

As a former judge, I know firsthand the demands Cindy will face. Judges have the responsibility to, as scripture says, "let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." I know she's ready to meet this challenge.

It's been a privilege to watch Cindy Bourland grow up, both in her life and career. I'm excited for her new responsibilities and honored to call her Judge. Most of all, I'm proud to call her my friend.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL LAND TRANSACTION FACILITATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION OF 2015

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) Reauthorization of 2015. This legislation authorizes the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sell surplus federal lands to states, localities, or private entities that can be put to economically-beneficial use. Profits from the sales can then be used to purchase state or private land encumbered by National Parks and other federal areas, advancing conservation goals and improving recreational, hunting and fishing access.

Since its initial introduction in 2000, FLTFA reduced federal land ownership by 9,000 acres over the course of a decade. I am honored to introduce this important piece of legislation that will streamline the federal land acquisition process.

A TRIBUTE TO JUSTINE PEEBLES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Justine Peebles for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Justine has the determination and drive to be successful in any professional and personal task she undertakes. As Vice President of Lincoln Savings Bank she utilizes her drive and do-it-yourself attitude to advance the goals of the bank and provide great customer service. In her free time Justine likes to dedicate herself to serving others. She took the lead role on a project called Feeding the Fu-

ture that supplies a warm meal to children every night in the Boys and Girls Club of Central Iowa and also spends some of her free time volunteering at the Youth Emergency Services Shelter. Justine's exemplary work ethic and dedication to service makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Justine in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Justine on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

TRIBUTE TO JILLIAN SABOE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Jillian Saboe attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

When people hear the word "government" or "politics" or any other words associated with the political process, their usual first reaction is either a cringe or look of disgust; some purposefully and some mindlessly. Why is it that in a country founded on individual rights and freedoms that people feel negatively toward the institutions that were created to protect them?

"In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?" Looking at this question, I can see the possibilities of three different paths one might take. One: The government should interfere less with American citizens and practices. Two: The government should interfere more with American citizens and practices. Personally, I choose path number three: The government should not be looked at or act as an item of interference. The government should be an institution that interacts with individuals and groups in need of help and protection. A teenage girl should not be frightened when she sees a cop while driving down the highway, she should feel safe. A small business owner should not fear of losing his shop while filing his taxes, he should feel untroubled. An old man should not worry about what money will go where when he passes, he should feel cared for. Although a government has the responsibility to ensure a steady economy, ensure sturdy foreign relations, and increase trade, a government should also prioritize its responsibility to take care of its citizens. When I say "take care," I don't mean making sure that they all get their social security checks when

they reach a certain age, I mean making sure citizens receiving social security checks feel content with their situations. In my opinion, the government is allowed to be the bad guy sometimes to make sure that everything runs smoothly, but the government's main role is to humanely support and protect its citizens at all costs.

A government must be many things in order to survive. It must be strong. It must be efficient. It must be intelligent. But the most important thing a government should be is comfortable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, March 25, 2015, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote #140. Had I been present I would have voted No.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTRIC CHARGING ADVANCEMENT REFORM ACT

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, my home of Los Angeles unfortunately is the nation's smoggiest region of the country. We are surrounded by mountains and have highest per capita ownership of cars. The Los Angeles region has made great improvements in our air quality. In the last 15 years, the number of dirty air days has dropped by 38%. Still—we have the worst air quality in the nation. The American Lung Association ranks the Los Angeles region as number one in the nation for ozone pollution and in the top five for particulate matter pollution.

This results in many health issues including higher numbers of children with asthma and significantly lung function problems in normal, healthy people.

We do love our cars in Los Angeles, and the pollution from these cars is a key cause of our air quality problems. Los Angeles could drastically improve its air quality if more of those cars were plug in vehicles. However there are simply not enough charging stations available for this to be feasible.

As an owner of an all-electric Nissan Leaf, I know all too well that there is a lack of charging stations. I have personally experienced range anxiety. There have been times when driving home I have had to turn off the lights, radio, and air conditioning to ensure that I can make it home because there were no charging stations nearby. Los Angeles is one of the largest consumers of elective vehicles in the country. But, I believe people would buy more electric vehicles if charging stations were readily available.

Today, I am introducing the Electric Charging Advancement Reform Act to encourage more electric vehicles on our roads, which will result in clean air improvements and energy independence. This is an act integral to revolutionizing the accessibility of plug-in electric

vehicles (PEVs) to potential drivers. My bill would reauthorize the electric vehicle recharging property credit for full electric and fuel cell vehicles which will make available to both consumers and businesses a tax credit of up to \$100,000 for the installation of charging stations.

No one driving a gas-powered car has to worry about finding a gas station before they get to their destination. Let us make sure that charging stations are just as easily accessible and convenient as the gas stations that are at every major intersection in our cities and off our major freeways.

