

community, and avoid costly litigation over responsibility for protecting clean water. We can also restore bedrock protections for our citizens and our neighborhoods from polluters who place families and communities at risk.

Clean, safe water is a basic right for all Americans. Yet, unless we act, the Clean Water Act cannot ensure that right.

The New York Times reports that as a result of the Supreme Court decisions companies have spilled oil, carcinogens and dangerous bacteria into lakes, rivers and other waters without being prosecuted. EPA regulators working on those cases, estimate that more than 1,500 major pollution investigations have been discontinued or shelved in the last four years.

Data from 2008, the most recent year available, show there were over 20,000 beach closings and advisories that year due to pollution, and studies in the Great Lakes show that as many as 10 percent of beachgoers report getting sick after swimming in beach waters open for swimming.

Drinking water protection areas that contain one or more small or intermittent streams that would be vulnerable to pollution under the Supreme Court decisions provide drinking water to more than 117,000,000 people in the United States.

These examples demonstrate why we must act.

Two years ago I conducted a thorough hearing where I heard from two dozen witnesses on five panels of everything that was good and bad about my prior legislative proposal. I invited suggestions from any and all interested parties.

The bill I introduce today is a new bill that responds to those comments. It more clearly and specifically targets its one objective—addressing the SWANCC and Rapanos decisions, decisions I believe were wrongly decided.

Among the significant changes from my earlier bill:

To avoid the possible need for new regulations, the bill uses the current regulatory definition of “waters of the United States” to establish the scope of the Act.

The bill codifies an exemption for prior converted croplands.

The bill codifies an exemption for waste treatment systems.

The bill explicitly states that ground water is considered separately from “waters of the United States.”

The bill explicitly states that it does not affect the authority of EPA or the Corps as that authority existed prior to SWANCC in 2001.

The bill places limits on Federal jurisdiction by specifying the Constitutional authority for the Clean Water Act, and preserving the Federal/State cooperation that is the hallmark of the Act.

The bill removes all language related to “activities”. That term created unnecessary confusion on what would require a Clean Water Act permit. Since enactment in 1972, permits are required only for discharges.

The bill preserves the exemptions, limitations, and practices under the Act.

The bill includes multiple clarifying changes to emphasize that the bill will reaffirm and restore the original scope of the Clean Water Act, and not expand its geographic scope.

Opponents of legislation to restore the Clean Water Act characterize the restoration

as a mammoth expansion of Federal power. Restoring the Clean Water Act is only an expansion to the extent the Supreme Court ignored the intent of Congress and 30 years of precedent by narrowing the Act.

Opponents argue that the Federal government should not require a permit for everything you do that might affect a wet area. I agree. The Clean Water Act never required such permits and I do not offer legislation that would do so.

Simply put, if it was not regulated before 2001, it will not be regulated with the enactment of the legislation.

Some people have opposed the Clean Water Act for decades, and it should not come as a surprise that these same groups are using recent Supreme Court decisions as justification to roll back protections under the Clean Water Act. For the sake of future generations, progress must not be rolled back. We must advance the cause of clean water by sustaining the original purpose of the Act.

In 1972, Congress voted overwhelmingly to overturn President Nixon's veto of the Clean Water Act and to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. Since that time, Americans have overwhelmingly expressed their support for protecting our Nation's waters and keeping them safe from polluters. The bill will restore America's commitment to clean water.

CARLOS REYES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carlos Reyes who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Carlos Reyes is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carlos Reyes is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Carlos Reyes for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX AND THE WINNERS OF THE 2010 SERVICE AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Volunteer Fairfax, and more particularly the contributions that its volunteers make to our community. Volunteer Fairfax mobilizes people and resources to

meet regional community needs. Areas in which Volunteer Fairfax acts as a clearing-house and matches volunteers to community needs include literacy programs, homeless and poverty assistance, emergency response and recovery functions, senior citizen assistance, education, and many more.

I am honored to pay tribute to the following winners of the 2010 Volunteer Fairfax Awards:

Community Champion Award Recipients are: Braddock District: Jeff Root; Dranesville District: Maya Huber; Hunter Mill District: Jim Larson; Lee District: Jane Hilder; Mason District: Frank Vajda; Mount Vernon District: Linwood Gorham; Providence District: Tysons Corner Center Employees Springfield District: Mike Thompson, Jr.; Sully District: Verdia Haywood; Fairfax County At-Large: Chris and Lisa Bright.

