

maintain and improve our quality of life in the midst of robust expansion and development, we need to undertake a coordinated regional planning effort that meets our infrastructure needs while preserving livability and sustainability. We must promote not just growth, but smart growth.

That is why I brought our colleague, Rep. EARL BLUMENAUER, to the Triangle this week to help me host a summit on Smart Growth Development. He stands as an expert in our body on sustainable development, and the summit brought together elected officials, business leaders, environmentalists, and community activists for panel discussions on smart growth principles and transportation infrastructure. I look forward to working with Rep. BLUMENAUER and my other colleagues to develop tools that will encourage smarter growth, more responsible development, and greater livability in communities across the country.

And as a nation, we need to pursue policies that promote responsible stewardship of the earth here at home while providing responsible leadership in the global arena. This Congress has already begun working with the Obama Administration to forge a new direction for energy policy that will emphasize renewable fuels and energy efficiency.

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we've made an unprecedented investment in public transportation and renewable energy production that will spur energy savings. This legislation will accelerate deployment of a new, smart power grid to make the electricity grid more efficient and reliable. They will advance scientific research into battery technology and energy efficiency measures, expand the national effort to weatherize homes, and make a sizeable investment in alternative energy research.

The recovery package addresses critical transit needs as well, investing in buses, commuter and light rail, and intercity passenger rail, including Amtrak and high speed rail. Public transportation, beyond saving individual Americans both time and money, can also help our nation save as much as 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline and reduce carbon emissions by 37 million metric tons each year.

This spending is not simply driven by our commitment to a cleaner and healthier planet; rather, it represents a down-payment on investments to meet our country's economic and infrastructure needs and a blueprint for the direction in which our country's energy and transportation policies will go. They are investments that can fuel our future economy and make our country more prosperous and competitive than ever before.

We must think globally as well, and continue to work towards a comprehensive solution to dramatically curb our greenhouse gas emissions and address the threats of climate change—a threat that our government ignored for far too long. I am pleased that House and committee leadership have recently released draft legislation that would establish a market-based cap and trade policy to serve as a basis for discussion of comprehensive clean energy legislation. This is no idle threat we now face: scientists tell us that we must reduce emissions by roughly 80 percent by mid-century to avoid a dangerous climate tipping point. As the world's largest per capita emitter of greenhouse gases, our nation must be a leader in finding clean energy solutions that reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, create

a new generation of jobs, and provide climate and energy security for us and the generations to come.

On Earth Day 2009, I urge President Obama to continue working with Congress to develop climate change legislation that will set us on a path that is science-based and adequately aggressive. I also urge the President and my colleagues to foster smart growth in American communities by developing policies that promote accessible transit, affordable and sustainable housing, and responsible management of water and other resources. And I urge us all to take actions in our individual lives that reflect our commitment to preserving this wondrous planet and all the diverse forms of life that thrive upon it.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF MICHAEL AND MARIAN
ILITCH ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF LITTLE
CAESARS

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Michael and Marian Ilitch, entrepreneurs and pillars of the Michigan community, upon the 50th anniversary of the founding of Little Caesars.

On April 22, 1959 fifty years ago to the day, Mike and Marian opened the first Little Caesars in Garden City, Michigan, under the name Little Caesars Pizza Treat. From this one store, Little Caesars would grow to include a pizza empire of many thousands of restaurants through franchising. The company eventually became widely known for its famous catchphrase, "Pizza! Pizza!" which was introduced in 1979. The phrase refers to two pizzas being offered for the comparable price of a single pizza from competitors. In 1998, Little Caesars filled what was then the current largest pizza order, filling an order of 13,386 pizzas from the VF Corporation of Greensboro, NC. Today, Little Caesars is the largest carry-out pizza chain in the world.

Mike was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1929. He is a first generation American of Macedonian descent. A graduate of Cooley High School, Mike also served his country in the United States Marine Corps for four years. After returning home from the Marine Corps, Mike was offered a contract by the Detroit Tigers baseball team and went on to play three years in the minor leagues before he was forced to prematurely end his promising career due to injury. In 1954 Mike met Marian on a blind date arranged by his father. Marian was born and raised in Dearborn, Michigan, a daughter of Macedonian immigrants. They were married a year later.

