

It's more than just a moral problem that billions of people around the world are struggling to survive. It is also in our security interest as a nation. Populations that struggle in extreme poverty are more likely to become mired in destabilizing conflicts, or worse, become havens or recruiting grounds for terrorist organizations. Taking action to help lift people out of poverty and addressing the critical issues that go hand-in-hand with poverty will help prevent threats to U.S. security, and will also help create goodwill toward the U.S. in places where it is desperately needed.

The United States sits near the bottom of government aid donations by country wealth, donating just 0.18% of our national income. Now is the time to bolster our funding and development efforts to developing countries. The current economic climate is seriously impacting developing countries and they are in dire need of our assistance. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, world trade is in the largest decline since 1929, and commodity prices, particularly for exports from developing countries, are falling.

I am pleased to see that this legislation contains \$13.4 billion for national security, counterterrorism and counternarcotics programs, including significant funding for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq. Yet, the funding focus in recent years on defense, while vital in our fight against extremism, has left behind the other D's—diplomacy and development. This bill helps remedy that by reforming and rebuilding America's diplomatic and development capacity. While it does not meet the full request by the President, the bill provides funding to hire 1,000 new State Department personnel and 300 new USAID personnel.

Unfortunately, U.S. efforts remain insufficient to counter violent extremist narratives around the world. Terrorist groups aggressively push their narrative through new and traditional media. I was pleased to see increased funding for public diplomacy programs in the FY2010 bill. The increase would support at least 20 new public diplomacy positions. Importantly, the funding also continues imperative programs which include the counterterrorism communication center, and the digital outreach team focused on engaging Arabic language websites to impart accurate information and counter misinformation about the United States. Strategic communication and public diplomacy should be at the front-and-center as we work to roll back al-Qaeda's and other violent extremists' influence among disaffected populations.

I would be remiss not to mention funding for the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) which was increased over the current level. I am disappointed, however, that the allocation was less than the President's request. As the bill progresses I would urge continued support for global poverty reduction by funding the MCA at no less than the \$1.4 billion allocated in this legislation. The Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC's) model of combating global poverty through initiatives that remove barriers to economic growth has not only been hailed as innovative, it has provided an effective complement to existing development aid streams.

The bill also provides \$156 million for health and development assistance in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and prioritizes peacekeeping operations funding for the coun-

try. I witnessed the urgent need for this funding first hand when I visited the DRC earlier this spring. This bill includes funding for addressing gender-based violence and I would hope that priority is given to the areas in conflict and post-conflict such as the DRC which are afflicted most by these dehumanizing acts. Too often in these areas acts of rape and sexual abuse are, unfortunately, common events. Gender-based violence is a major public health and human rights problem throughout the world and it is most apparent in the DRC. There, a devastatingly high percentage of girls are reported to have been raped. Yet, this is only a fraction of the actual number as most cases are unreported.

Again, I thank Chairwoman LOWEY and Ranking Member GRANGER for their work on this legislation and urge my colleagues to support its passage. This bill would advance our ability to combat global poverty and is critical to our country's ability to address today's threats.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL SULLIVAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the distinguished career of Michael Sullivan on the occasion of his retirement as executive director of the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center after 11 years of service.

Mike served as a consultant for the Gulf Coast Exploreum for eight years before becoming its executive director in 1998. He and his wife, Eleanor Kulin, worked together planning and marketing the museum's major events.

In 1998, Mike oversaw the museum's relocation to its high-tech home at Government and Water Streets. Throughout his career, Mike brought 28 traveling exhibitions and 46 large-format films to the J.L. Bedsole IMAX Theater. The Exploreum was also named Alabama's Attraction of the Year in 2008 during the Governor's Conference on Tourism. The Exploreum was the most visited attraction in south Alabama and the seventh most visited in the state.

Under Mike's leadership, the Exploreum has brought one "blockbuster" exhibit after another to Mobile—bringing hundreds of thousands of visitors and millions of dollars to the local economy. In 2005, "The Dead Sea Scrolls" attracted 205,661 visitors to Mobile and an estimated \$13.4 million to the local economy—in just 109 days.

In recognition of his many remarkable accomplishments, Mobile Mayor Sam Jones declared "W. Michael Sullivan Day" earlier this year. The J.L. Bedsole IMAX Dome Theater lobby was named in Mike's honor by the Exploreum board of trustees.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many throughout the Gulf Coast. On behalf of all those who have benefited from the Gulf Coast Exploreum, permit me to extend thanks for enriching the lives of so many.

