innocent Israelis and use ordinary Palestinians as human shields, I will continue to support Israel's right to self-defense and its stated goal of preventing Hamas from firing rockets into Israel.

I remain hopeful that the United States and its allies can help bring a sustainable ceasefire to the region through diplomacy and create the conditions necessary for a durable peace.

HONORING DENNIS McCARTHY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my friend, Dennis McCarthy, a renowned journalist, veteran, and the first Grand Marshal of the annual San Fernando Valley Veterans' Day Parade. Dennis is being honored by the Los Angeles Valley College for his many good works.

An award winning columnist for the Los Angeles Daily News, Dennis is a diligent crusader who tirelessly works to protect the rights of veterans and their families. His popular column is widely read in the San Fernando Valley and neighboring suburbs. It is not only well written, but it is often so compelling that it stirs people to take action.

Dennis obtained his degree in Journalism from California State University at Northridge. In addition to writing for the Los Angeles Daily News, Dennis has written for the Glendale News Press and South Bay Daily Breeze. He is extremely prolific; he has written nearly 3,000 columns in his 25-year-career including many columns about Los Angeles Valley College and its vital role in meeting the educational needs of our community.

He has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to issues involving senior citizens, veterans, and the disabled. He uses wit, humor and solid reporting to spark the interest of community leaders.

I am grateful to Dennis for serving as the first Grand Marshal of the annual San Fernando Valley Veterans' Day Parade—a parade I helped put together and care deeply about. Dennis not only took on the Grand Marshal role with his customary great dignity, but he helped communicate the spirit of the parade through his columns. He has also used his column to help prompt other projects I have undertaken to help improve the lives and the health of our veterans.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Dennis McCarthy for his impressive career and dedication to the people of the San Fernando Valley, and to congratulate him on being honored at the Los Angeles Valley College President's Annual Gala.

SAN GABRIEL BASIN RESTORATION FUND

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will continue to provide safe drinking water to Southern California. Identical legislation was approved by the House in 2007 but was still awaiting consideration in the Senate when the 110th Congress adjourned. It is my sincere hope that we can move quickly to see this bill enacted.

In 2000, Congress created the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund after the discovery of perchlorate and other harmful contaminants in the basin's groundwater. The San Gabriel Groundwater Basin covers more than 160 square miles in Los Angeles County and is the primary source of drinking water for over 1.2 million people.

The fund initially authorized $85 million in Federal funding to assist the state and local government agencies as well as the private companies found responsible for the contamination to effectively implement a comprehensive clean up plan that would protect the safety of our region's drinking water supply. After evaluation, it is evident that an increase in this authorization is necessary. That is why this bill extends the current authorization of the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund by a total of $61.2 million—$50 million for the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, WQA, and $11.2 million for the Central Basin Municipal Water District (Central Basin).

The San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, has done a tremendous job in administering the clean up program. In 1999, the WQA projected the cost of cleaning up the San Gabriel Basin at a total of $320 million based on the level of contamination of the five original Operable Units of Baldwin Park, El Monte, South El Monte, Whittier Narrows and Puente Valley. Since the initial authorization by Congress in 2000, dramatically increased contamination levels have been identified in the South El Monte and Puente Valley Operable Units. This discovery has significantly increased both the capital and operation and maintenance costs of the projects. With the cost of inflation. increased energy costs and the higher contamination levels found, the total cost is now estimated at $1 billion. Significantly, the WQA has a number of treatment plants that are already operating at full capacity with more coming on line in the near future. I am proud to say that this partnership is an example of good stewardship of taxpayer money. Congress created the Restoration Fund in 2000, with an initial authorization of $85 million, or a 25 percent investment. To date, over $70 million has been appropriated, with approximately 83 percent of the clean-up provided by local sources and responsible parties, with about 12 percent federal funding. With this modest increase of $61.2 million, bringing the total federal investment to $146.2 million, or approximately 14 percent, the WQA and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation can continue jointly administering this clean-up program.

In working with the WQA and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation over the past decade on this regional solution, there is no doubt that this increase is warranted and will be utilized in the most effective way to continue to provide safe drinking water. The cost-effectiveness of the original authorization of the Restoration Fund is clear. And without a doubt, that cost-effective use of the Federal investment will be continued in this new authorization. The Federal partnership will continue to hold the coalition of local water agencies and private parties together to finish the job that we started a decade ago.

I look forward to working closely with the House Resources Committee, and with the Water and Power Subcommittee Chairwoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, who is a cosponsor of this bill and has been a champion of regional water solutions. I am also pleased to have the support of Representatives GARY MILLER, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, and ADAM SCHIFF who are also cosponsors of this legislation and have long supported the safety of our regional groundwater supply.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to prohibit interstate commerce in nonhuman primates as pets. The Captive Primate Safety Act, CPSA, would amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to treat nonhuman primates as prohibited wildlife species under that Act and to make corrections in the provisions relating to captive wildlife offenses under that Act.

Nonhuman primates kept as pets pose serious risks to public health and safety. They can transmit diseases and inflict serious physical harm. These risks are increased by interstate transport of the animals. Currently, twenty states prohibit keeping primates as pets, and many others require a permit. Even in states where it is legal to keep primates, most people cannot provide the special care, housing, and social structure these animals require.

Although the importation of nonhuman primates into the United States for the pet trade has been banned by Federal regulation since 1975, these animals are bred in the United States and are readily available for purchase from exotic animal dealers and even over the Internet. Because of the importation laws, there remains an active domestic trade in these animals.

The CPSA would amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to add nonhuman primates to the list of animals that cannot be transported across state lines. It would prohibit the import, export, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce of nonhuman primates in order to safeguard public health and safety and protect the welfare of monkeys, apes (which include chimpanzees and orangutans), marmosets and lemurs. The bill is similar to the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, CWSA, which Congress passed in 2003 to ban interstate commerce in lions, tigers, and other big cats for the pet trade.

The CPSA would not affect trade or transportation of animals for zoos, research facilities, or other federally licensed and regulated entities. In the 110th Congress, the CPSA received strong support in the 110th Congress from Dr. Jane Goodall, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and The Humane Society of the United States. It easily passed the House of Representatives.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this bi-partisan legislation.