Over the course of their lives together Mike and Marian have expanded their business and personal partnership very successfully. Today, the family's entities remain privately held. In 1999, the Ilitch's established Ilitch Holdings, Inc. to provide their various enterprises with professional and technical services. These enterprises include Little Caesars, the Detroit Red Wings, the Detroit Tigers, numerous property investments in and around Detroit, as well as the MotorCity Casino. They have been

married for over 50 wonderful years and have seven children together: son Christopher Paul Ilitch (born June 1965) is CEO and President of Ilitch Holdings, Inc.; daughter Denise D. Ilitch (born November 1955) is an attorney and former co-President, with her brother, of Ilitch Holdings. Other children are Ronald "Ron" Tyrus Ilitch (born June 1957), Michael C. Ilitch, Jr., Lisa M. Ilitch Murray, Atanas Ilitch (born Thomas Ilitch) and Carole M. Ilitch Trepeck. Further, in Stanley Cup history, only 12 women have had their names engraved on the trophy including Marian and their three daughters.

The Ilitch family has also established a charitable foundation called Ilitch Charities for Children (ICC). Among other things, the ICC sponsors Little Caesars AAA Hockey Scholarship to encourage amateur sports. The ICC in 2009, so far, has given a total of \$50,000 in grants to the Detroit Renaissance Foundation (\$25,000) and the United Way of Southeastern Michigan (\$25,000) for innovative community programs, demonstrating a broader scope for the charitable organization. Most recently, Ilitch Charities to present a total of \$200,000 to benefit the Greening of Detroit's Conservation Leadership Corps and the Guidance Center's Project CEO.

Madam Speaker for 50 years Little Caesars has stood as a tribute to the hard work of Michael and Marian Ilitch and their family. As they celebrate this enormous milestone, they personify a legacy of excellence, ingenuity, and the irrepressible spirit of the American entrepreneur. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Ilitch's and recognizing their years of loyal service to our community and country.

IN MEMORIAL OF STATE SENATOR
VERNON MALONE

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of State Senator Vernon Malone, who passed away on Saturday, April 18, 2009. In his passing, I lost a friend and North Carolina lost one of its most outstanding citizens; a man who was instrumental in his community, county, and state.

A native of Raleigh, North Carolina, Senator Malone was known for his passionate support for education. After graduating from Shaw University, where he was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Malone worked for 34 years as a teacher and eventually superintendent at the Governor Morehead School for the Blind. As chairman of the Wake County school board, he presided over the merger of Raleigh city schools and Wake County public schools in 1976. This was a significant achievement because it took other school systems in the state years to do the same. When others shied away from issues of race and class, Senator Malone tackled them head-on.

After his work with the school board, Vernon served as a Wake County Commissioner, and eventually as chairman of the Commission, from 1980 until his election to the State Senate in 2002. As always, he fought fervently for education and for equality. He also found time to serve his community in his spare time, serving as vice-chair of Shaw University's board of

trustees; as a trustee for North Carolina State University, the North Carolina Museum of Art and the Wake Education Partnership; as Chairman of the Wake County Coalition for the Homeless; and as a director of Capital Bank, a community bank headquartered in Raleigh.

Most recently, Vernon served in the North Carolina General Assembly representing the state's 14th Senate district and was reelected three times. In the State Senate, he continued to work on education. He was co-chairman of the Senate's Higher Education Committee and Appropriations Committee for Higher Education.

Vernon Malone rose to prominence during a time when prejudice ran high. Rather than succumb to intolerance, he was able to rise above it. I am glad that he was able to witness the inauguration of President Barack Obama earlier this year. It was Vernon and his contemporaries who made it possible for our nation to eventually elect an African American President.

Madam Speaker, Senator Vernon Malone had a commitment to excellence in everything he did. He was a respected legislator, a dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor him and his family today.

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, the Los Angeles basin holds one of the greatest concentrations of humanity in the world. People have come from all over the Earth to live there—when one walks down a street in Glendale or Alhambra one can hear a language from ten thousand miles away on one block and read signs in a vastly different language on the next. But if you look up a little higher, above the signs and above the buildings, you'll see grey-green mountains looking down on it all. In my district, we're right up against the Verdugo, Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains, and they surprise you all the time, appearing at street corners from behind the buildings, playing hide-and-seek with intervening hills and highways.

Though few of my constituents live up there, I try to get up into the hills as often as I can, and I'm often surprised by how many of my neighbors I run into on the trail. I think that, like me, they wander in the chaparral and oak forests to get away for a while, and find some perspective in the process. Among the families, teenagers and retirees I pass, I see all of the cultures I know from the streets of my district, all enjoying the fact that they can find some peace and quiet just a few minutes away from one of the largest cities in the world.