INTRODUCTION OF TAX RETURN PREPARER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced, along with my colleagues Reps. ROBERT "BOBBY" SCOTT, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and CAROLYN MALONEY, H.R. 1609, the Tax Return Preparer Accountability Act, which would provide explicit authority for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to regulate tax return preparers.

As we near April 15th, millions of taxpayers will pay someone to help them fill out their tax returns. Many of these tax preparers are honest and trustworthy. But, unfortunately, too many of them take advantage of their customers or help their customers engage in tax fraud themselves.

In Memphis, my Congressional district, a company named Mo' Money Taxes was caught charging taxpayers deceptive and outrageous fees and cheating them out of their refunds. The company also helped some customers prepare fraudulent returns that claimed bogus deductions and cheated the public of needed tax revenue. Fortunately, the Department of Justice has shut down the tax preparer company but there are many businesses just like them cheating taxpayers and the government alike.

The IRS issued rules in 2011 regulating the tax return preparer industry by requiring them to register with the IRS and meet certain education and testing standards. However, a federal court held that the IRS did not have the authority under existing law to issue these regulations and they could not come into effect.

That's why I introduced the Tax Return Preparer Accountability Act because it's important that anyone who assists in filing federal taxes is sufficiently trained and maintain a certain level of professional conduct.

I hope that Congress will quickly act on this bill to ensure that these dishonest business practices cannot continue, and protect the pocketbooks of middle-class families.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSHUA NORTON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Joshua

Norton for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Joshua has the determination and drive to be successful in anything he does, and his exemplary work as Vice President for Commercial Lending at West Bank is a testament to that. Joshua utilizes his abilities to connect people to move them towards a common goal not only in his professional life but also in his free time. Joshua spends his off time serving others on the Make-A-Wish Iowa board of directors. Joshua's outstanding work ethic and dedication to service, both professionally and personally, makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Joshua in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Joshua on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, April 10th of this year will mark the 36th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). This important legislation has defined the relationship between our two countries and led to one of our most stable and reliable democratic alliances.

Today, Taiwan is an important strategic partner, providing a first line of defense for our interests in the Pacific and deterring aggression from countries in the region. This is why it is so important that we do what we can to support Taiwan's military capabilities.

Taiwan has also developed into an economic powerhouse over the last three decades. Its rapidly growing economy has allowed it to become one of the United States largest trading partners. In fact, Taiwan's imports of American goods exceeded \$36 billion in 2012, a number that continues to grow every year. Many Hoosiers take advantage of this robust trade relationship, helping to build Indiana's economy and create good paying jobs.

Since coming to Congress, I have had an opportunity to travel to Taiwan and to interact with many Taiwanese-Americans. I appreciate their friendship and hospitality. On its 36th anniversary, I am pleased that the TRA continues to guide U.S.-Taiwan relations so we

can further strengthen this important partnership.

HONORING MARY E. COLEMAN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month this year, I am honored to reflect on the everyday contributions African-Americans have made across the nation, and specifically within my district in The Bronx. It is with great admiration that I stand before you today to honor Ms. Mary E. Coleman for her many years of tireless work to improve the lives of our community residents.

Originally hailing from Mississippi, Ms. Coleman has had a decorated career as an administrator in the worlds of finance and higher education. Ms. Coleman began her career as the Vice President of Finance and Administration for a multi-corporate designer, manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer of men's and women's apparel. Ms. Coleman went on to join the City University of New York (CUNY) as a Dean at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College, served as Deputy Executive Director of American Field Service Intercultural Programs, Inc., a 55-nation student/teacher international exchange program. She subsequently held a senior management position in Mitchell Titus, LLP, the largest minority-controlled certified public accounting and management consulting firm in the country. In each of her roles, it is clear that Ms. Coleman appreciated the value of investing resources in diversity, and used her platforms to help others appreciate the value of diverse human capital.

Returning to higher education, Ms. Coleman joined the Senior Staff at Stella and Charles Guttman Community College to serve as the Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration. She is a dedicated and long-serving CUNY administrator. Most recently, she served for 17 years as the Vice President for Finance and Administration locally at Bronx Community College (BCC). Before working at BCC, Ms. Coleman served as the Dean of Administration and Finance at Hostos Community College, another strong Bronx institution. Through the support, leadership, and vision of Mary Coleman, Bronx Community College has grown into the remarkable institution it is today. She has made a career of ensuring that unprivileged individuals have access to life changing programs, and Ms. Coleman's lasting legacy will live on through each student whose life was improved on account of possibilities and opportunities made possible at Bronx Community College.

Today, Ms. Coleman currently sits on the Executive Board of the National Council of Black American Affairs and the American Association of Community College's Global Commission on Global Education. I am proud to know that someone like Mary E. Coleman has given so much of herself to improving the lives of residents in our community, and I am confident that she will continue her important work.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Mary E. Coleman for her ongoing commitment to improving the lives of others and her tireless efforts to uplift our community.