On behalf of a grateful community, I wish Mike and Eleanor the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

THE CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, as the chairman of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee and someone who shares the concern of many in this House about the need to protect and restore threatened and endangered species, I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues a report recently released by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service on the effects of the long-term operation of California's Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

The Central Valley Project is a Federal Bureau of Reclamation water project which supplies irrigation and municipal water to inland California from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The Sacramento River, along with the American River, was once among the top salmon spawning rivers on the West Coast, behind only the Columbia and Snake Rivers. The Sacramento was the only river in the West with four salmon runs, with returning fish numbered in the millions. Now one run is gone, and two are endangered, and the fourth could be listed soon. The scientists concluded in this most recent biological opinion that without wild salmon from the Sacramento and American Rivers, the killer whales known so well throughout the Puget Sound would likely face extinction.

These findings only stress the interconnectedness of our biosphere and the need to find a balance between the demands of irrigation and agriculture with those required by the species that once thrived in these rivers. In Washington State, we have worked very hard to find compromises between agriculture, power generation, and salmon restoration. While there is still work to be done, we have made great strides in implementing a mark selective fishery, one of the best tools for restoring wild salmon runs.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in California, Oregon, and Washington, in establishing a comprehensive plan to ensure the recovery and survival of our legendary wild salmon and killer whales.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I am submitting for the record an article recently published by McClatchy Newspapers, which provides an excellent overview of the biological opinion, the history of wild salmon in California, and the recent decline of the killer whales.

[From McClatchy Newspapers, July 5, 2009]

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN AIMS TO SAVE

PUGET SOUND ORCAS

(By Les Blumenthal)

WASHINGTON.—A plan to restore salmon runs on California's Sacramento River also could help revive killer whale populations 700 miles to the north in Puget Sound, as federal scientists struggle to protect endangered species in a complex ecosystem that stretches along the Pacific coast from California to Alaska.

Without wild salmon from the Sacramento and American rivers as part of their diet, the killer whales might face extinction, scientists concluded in a biological opinion that could result in even more severe water restrictions for farmers in the drought-stricken, 400-mile-long Central Valley of California. The valley is the nation's most productive farm region.

The plan has faced heated criticism from agricultural interests and politicians in California, but environmentalists said it represented a welcome departure by the Obama administration from its predecessor in dealing with Endangered Species Act issues.

The Sacramento plan, they add, is in sharp contrast to the plan for restoring wild salmon populations on the Columbia and Snake rivers in Washington state and Idaho. That plan, written by the Bush administration, essentially concluded that the long-term decline in those federally protected runs didn't jeopardize the killer whales' existence because hatchery fish could make up the difference.

The 85 orcas of the southern resident killer whale population travel in three separate pods, spending much of their time roaming the inland waters of Washington state from the San Juan Islands to south Puget Sound. During the winter they've been found offshore, ranging as far south as Monterey Bay in California and as far north as British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Islands. Each orca has distinctive markings, which allows them to be tracked.

In the mid-1990s, there were nearly 100 orcas in the three southern resident pods. The population fell to fewer than 80 in 2001. In 2005, they were granted federal protection as an endangered species. They've been studied closely for only 30 years or so, but historically there may have been up to 200 southern resident orcas.

Researchers think that the decline has resulted from pollution—which could cause immune- or reproductive-system dysfunction—and from oil spills, noise and other vessel disturbances, along with a reduced quantity and quality of prey.

With the largest 27 feet long and weighing 10,000 pounds, orcas are constantly on the prowl for food. They've been known to hunt in packs. Their meal of choice: salmon, particularly chinook salmon.

By some estimates, the orcas eat about 500,000 salmon a year.

"We are trying to figure out how killer whales fit in," said Bradley Hanson, a wildlife biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Services in Seattle who studies orcas. "We don't have a lot of information on the movement of southern resident whales down the coast. We don't have a lot of information on adult salmon movements off the coast."

Before 2000, Hanson said, no one was quite sure where the killer whales went when they went to sea. It was a surprise when they showed up near Monterey Bay, he said.

The Sacramento and American river systems combined were once among the top salmon-spawning rivers on the West Coast, trailing only the Columbia and Snake rivers.

Prompted by lawsuits, the National Marine Fisheries Service last month published its latest plan for the Sacramento and American rivers' winter and fall chinook salmon runs. Without further curtailments of water for the federal Central Valley Project—a several-hundred-mile network of dams, canals and pumping plants—and the California State Water Project—the nation's largest state-built water and power development and conveyance system, which supplies water for 23 million Californians—the two runs are in jeopardy of extinction, the plan said.

Without changes, the southern resident killer whales, a run of steelhead and a population of North American green sturgeon almost certainly would disappear, according to the plan.

The killer whale population is extremely fragile, and scientists said the loss or serious injury to just one could appreciably reduce the odds that the southern resident pods would recover or survive.

