

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 over a decade 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, the total air pollution from all automobiles was reduced 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.

Our Nation has made dramatic advances in technology that have transformed our lives. We can do it again in developing new innovations for transportation and energy production. The Safe Climate Act will give the market the incentives necessary to unleash American ingenuity and solve the problem.

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.

H. CON. RES. 62: SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, a National Children and Families Day will encourage families to embrace the qualities needed to raise happy and healthy citizens. For example, families teach children the lessons they must learn to live productive and prosperous lives. They care for children by giving them love, warmth, and encouragement while providing food, shelter, and financial support. Strong families build trusting relationships by demonstrating commitment to all the members of the family. This includes following through with promises, working as a team, open and honest communication about important decisions and reflections on the passing day. All families experience crisis, but strong and committed families use these experiences to learn and to grow. Family members should spend time together talking, reading, playing games, and participating in outdoor activities. They should always encourage each other and be involved in their neighborhoods and community, where the strength of our Nation starts. A National Children and Families Day will highlight these important activities in which families engage and their positive effects on our nation.

A National Children and Families Day also would focus our attention on the need for citizens and Congress to work toward ensuring that every child has a loving family. It is so unfortunate that there are millions of children in our country who do not have the ability to experience on a daily basis, a regular basis, or even an occasional basis the love and care of a stable family relationship. These include children who are involved in the child welfare system.

A National Children and Families Day will help members of Congress focus on ways to enhance and improve the quality of life for all children and families via the programs under our jurisdictions, whether by supporting family-friendly business policies, quality health care, or quality child care. Strong families help make a strong Nation.

While we honor the 4th Saturday of June this year in recognition of the importance of children and their families, it must not stop on one day. Every day families must work at keeping each other strong and loved. And we as a Nation and Congress as a body must never cease our support for the American family and the children that are the future.

TRIBUTE TO AIR EVAC LIFETEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Air Evac Lifeteam in its celebration of National EMS Week.

The Air Evac Lifeteam serves rural communities and has grown to be the largest inde-

pendently owned and operated membership-based air ambulance service in the United States since its creation in 1985. The company has transported more than 100,000 patients in need, serving as the critical link to improved response time and immediate access to medical care facilities for numerous rural communities across 11 states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Illinois. There are five operational bases in Illinois located in Effingham, Marion, Mt. Vernon, Quincy and Springfield which are strategically positioned to serve over forty Illinois counties. Last year the Air Evac Lifeteam air lifted over 2000 critical patients to advance medical centers.

The Air Evac Lifeteam has 1500 employees with significant professional education and experience. A registered nurse and paramedic are on every mission. Registered nurses average 6 years of critical care experience, with a minimum requirement of 3 years experience. Paramedics average 10 years of active pre-hospital experience, with a minimum requirement of 3 years experience. All medical crew members are certified as well. The Air Evac Lifeteam pilots are skilled and certified aviators that meet Federal Aviation Authority approval and have flown, an average, of more than 5,700 hours.

The National EMS Week celebration will be held at the Effingham base on Thursday, May 24, 2007. There will be a meet and greet of EMS Political IDPH Leaders as well as a host of EMS crews, government officials, hospital administration and staff, local and regional media, plus a variety of Illinois healthcare providers.

I am pleased to congratulate the Air Evac Lifeteam on its accomplishments and its service to the rural communities. I also wish the Air Evac Lifeteam well for its week-long celebration and future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 157, 158, 159, I missed due to airline mixup and malfunction. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF RACHEL R. KLAY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take a moment today to recognize Rachel Klay, a devoted friend and dedicated public servant who retired from the United States Secret Service on January 19 of this year.

I had the pleasure of getting to know Rachel over the course of her 24-year career with the Secret Service—and I can say, with the utmost confidence, that she served our country with dignity and integrity every step of the way.

Whenever I or another Member of Congress would visit the White House, we could always count on Rachel to greet us with a smile or funny story. And whenever foreign dignitaries visited Capitol Hill, we could always count on Rachel to be right there with them, ensuring that foreign officials had a safe and comfortable experience while visiting our Nation's capital.

Rachel always fulfilled her duties with all of the dependability, professionalism and love of country that one would expect from a Secret Service agent. But she also brought a kind and lighthearted nature to the job that I, for one, will never forget.

And let me add that I have had the pleasure of employing Secret Service agents in my office through Congressional fellowship programs and, like Rachel, each and every one of them has represented the best our Nation has to offer.

From her upbringing in Orange City, Iowa, to her studies at Northwestern and Sangamon State Universities, to the U.S. Secret Service, Rachel has always excelled and stood out as a leader and as someone people can count on.

As she moves on to bigger and better things, I'd like to congratulate Rachel Klay on a proud career of service to our country and wish her the best of luck in whatever the future holds.

