legislative body's Minority Leader. He served as Senate Minority Leader for six years and while in this position he effectively advanced initiatives that improved public education, consolidated overlapping government functions, and preserved historic landmarks cherished by local residents.

Senator Brown was preceded in death by his beloved parents and is survived by many cousins, close personal friends, an expansive network of professional colleagues and loyal constituents.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that, ''Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this earth.'' There is no doubt that through his service, Senator Robert Lofton Brown paid his ''rent'' and the world is truly better because he did.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the life of State Senator Robert Brown—an outstanding legislator, dedicated community advocate, loyal friend and faithful public servant.

FARM DUST REGULATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1633) to establish a temporary prohibition against revising any national ambient air quality standard applicable to coarse particulate matter, to limit Federal regulation of nuisance dust in areas in which such dust is regulated under State, tribal, or local law, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, H.R. 1633, the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act is another step by the Majority to roll back clean air and water laws, and this bill dishes out both injury and insult.

The injury: Republicans convinced farmers that the EPA was going to regulate farm dust (or nuisance dust), a made-up term, not based on scientific or medical evidence. The EPA has no plans to regulate farm dust. In fact, in October of this year, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson confirmed that she does not plan to change current law regarding coarse particle emissions, so this bill is completely unnecessary.

The insult: What this bill does do is exempt particle emissions from a wide array of sources including mining operations, cement plants, gravel pits and coal processing plants. These sources emit arsenic, lead, and mercury among other harmful pollutants and these pollutants can cause very serious health problems, including decreased lung function, asthma attacks, respiratory diseases, and worse.

The Energy and Commerce Committee recently received a letter from a team of physicians and researchers at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. The experts wrote that this legislation, ''does not account for current or future knowledge of health risks posed by rural particulate matter exposure, and rather enacts a permanent exemption of rural particulate matter from Clean Air Act regulation. This approach is not supported by the scientific evidence or good professional judgment, and is not scientifically defensible.''

This bill ignores science, creates harm, and insults farmers.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.