

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS PRODUCTION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1937) to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I will vote against H.R. 1937, a bill that weakens environmental safeguards while bolstering the mining industry's special privileges on federal lands.

The language in the bill is written in such a way to cover virtually all hardrock mining on federal lands. Instead of using a scientific definition of a critical mineral, a mineral for which there is no substitute, H.R. 1937 considers gravel and sand to be critical minerals, leading to fast-tracked permits for practically any hardrock mines, even when the materials are plentiful. In addition, the bill classifies hardrock mines as infrastructure projects in order to allow hardrock mines to access a streamlined permit process intended for actual infrastructure projects such as surface transportation and pipelines, which have far less of an environmental impact.

The bill directs the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service to simplify the process for obtaining permits to extract minerals from federal lands, including eliminating adequate reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It is widely known that the NEPA review process, through the formulation of alternative proposals and the consideration of public input, leads to improved federal decision-making and better projects. In the end, NEPA saves time, money and reduces negative impacts. Furthermore, NEPA is the primary balancing mechanism against the mining industry's privileged access to billions of dollars worth of minerals on federal lands. The mining industry already enjoys access to hardrock minerals on public lands without paying taxpayers anything.

Finally, the bill limits the ability of aggrieved communities to use the court system to hold the government accountable when contamination from hardrock mining threatens their groundwater or drinking water. H.R. 1937 exempts legal cases brought against hardrock mines from the Equal Access to Justice Act, which means that winning plaintiffs cannot collect attorney fees from the government, ultimately ensuring that poor communities will never challenge these decisions in court.

I support efforts to strengthen our mining regulations. H.R. 1937, however, is a step in the wrong direction. We should be looking to reform the antiquated General Mining Law of 1872. Nearly a century and a half later, a law signed by President Ulysses S. Grant remains the law of the land and carries with it a toxic legacy. The GAO estimates that there may be more than 160,000 abandoned hardrock mines and that 20% of these sites (roughly 33,000) have degraded the environment by contaminating surface water and groundwater or leaving arsenic-contaminated tailings piles.

In its place, the Hardrock Mining Reform and Reclamation Act, H.R. 963, is a meaningful attempt at comprehensive reform and yet it remains stuck in committee. Unlike the bill being considered on the floor today, H.R. 963 would protect communities and their surroundings by balancing mining with other uses of public land. This legislation would put in place environmental controls to protect water, create jobs and protect natural areas by funding the clean-up of abandoned mines, and compensate taxpayers for the extraction of natural resources.

IN HONOR OF MR. FRED S. JEALOUS

HON. SAM FARR OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Mr. Fred S. Jealous, on the occasion of his retirement after more than 30 years of dedicated public service. Fred is a beacon of compassion, justice, and community service. Over the many years that he and his wife, Ann Todd Jealous, have lived on the Monterey Peninsula, Fred has devoted countless hours of his professional and volunteer time to weaving, reinforcing, and repairing the social fabric of our community.

Fred originally hailed from Connecticut. In 1963, he earned a B.A. in history from Clark University in Worcester, MA. He went on to earn a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH, in 1963. He then answered the call for public service and entered the Peace Corps, teaching math and English in rural Turkey. Upon his return from Turkey, Fred renewed his studies, this time in the field of Psychology, at the U.S. International University in San Diego.

In 1967, love for Ann Todd brought Fred to Baltimore, MD. However, as an interracial couple, they had to travel to Washington, D.C., to marry. In Baltimore, Fred became active in the civil rights movement agitating for the integration of public places. Fred and Ann moved to the Monterey Peninsula where he and Ann settled in Pacific Grove and raised their two children Ben and Lara.

It was on the Central Coast that Fred hit his stride as a community builder and activist. He

worked with the Veterans Administration to develop education programs for disabled veterans, served as executive director of the Salinas Volunteer Center, and founded the Monterey County Men's Alternatives to Violence. In 1987, Fred took this last effort a step further and founded the Breakthrough Men's Community as a non-profit organization to provide men with skills to free themselves from non-productive, painful, or abusive aspects of their lives. Staffed by volunteer graduates of the program, Breakthrough helps men work on communication and listening skills, self-esteem, parenting, alternatives to sexual obsession, reducing homophobia, and building healthy, inclusive communities. Fred has remained at the helm of Breakthrough since its founding and is now preparing to pass on that leadership.