Competitive Award Recipients are: Adult Volunteer Over 250 Hours: Kevin Takeguchi; Adult Volunteer Under 250 Hours: Campbell “Cam” Gibson; Adult Volunteer Group: Digital TV Volunteer Team Family Volunteer: Renee and Sean McGinnis; Senior Volunteer: Ibrahim Barsoum; Volunteer Program: Homestretch Volunteer Program Youth Volunteer: Simrun Soni; Youth Volunteer Program: McLean Local Heroes; Corporate Volunteer Group: Excella Consulting; Rising Star: Zack Sanders.

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient: Betty Powell.

Benchmark Award Recipients: A number of other individuals are being honored for significant contributions of time and energy to dozens of volunteer organizations in Northern Virginia. I congratulate and thank each of the Benchmark Award Honorees for their commitment to the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for the efforts of these volunteers and their colleagues at Volunteer Fairfax. The selfless commitment of these individuals provides enumerable benefits to Northern Virginia as a community as well as life-changing services to the individuals in need.

CONGRATULATING THE 2010 ARAPAHOE COUNTY ICE WARRIORS PEE WEE HOCKEY TEAM

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I acknowledge the accomplishments of the 2010 Arapahoe County Ice Warrior Pee Wee Hockey Team. The Warriors fought to win the AA Colorado State championship and gallantly represented Colorado in the U-12 National Championships in Reston, Virginia. The high standards which the team met are, undoubtedly, representative of the passion and excellence found throughout my district.

The warriors witheld a Colorado Springs Jr. Tiger hockey team to win the State championship 3-2 thanks in large part to the offensive prowess of Josh Pusar, Zackary Dym, Jake Dosen, Brandon Yi, Patrick Wicker, Andrej Lysak, Jack Jordan, Josh Fiegl, Andrew McCulley, and Ian Aylmer.

Despite continually facing older, larger and more experienced teams, the boys outthusted

and outplayed opponents, demonstrating their tenacity and enthusiasm for the game. The defensive work of Charlie Kiefer, Jared Duncan, Jake Swenson, Pieter Gesink, Joel Walker, and Tanner Broschat cannot be understated and proved instrumental to the success of the team.

I must also acknowledge the indispensable role that goaltenders Jackson Schoech and Cameron Bukes played in netminding for the warriors: turning away a barrage of pucks and routinely securing victory for the Warriors.

I want to extend my congratulations to head Coach Ken Schoech and his assistants Patrick Sullivan, Matt McCarthy, and Charlie Kiefer, who helped mold these young athletes into the champions they are today. The elite status of the team could not have existed without the leadership of these mentors. They not only taught the skills of hockey, but more importantly, instilled a spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie in the boys that will last long after this season.

INTRODUCTION OF THE USE IT ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, recently, President Obama announced a 5-year offshore drilling plan that would allow oil and gas exploration in new areas off the East Coast and in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. However, before oil companies drill off thousands of miles of pristine coastline, they should first use the thousands of drilling leases they already own.

Right now, oil companies hold the offshore drilling rights to an area the size of Pennsylvania on which they are not actually drilling. In fact, of 7,316 total offshore leases held by oil companies right now, only 1,844 are producing, according to the Interior Department. Production is occurring on only 8,894,428 acres on the Outer Continental Shelf out of 39,331,641 total acres leased to oil companies. That means that oil companies are producing on only about one-quarter of the leases and roughly 22 percent of the acreage that they hold offshore.

As a result, today I am introducing legislation that would provide an incentive to oil companies to move quickly to get oil to the market or relinquish the leases so that they could be developed by other companies. My legislation, the United States Exploration on Idle Tracts Act or the USE IT Act, would establish an escalating fee over time on nonproducing leases to encourage companies to expedite production. Similar legislation repeatedly passed the House in the last Congress with large, bipartisan majorities.

President Obama has also included this concept in his budget request for fiscal year 2011. The Department of Interior estimates that the proposed fee would raise \$760 million over the next ten years—allowing us to drill for oil while also drilling for deficit dollars on behalf of U.S. taxpayers.