Our green spaces play an irreplaceable role in our communities, and on this Earth Day, I would like to celebrate them. This is a day to think globally, but it is also a day to act locally, by taking your family to the park and exploring all that you find there. In the words of John Muir, "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

EARTH DAY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about Earth Day which as you know is being celebrated in communities throughout our country and around the world today.

I can't begin any conversation about Earth Day without talking about Wisconsin's former governor and U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, who was the driving force behind this important event.

I don't mean to boast but I don't think its coincidental that Wisconsin has been the birthplace of many prominent figures in the environmental movement and who helped shaped the environmental laws that have helped to create.

Wisconsinites have long recognized the need to be stewards of the environment. It's common sense when you grow up next to one of the largest sources of freshwater on the planet.

Gaylord Nelson is certainly one of those environmental champions of whom our state is proud and whose record of advocacy and accomplishment around the environment has not only impacted our nations, but the world. Earth Day is but one example of that.

He is rightly noted and celebrated for his role in the first "Earth Day" event which took place some 39 years ago.

But that is not where his involvement in the environmental movement began and not where it ended either. Before it was popular to be an environmentalist, Senator Nelson was working to make sure our nation's air, water, and natural resources were protected.

Senator Nelson was a mover and shaker not just in creating Earth Day but in starting the movement to bring the protection of our air, water, and public lands to the center of national attention and policy, not just an afterthought.

According to Senator Nelson, his efforts to create what is now Earth Day began in the early 1960s when he became troubled "that the state of our environment was simply a non-issue in the politics of the country."

In 1962, he approached the Kennedy Administration with an idea about how to shift the political spotlight to the need for better and pro-environment laws and policies.

He helped convince President Kennedy to undertake a national conservation tour to draw attention to the issue. While the President did the tour, according to Senator Nelson, "For many reasons the tour did not succeed in putting the issue onto the national political agenda. However, it was the germ of the idea that ultimately flowered into Earth Day."

This has probably been one of the most successful grassroots movements ever as today millions of Americans and millions more around the world are organizing in their communities at river and park cleanup events, planting trees and gardens, and other actions to promote environmental awareness, with the simple message: We ignore the damage being done to our environment at our own peril.

Over 3,000 people were out in force in my district on Saturday to clean rivers and streams throughout the area.

Since the First Earth Day, we have seen the passage of legislation strengthening the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency, the passage of the Endangered Species Act, and other steps.

Yet, the battle continues. Our environment continues to face threats from pollution. Rising greenhouse gas emissions and climate change will present their own challenge.

Water shortages and droughts not only in our own country but around the world are of great concern. Just today, another report was released showing that rivers in some of the world's most populated regions are losing water, many because of climate change according to researchers.

We could all continue to live without oil, but we can't live without clean water.

The battle to keep invasive species out of our nation's waters will also continue. In the Great Lakes alone, it is estimated that over 180 non-native species have taken hold in the Great Lakes and on average, a new species is discovered every nine months or so.

I was pleased to be at an event yesterday in celebration of Earth Day where I had the chance to address high school students from my district about the importance of the environment and clean water.

It is future generations that stand to lose the most if we do not continue to make the protection and preservation of our environment a priority. This is what Senator Nelson and others understood so well back then. It is what is incumbent on us all, including policymakers, to understand today.

This Congress has a number of efforts underway to ensure that we continue environmental protection remains a prominent place in federal policy.

Senator Nelson was one of the authors of the Wilderness Act of 1964 which authorized the federal government to protect forever areas of our forests with unspoiled and untrammeled wilderness qualities.

Earlier this year, Congress passed by strong bipartisan margins the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2008 (H.R. 146) which would provide wilderness protection to over 2 million acres of federal lands. Senator Nelson would be proud.

The House has also passed legislation—Water Quality Investment Act—reauthorizing the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program which is critical to clean water efforts because it helps pay for building and improving wastewater treatment facilities in our nation's communities.

A number of other important pieces of legislation including a bill to address climate change and another to restore protections to our waterways granted by the Clean Water Act that have been undermined by various court rulings are pending.

Our nation owes Senator Nelson a great deal of appreciation. As we celebrate Earth Day, let us renew our commitment as individuals and as a Congress to continuing to pursue policies that will ensure that our nation's air, water, and natural resources remain a priority and remain protected for future generations to come.