Fred has truly made our community a better place. He is truly an example and inspiration for those who have the great fortune to know him. That is perhaps most true for Fred's son Ben, who followed his father's—and mother's—example to become the President and CEO of the NAACP. I know I speak for the whole House in extending to Fred Jealous our deep appreciation for his life's work and offer our best wishes to him and his family on this next chapter in his remarkable life.

HONORING DONALD SHUMWAY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CROTCHED MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Donald Shumway on his retirement as the CEO and President of the Crotched Mountain Foundation, and thank him for the outstanding work he did during his career.

Mr. Shumway's continuous progression within various health services agencies such as becoming the Commissioner of the NH Department of Health and Human Services and head of the Division of Mental Health exemplifies his intelligence, positive attitude, and commitment to protecting and serving his community with the utmost professionalism.

Although Mr. Shumway will now shift his focus from serving his community to his family, it's clear he leaves behind an example of strong leadership and compassion for others to emulate in his absence.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Donald Shumway on his retirement, and wish him the best on all future endeavors.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KAWNEER COMPANY'S BLOOMSBURG PLANT

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Kawneer Company's Bloomsburg plant. The plant is an essential manufacturing center in my district, and provides necessary materials for the construction of a multitude of education facilities, healthcare centers, public buildings, and retail stores across America. With close to 400 employees, the Bloomsburg facility provides work to many of my constituents.

Since 1965, the Kawneer Company has enjoyed tremendous success as a crucial manufacturing facility in the heartland of Pennsylvania. The company has helped fuel the inspiration of architects and building teams for more than 100 years, and has continuously implemented new manufacturing capabilities in order to improve efficiency and quality. Alcoa purchased the facility in 1998, and today, Kawneer Company's Bloomsburg plant is an integral part of Alcoa's Global Business and Construction Systems business.

Built on the Susquehanna River, the plant has persevered numerous times through devastating floods. Most recently, a flood nearly destroyed the facility, filling the shop floor with over five feet of water. Kawneer employees, in conjunction with Alcoa and the state of Pennsylvania, were able to reinvigorate the plant with new life and used the rebuilding opportunity to learn and grow. The plant's recent incorporation of a flexible robotic line is a symbol of Kawneer's commitment to development, efficiency, and progress.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Kawneer Company's Bloomsburg plant as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. I am incredibly grateful for the presence of this productive manufacturing facility which continues to bring prosperity and employment opportunities to my constituents. I look forward to the plant's continued success and innovation in the years to come.

HUNGARY AND THE HARD WAY**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, 59 years ago today, the Hungarian people rose up against the Soviet-installed communist dictatorship—a revolution that remains a model of patriotism, heroism, and resistance against tyranny today. I submit the following remarks delivered last evening at an event commemorating this momentous anniversary by Louis S. Segesváry, Ph.D., of the American Hungarian Federation.

[From American Hungarian Federation]

HUNGARY AND THE HARD WAY

(By Louis S. Segesváry, Ph.D.)

It was in the month of October, on the twenty-third day in 1956, that the small Eastern European nation of Hungary rose up

in a revolution against the Soviet Union that represented the first major challenge to its military dominion since World War II.

Nearly six decades have passed since then, yet it would be a mistake to discount the significance of this revolution merely because of the passage of time. This was David facing down Goliath in the modern era, and as such it remains and will remain an inspiration to freedom loving people everywhere.

Historians have explained to us the cause of the Hungarian uprising against the mighty Soviet empire as one of chafing under the weight of totalitarian occupation. But this explanation is hardly enough. Many peoples have suffered similar fates without risking the human costs associated with revolution. Those that have been willing to pay the price have been far fewer, and the more formidable the force of the occupier, the even fewer number. Bravery has always been the difference.

In this respect, Hungary and the United States share a similar past. Both risked revolutions against the greatest powers of their times. Only the American patriots were successful while Hungarians were seemingly not.