As gas prices once again move towards \$3 per gallon, it is time to finally get oil companies to “use it or lose it” on their nonproducing leases.

RECOGNIZING THE VOLUNTEERS SERVING WITH THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the volunteers who assist the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. These volunteers work with deputies and civilian staff to help inmates to improve their lives during incarceration and to prepare them for a successful transition back into the community.

With more than 500 deputies, the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office is the largest Sheriff's office in Virginia and among the largest in the country. These deputies perform invaluable services for Fairfax County residents to include providing court security, managing the detention center, and serving the civil law process. Volunteers with the Sheriff's Office help provide inmate programs and services at the Adult Detention Center (ADC) and Pre-Release Center, including mental health counseling, religious services, alcohol and drug support groups, health education, library services and job training.

Volunteers complete a Sheriff's Office training program and also work closely with staff to ensure that best practices are followed. The efforts of these volunteers improve the lives of those incarcerated, reduce recidivism, and make our communities safer.

Each year, the Sheriff's Office hosts a luncheon to thank all of the dedicated individuals who help make the volunteer program a success. The office also recognizes one individual in each service area and it is my honor to recognize these extraordinary citizens:

OPPORTUNITIES, ALTERNATIVES, AND RESOURCES—DON EHRETH

Don Ehreth became an active OAR volunteer in March of 2009. At the Family Outreach desk, Don lends a compassionate ear to the concerns of the families and friends affected by incarceration. While others are relaxing on a weekend, Don educates and provides information about the incarceration process and OAR services.

CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE—GLORIA RODRIGUEZ

Gloria has been a volunteer since January of 2009, teaching Bible studies, mentoring inmates, distributing Bibles and helping with administrative work. She is very committed, friendly and dedicated both to God and to the work of the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

EDUCATION—BILL RICHEY

Bill is the Education Program's Spanish GED instructor. His classes consist of Hispanic inmates who are ready to take the GED test. Because of Bill's efforts these individuals have the opportunity to complete the education that they were unable to complete before.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES—JOHN DAVIS

For over two years now, John has brought weekly AA meetings to more than 40 inmates participate in the Integrated Addiction Program (IAP), a therapeutic community treatment model for substance users. John is very passionate about helping these inmates, and thanks to his service we can help to address the scourge of substance abuse.

The outstanding efforts of the above-mentioned individuals are particularly noteworthy but one must acknowledge the nearly 300 volunteers who have contributed their time and support to the Sheriff's Office during the past year. These volunteers provide services that help to place inmates on a path to success. They offer their time that could be spent elsewhere to provide encouragement and support that will improve lives during incarceration and provide for a successful transition to help get inmates back on their feet. The efforts of each and every one of these volunteers is worthy of our praise.

The staff of Fairfax County Sheriff Stan Barry should be commended for their critical role in administering the volunteer program. The efforts of these staffers maximize the contributions of volunteers in the most effective way and provide the support that makes this program a success.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the contributions of these individuals and all of the volunteers who support the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. The selfless commitment of these individuals helps to provide enumerable benefits to Northern Virginia and life-changing services to the inmates being served.

MEMORIALIZING DOROTHY HEIGHT

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, first, let me thank Congresswoman WATSON for reserving this Special Order today to honor the life, legacy and service of Dorothy Height.

Our Nation has lost an inspirational civil rights leader and unwavering advocate for women's rights. As the president of the National Council of Negro Women for four decades, Ms. Height fought tirelessly for the rights of African-American women. She was a shining example for those devoted to achieving equality for all Americans, and she served as a hero and role model for those working toward social justice.

As leader of the NCNW, she confronted the problems facing women and families in areas ranging from child care, to health care and nutrition, to housing. Along with other women's leaders including Gloria Steinem, Shirley Chisholm, and Betty Friedan, she helped establish the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971. Dorothy's career in civil rights and women's advocacy spanned nearly 80 years of social movements, from the New Deal era to today. She was there for the anti-lynching protests in the early 1930s; she was there with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., our colleague JOHN LEWIS and other civil rights leaders in the watershed 1960s; she was there for the election of our first African-American President, Barack Obama.

For her achievements and dedication, Dorothy Height was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton, a Congressional Gold Medal in 2004, and 36 honorary doctorates from colleges and universities. Her passion and soul have fundamentally improved the American social landscape,