H. RES. 162: RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES AND THEIR PLAYERS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS, DEDICATION AND SACRIFICES TO BASEBALL AND THE NATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, since 1885, long before Major League Baseball was inaugurated in 1903, African Americans were organizing into their own professional leagues. Unfortunately, racial prejudice and lack of adequate financial backing undermined the success of these initial leagues. However, this changed dramatically with the inception of the first successful Negro league. On May 20, 1920, the Negro National League played its first game. Its creation was the result of the efforts of an African American player and manager named Andrew "Rube" Foster. Mr. Foster's success inspired the formation of other leagues as well as thousands of children nationwide.

Six separate leagues that emerged between 1920 and 1960 are collectively known as the Negro Leagues: the Negro National League, Eastern Colored League, American Negro League, East-West League, Negro Southern League, and Negro American League. The lasting legacy of the Negro Leagues includes inspiring events and the tremendous baseball players. They produced what baseball aficionado doesn't know about the first Negro World Series? On October 3, 1924, the first game was played between the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro National League and Hilldale of Philadelphia of the Eastern Colored

League. This historic and exhaustive first series lasted ten games, covered a span of almost three weeks, and was played in four different cities. In the end, Kansas City claimed the championship. Clearly, this was a remarkable and inspiring event.

What baseball aficionado doesn't know Jackie Robinson, the first African American to break the baseball color barrier? Leroy "Satchel" Paige, who was considered one of the greatest pitchers of all time? Josh Gibson, who was a prolific home-run hitter; or Larry Doby, the first African American to play in the American League in July 1947; or John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil, who was the first African American coach in the Major Leagues, played a major role in establishing the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, and was posthumously honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom December 6, 2006?

Madam Speaker, Black history in Major League Baseball has been filled with many successes and a struggle for equity. Therefore, it is important that we remember and honor these players. In breaking down the baseball color barrier, these pioneers dealt a blow to hatred and prejudice across America. I encourage all Americans to recognize the achievements, dedication, and sacrifice that these Black players made to baseball and the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Peter's United Church of Christ located in the small community of Stone Church, Illinois, on their 150th anniversary. St. Peter's United Church of Christ separated from the Independent Evangelical Lutheran St. Johannes Congregation, the mother church, in 1857.

The "Old Stone Church" was built in 1858 and dedicated on January 2, 1859. On March 26, 1948, Good Friday morning, a fire destroyed the entire church. In 1950 ground was broken for a new church, and it was dedicated on March 11, 1951. In 1955 ground was broken for a new parsonage, which was dedicated on October 7, 1956, and in 1958 the Brotherhood was organized. In 1974 the Education Building was built in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Doelling.

On February 11, 2007, St. Peter's began celebrating their sesquicentennial. After several months of celebration, a dedication service will be held on August 26, 2007, followed by a noon dinner at Okawville Community Club where a pictorial history of the Church will be displayed.

HONORING THE SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACES DISTRICT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today together with my col-

league Ms. WOOLSEY to honor the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District located in Northern California. On March 3, the agency received the prestigious County Leadership in Conservation Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) and Trust for Public Land (TPL).

This award is given annually to counties that showcase the best practices in innovative conservation work. As one of the first public agencies in the nation funded by a sales tax to protect agriculture, the Open Space District has continued to distinguish itself nationally. It has protected almost 70,000 acres, including farms, greenbelts, natural open spaces, and recreational areas.

The District was formed as a result of public concern over urbanization in Sonoma County as subdivisions, malls and parking lots threatened to overwhelm land the famed botanist Luther Burbank once called "God's chosen spot." Responding to the very real threat of sprawl, farmers, environmentalists and community leaders joined together in 1990 to pass a sales tax to fund preservation and open space acquisition. So successful is the District that the tax was renewed with a 75-percent approval vote in 2006. Today the tax provides approximately \$13 million a year for the District's land conservation and acquisition programs.

The County Open Space Authority is responsible for levying and distributing the funding, while the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors acts as the Board of Directors. The Supervisors appoint a 17-member Open Space Advisory Committee, representing various stakeholders and interest groups, to recommend acquisitions. Manager Andrea Mackenzie works with all of these groups and other local organizations in identifying and purchasing suitable properties (or conservation easements) and determining the best use for them, from agriculture to resource conservation to public access or recreation.

Madam Speaker, Sonoma County has a beautiful and diverse environment ranging from oak savannah to bay wetlands to coastal redwood forests. Its farmlands are among the richest on the planet and grow grapes for world-class wines, crispy Gravenstein apples and luscious Crane melons and many specialty crops. Its pastures and rangelands support both dairy and meat production. The District ensures that our children's children will always have woodland and hillside trails to hike and homegrown food to enjoy.

These open spaces keep Sonoma County's agricultural economy healthy, provide recreation for visitors and residents, and preserve the very character of the county. I congratulate the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District upon the receipt of the well-deserved County Leadership in Conservation Award and look forward to continuing to work with the District to preserve Sonoma County's natural beauty and agricultural bounty.