But it is just at this point that we must be the most careful in assessing the significance of Hungary's revolt against the Soviet Union, which pitted a nation of only ten million against the armed forces of a world superpower. For the sheer courage displayed in this uprising against the most hopeless of odds not only stunned the world but inspired it. As the French writer and Nobel Laureate Albert Camus put it at the time,

"Hungary conquered and in chains has done more for freedom and justice than any people for twenty years. . . Those Hungarian workers and intellectuals, beside whom we stand today with such impotent sorrow, understood this and have made us the better to understand it. That is why their hope is also ours. In spite of their misery, their chains, their exile, they have left us a glorious heritage which we must preserve: freedom, which they not only chose, but which in a single day they gave back to us."

Practical consequences as well were to follow the Hungarian revolution even as it was crushed by columns of Soviet tanks, for the sacrifices of the freedom fighters helped lead eventually to a crescendo of falling dominos and the dissolution of the entire Soviet Union itself. The seven days of freedom Hungarians had achieved in 1956 meant that Goliath had been mortally wounded, his aura of invincibility shattered. It was just a matter of time before he collapsed into the dust once again just as in biblical times.

Today Hungary is a fledgling democracy experiencing the kind of attacks that don't come from the muzzles of AK-47s or the canons of Soviet era tanks. Caught in the whirlwind of the migrant crisis enveloping Europe, with nearly 400,000 political and economic migrants transiting the country so far this year on their way to Austria and Germany, it has been subject to harsh public criticism for not being accommodating enough to this flood of humanity.

Regrettably, the fact that Hungary has faithfully adhered to the very protocol established by the European Union to deal with asylum seekers in requiring their registration on entry is generally ignored. But even more fundamentally, the civilizational issues associated with nation states are just as often disregarded. Whatever one thinks of Hungary's insistence on protecting its borders, one also has to consider the broader implications of what chaos will do to Europe's cultural distinctiveness.

Albert Camus' stirring words on the Hungarian revolution are well known. Not as well-known are his prophetic words, just as

profound, about the dangers associated with the breakdown of civilizational rules. While the pitfalls of anarchy meant the unpleasant task of having to make order, he wrote, there had to be order, because without order, he would die, "scattered to the winds."

He could have been speaking here once again about Hungary as well. Only this time it was about a people seeking to preserve the national identity they had secured for themselves with their own blood six decades earlier. It is a stand that not everyone will agree with, it is a stand that can be debated, but it is a stand that is once again resonating throughout the world.

The stakes in this debate are not to be taken lightly because we should never forget that how this migrant crisis is resolved will affect not only this generation of Europeans but generation after generation to come. In a very real sense, these future generations are fated to live with the consequences of the choices made today with no other recourse to them. That means the decisions by all of us affected by this crisis need to be as wise as we can make them and our consciences as clear as we can keep them.

The choices Hungary has taken so far in upholding the asylum precepts of the European Union and safeguarding its borders represent the hard way, a path of thorns on which Hungary has so often found itself in its brilliant but tragic history. It has risked its reputation on these choices, and only time can tell us how sagacious they have been. In the meanwhile, let us hold our rush to judgement. Especially on a day in which we honor Hungary for its great sacrifices for freedom.

RECOGNIZING THE CONGREGACIÓN MITA CHURCH ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2015

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Congregación Mita Church on its 75th anniversary and recognize their contributions to the community.

The Congregación Mita Church was founded in 1940 in the town of Arecibo, Puerto Rico, by Juanita "Mita" García Peraza. At a time when women were not allowed to officiate in church, Juanita became a trailblazer, founding her congregation with a message of love, freedom, and unity.

The church began with a small group of only 11 members. In this founding group was Teófilo "Aarón" Vargas Seín, current President and Spiritual Leader of the church. In 1943, the congregation opened its first church in the humble community of Las Monjas in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In 1947, the church relocated to the Hato Rey sector of San Juan, where it is currently headquartered. A year later, in 1948, the congregation opened its first church outside Puerto Rico in New York City. As membership grew, Juanita saw the need for a new place of worship and in 1960 the congregation built a new church in Hato Rey.

As part of her missionary work, Juanita established several ministries, social institutions, and music groups. Some of these include: the Ministry of Preachers and Deacons (1941), a ministry of volunteer neighborhood watchmen called "Guardas" (1947), the Strings Band (1950), and a bible school for children called