The scientists who wrote the Sacramento plan also said that hatchery-raised salmon

couldn't be counted on to sustain the killer whales' survival.

"Healthy wild salmon populations are important to the long-term maintenance of prey populations available to southern residents, because it is uncertain whether a hatchery-only stock could be sustained indefinitely," the scientists said.

Not only are there concerns about long-term funding for the hatcheries, but scientists also have questions about whether hatchery fish are as genetically strong and healthy as wild ones. Though changes to the hatcheries could improve the fish they produce, there's no agreement on what needs to be done and no guarantees that the changes would work.

The latest plan for the Columbia-Snake wild salmon runs concluded that continued operation of the federal hydroelectric dams on the two rivers was "not likely to adversely affect" the killer whales. Earlier, federal scientists found that "perhaps the single greatest change in food availability for resident killer whales since the late 1800s has been the decline of salmon from the Columbia River basin."

Despite the decline in wild runs, the scientists who worked on the Columbia plan concluded that hatchery fish would be able to make up any deficit in the orcas' diet.

Though the Columbia-Snake salmon plan acknowledges the potential problems with hatchery fish, it dismisses, at least for now, their impact on killer whale food supplies.

Lynne Barre, a National Marine Fisheries Service scientist in Seattle who helped write both plans, downplays any differences.

"I think we say the same thing in both opinions," Barre said, adding that both plans recognize that hatchery fish could be a short-term substitute for wild fish but that there were concerns about whether hatchery fish could be a long-term food source for orcas. "The general principles are similar."

Environmentalists, however, say that the differences couldn't be more obvious.

"The contrasts are striking," said Todd True, a lawyer for the Seattle office of Earthjustice, which has challenged the Columbia-Snake plan in a lawsuit in federal court in Portland, Ore.

True said the Sacramento salmon plan was a "candid piece of work that had a strong independent review and the absence of political interference." As for the Columbia-Snake plan, True said that it "pretends there isn't a problem."

The judge in the Portland case has given the Obama administration until Aug. 15 to indicate whether it'll stick with the Columbia-Snake salmon plan written during the Bush administration or offer a new one. True said he'd raise the orca issue again.

Other environmentalists said that Jane Lubchenco, who heads the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which includes the fisheries service, must be aware of the differences in how the two salmon plans addressed killer whales. Lubchenco is a marine biologist who taught at Oregon State University.

"They need to decide which of the contradictory statements are correct," said Pat Ford of Save Our Wild Salmon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LADY VIKINGS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lady Vikings of Niles High

School who recently won their first ever state championship in school history. These outstanding women were on a mission all season long, and this was a team of firsts—last season they were the first in school history to win a regional championship, and in 2009, they completed the mission and cemented their legacy as the first state champions in women's athletics at Niles High School.

Winning a state title is something that will last forever. It is a truly remarkable accomplishment that few teams in southwest Michigan ever experience, and it is a legacy that will live with the 2009 Lady Vikings forever. While the Vikings were led by the best pitcher in the State of Michigan, Jenna Ignowski, they were a team that worked hard to improve every part of their game. These Lady Vikings improved their defense throughout the season and there were no easy outs up and down the Viking lineup.

It is an honor to pay tribute to the entire Lady Vikings team and head coach Gary Collins.

On behalf of all of the residents of southwest Michigan, congratulations again to the Lady Vikings, Coach Collins and the entire Niles community—you are an inspiration to us all.

It is Viking Pride at its finest. Go vikings?

CONGRATULATING KAYEM FOODS, INC. OF CHELSEA, MASSACHUSETTS ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kayem Foods, Inc. of Chelsea, Massachusetts on its 100th anniversary. From humble beginnings in 1909 to a much higher profile in 2009 after being named the official hot dog of historic Fenway Park and Red Sox Nation, Kayem has developed a stellar reputation in the Greater Boston community for its dedication to quality products and community causes.

In 1909, Kazimierz Monkiewicz emigrated from Poland with his wife, Helena, and started a small business making kielbasa—native sausages from Poland—in their backyard in Chelsea. From there, he went on to achieve the American Dream, laying strong roots in the community and establishing a successful family business called Kayem—so named for Mr. Monkiewicz's initials.

As Kayem's reputation for quality meats spread, Monkiewicz began delivering to nearby communities via horse-drawn carriage. As the business grew further, Monkiewicz's four sons assumed roles in the burgeoning family enterprise. A century later, Kayem is still a family business with grandson Ray, recently retired as company president, now serving as chairman of the board of directors and 13 other family members working there as well.

In recent years, Kayem has expanded its market beyond New England. In addition to making 1 million hot dogs each day, Kayem is now known for its all fresco all natural chicken sausages, which have received several "best of" awards from national publications, and its line of delicious Kayem Brats.