Eastside initiated in the early hours of the flood recovery, said Thursday that the group is averaging 550 meal deliveries each day.

The article continues:

The Muncie group offered more than just helping hands.

The Rotarians who arrived on the first Saturday and immediately were sent to devastated areas with prepared meals were welcomed warmly but also given guidance for future visits.

''If people didn't want the lunches, they definitely wanted the water,'' Celeste said. ''That need was discovered on their first trip. On the next trip the Muncie group brought down 40 cases of water, four coolers and endless bags of ice so that we could hand out cold bottled water along with the meals.''

While the Muncie group was in Columbus, one of its members struck up a conversation with Lenore Hollowell about additional sources of food.

Gleaner's Food Bank in Indianapolis was mentioned and within the space of hours, e-mails were being traded back and forth setting up the delivery of a week's supplies.

''The delivery ran the gamut from eight cases of yams to two cases of mop handles . . . from three cases of chocolate chip cookies to four pallets of bottled water . . . there were even 1,200 prepared meals from Federal Emergency Management Agency.''

The Noon Rotary Club of Muncie will likely make their final visit to Columbus on August 2. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to this dedicated group of volunteers who went out of their way to help Hoosiers in need.

KENDRICK PERKINS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to pay tribute to Kendrick Perkins, the former basketball standout at Clifton J. Ozen High school and the starting Center for the 2007–2008 NBA Champion Boston Celtics.

Kendrick was born in Nederland, Texas, in 1984. According to his grandmother, he played football and baseball as a young boy but would fall asleep at night holding a basketball. He attended Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School throughout elementary school and was one of the tallest altar boys they have ever seen. So tall, in fact, that they had to have a robe specially made for him. He continued to serve the church until his high school graduation, even while scouts and agents were vying for his services.

Perkins attended Ozen High School in Beaumont, Texas and left quite a legacy on the basketball court. He led the team to three Class 4A Sate Championship games in three years, winning the title as a sophomore in 2001. During that run, his Panthers were a combined 111-4. As a senior, the 6-foot-10 Kendrick averaged 27 points, 16 rebounds, and almost 8 blocked shots per game, easily making him one of the nation's top high school prospects.

After graduating from high school in 2003, a number of elite colleges recruited him and he was considered by some to be the best high school center in America. He was ranked alongside LeBron James as the nation's top recruits, but so far advanced was his game that he spent that summer traveling to tryouts with a number of NBA teams. He was drafted in the first round of the NBA Draft with the 27th overall pick by the Memphis Grizzlies and immediately traded to the Boston Celtics, one of the most successful franchises in all sports.

Kendrick played a support role as the team's ''enforcer'' during his first few years in the league, earning a reputation as one of the tougher players on the team. He would eventually work his way up the depth chart to starting center. In 2007, the team made a number of off-season moves that would leave the Celtics as the favorite to win the title. The team had the best record in the league during the regular season and had home court advantage throughout the playoffs.

The playoffs were more difficult than they would have hoped. Their first two series both went to seven games but they were able to pull through. Kendrick and the Celtics beat former prep-rival LeBron James and his Cleveland Cavaliers in the Eastern Conference Finals to bring the Celtics to their first NBA Finals appearance since the 1985–86 season. Their opponents were the Los Angeles Lakers, facing each other in the Finals for a record 11th time. There was genuine buzz and excitement around the NBA for the first time in recent memory and Kendrick would have a chance to shine.

The first few games saw the Celtics dominate the series at home. The Lakers were able to win one when they returned to their home court and had a chance to win Game 4 before the Celtics made the biggest comeback in NBA Finals history to win the game. Perkins injured his shoulder and sat out Game 5. He was doubtful for Game 6 but showed the toughness that has come to define him and played through the pain to help the Celtics win their 17th overall championship. Perkins averaged 6 points and 6 rebounds to lead his team to the 2007–08 NBA Championship.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I applaud Kendrick Perkins on his outstanding achievements. He has been successful on and off the court, and I applaud his dedication to his community and to his team.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, ACTING THROUGH THE COMMISSIONER OF RECLAMATION, TO DEVELOP WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE RIO GRANDE BASIN, AND TO APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT OF THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMS OF THE PUEBLOS OF NAMBE, POJOAQUE, SAN ILDEFONSO, TESUQUE, AND TAOS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Today I rise to introduce a bill to complete two major tribal water settlements in northern New Mexico, the Aamodt and Abeyta settlements. Introduction of this bill represents a major milestone in the completion of these important settlements. Years of work and negotiation have gone into each of these, and I am pleased that the tribes, villages, cities, counties, acequias, and community groups involved were able to come to an agreement that is mutually beneficial.

New Mexico is a state rich with tradition and culture, where the water resources are scarce and precious. As is common in most of the arid west, this vital but limited commodity can foster conflict between communities and individuals, and in a state where the history is long and complex, disputes over water are equally complicated. But, despite the complications surrounding water tenure, New Mexicans are united in a common respect for this resource. From the pueblos and tribes of New Mexico, to the historic acequias and growing communities, water is fundamental to both survival and cultural traditions, and is respected as such. Both the Aamodt and Abeyta settlements are examples of communities and tribes coming together to resolve their differences and find a way to ensure that everyone has access to this precious and respected resource.

The bill being introduced today consists of two titles, the first outlining the Aamodt Settlement, and the second outlining the Abeyta Settlement.

The Aamodt title resolves the water claims of the Pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, and Tesuque, and the needs of the surrounding communities in Santa Fe County. The settlement is a result of long negotiations between the county and pueblos, and will result in the development of a mutually beneficial water infrastructure system. This system will ensure that the pueblos and surrounding communities have access to clean running water into the future. I applaud the efforts and success of these groups in coming to an agreement that both settles disputes and benefits each community.

The Abeyta title establishes the water claims of the Pueblo of Taos, the Taos Valley Acequia Association, the Village of El Prado, and the Town of Taos. These communities depend heavily on agriculture and irrigation for both traditional practices and subsistence. The settlement ensures water for both agricultural and domestic use, and facilitates the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure. Additionally, the Abeyta settlement helps to protect the quality of water in the watershed by protecting and recharging the wetlands areas of the Taos Pueblo's buffalo pasture. After years of negotiation, the parties involved in this important settlement have come to an agreement based on respect of cultural practices, and a commitment to live as good neighbors sharing a common resource.

It has been said that the wars of the future will be fought over access to water. In New Mexico, we are setting a different precedent—a precedent of respect and compromise, one that will help us move into the future with well established partnerships and a commitment to conserve and manage this vital resource to the benefit of all. I am honored to introduce this legislation today that will bring the pueblos and communities involved in the Aamodt and Abeyta one step closer to establishing a secure water future.