks Business Improvement District to the State of California.

Ms. Frohlich has enjoyed many other accomplishments in her position as executive director of the chamber. She was responsible for the expansion of the Sherman Oaks Street Fair through her engagement of professional management. She coordinated the chamber fight for business tax relief and worker's compensation reforms. She won national recognition for excellence of the chamber's website.

Outside of her work with the Sherman Oaks Chamber, Ms. Frohlich has been very involved in the larger San Fernando Valley community. A true leader, she has served as president of the San Fernando Valley Business and Professional Association, the Northridge Republican Women's Club, and twice has led the Rotary Club of Studio City-Sherman Oaks. She is currently the secretary of the Mid-Valley Community Police Council, a support group to the Van Nuys division of the Los Angeles Police Department, as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Circle of Care Foundation.

Sondra Frohlich is an outstanding community leader and activist. Her commitment to the San Fernando Valley is impressive, and her leadership is evident. Even with her imminent

retirement, she will continue to make a difference. Ms. Frohlich may be retiring from the Chamber of Commerce, but she is not retiring from involvement in the life and growth of the valley.

Ms. Frohlich has been a distinguished leader, and I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting and honoring her for all of her outstanding accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF DR. RICHARD
ELSTER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous public career of Dr. Richard Elster who will retire this year from his post as the Naval Postgraduate School's provost and academic dean.

As many of my colleagues know, the Naval Postgraduate School, NPS, located in Monterey, CA, is this Nation's premier institution for graduate level military education and research. While its name points to its origins as a Navy facility, NPS in fact graduates masters and Ph.D. candidates from every U.S. military service and many allied foreign militaries. It also houses a pioneer program to research and grant masters degrees in homeland security.

Dr. Elster has been associated with NPS since 1969, when he joined the faculty as an assistant professor. Since then he has at various times served at NPS as an associate professor, professor, chairman of the Department of Administrative Sciences, dean of instruction, and finally the provost and academic dean position from which he is retiring. In the last 10 years, under Dr. Elster's tenure in this last position, NPS has seen a burst of activity, not only in the areas mentioned above but in many small ways that make it a key component of our Nation's security. Under Dr. Elster's leadership, much of the academic work of NPS students and faculty responds directly to real world defense mission needs. It's a marriage of top notch academics and military mission that no other institution in the U.S., or the world for that matter, can duplicate.

Considered on its own, Dr. Elster's academic career sets a remarkable standard of achievement. However, interspersed through his time at NPS, Dr. Elster served in several high ranking Pentagon positions. Starting in 1975 as a special advisor to the Secretary of Defense for Manpower and reserve affairs, Dr. Elster also held positions as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Resource Management and Support. This record of service reflects both Dr. Elster's keen intelligence and leadership qualities, but also his absolute dedication to public service. The combination of these qualities and his achievements in national security management and in the classroom allow Dr. Elster to leave more than several lifetimes of achievement upon his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it is easy to say that Dr. Elster's retirement from NPS will leave a void

that will be hard to fill. That much is obvious. What is also apparent to me and many others is that he has over these past 30 years set so powerful an example that there are many men and women in public service today who can fill that role by virtue of Dr. Elster's example. It is my privilege to share with Dr. Elster the thanks of this House on the occasion of this retirement and to offer him and his family our best wishes on his life and work to come.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
DAVID "DOOVY" KIRSCHENBAUM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in joyful remembrance of the life and work of David "Doovy" Kirschenbaum, an extraordinary man whose life was dedicated to family, friends and community. Mr. Kirschenbaum exemplified the purest meaning of the word "father," and his caring, nurturing, dedication and commitment to others enriched the lives of countless individuals.

Doovy was a successful attorney and a staunch advocate for those who could not defend themselves. He built a large law practice with the daily assistance of members of his family. As his life touched the lives of more and more individuals, his influence widened. His wisdom and advice was soon sought after by officials from every rank and branch of government. Doovy's reputation became that of a kind, wise man, who, with just a twinkling of his eye could provide down-to-earth, practical advice. His possessed a philosophic mind, understood deeply the human condition, and always communicated great optimism and love. His commitment to and participation in Cleveland's Jewish community was central to his passion for social and economic justice.

Doovy pushed himself in all of his endeavors. He was constantly building his physical strength. He was an excellent skier and golfer, but a gentle competitor, who understood that life, like sports, was played not just to win but for the love of the game. His enthusiasm and joy for living were contagious. His friendship was consistently sought after by others, as his magnetic character easily drew people to him. His interest in public service led him to an appointment on the Cleveland Port Authority, where he presided over the growth of the great ports along the Great Lakes. His business interests also included health care, where he took pride in helping many families extend the quality of life of their loved ones in superior nursing facilities.

Doovy's greatest achievement in life was always his family. He was a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather, who with his beloved wife Elise, took great pride in the lives, growth and accomplishments of each of their six children. Together, Doovy and Elise built a family and a life of love that touched the lives of countless people in numerous and permanent ways.

When Doovy reached his 70th birthday, hundreds of his friends traveled to Cleveland from all around America to celebrate his diamond year. When they entered the Kirschenbaum home, Doovy presented them with a small booklet of his philosophical obser-

vations entitled: "It's Still All About Nothing." Today, in honoring his memory, we understand why his life meant everything to so many people. We know why this wise man, this advocate of the people, this gentle loving soul will be missed long into the future, not only by those in his large, extended family who shared his life, but by everyone whose life he ever touched.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of my dear friend, David "Doovy" Kirschenbaum. Please also join me as I offer my deepest condolences to his wife Elise; to his daughters, Amy, Lynn, and Jo; to his son Dan; to the memory of his daughters, Susan and Gail; to his 22 grandchildren; to his 3 great-grandchildren, and to his extended family members and many friends. Although he will be greatly missed, his life was lived with great joy and love that he freely extended to his family, friends and to our community. Doovy's limitless kindness, generosity, humor and love consistently framed his life and embraced the lives of others, and his spirit live on within the hearts of his family and friends, today, and for all time, and he will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in votes on the floor of the House of Representatives on June 19, 2006. I was absent to attend a Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing in South Dakota. I submit this statement today to establish for the record how I would have voted had I been present for these votes.

On June 19, 2006, the House of Representatives held three votes.

The first vote was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to the H.R. 5540, to designate the Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The second vote was on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the H.R. 5504, to designate the Larry Winn, Jr. Post Office Building. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The third vote was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to the H. Res. 826, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Youth Sports Week should be established. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

TRIBUTE TO ROSITA FERNANDEZ,
SAN ANTONIO'S FIRST LADY OF
SONG

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rosita Fernandez, a San Antonio icon and a giant in Tejano music. In a career spanning six decades, she was one of