

THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY AND ITS IMPACT ON MINORITY COMMUNITIES

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, thank you, Congressman VEASEY, Congressman MCEACHIN and Congresswoman PLASKETT, for organizing tonight's special order hour on environmental justice and Trump's 100 days: "What do we have to lose?" I'd also like to thank Chair RICHMOND for his tireless leadership as the CBC continues to be the conscience of the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we have a lot to lose under this administration—who at every turn—wants to roll back protections for our communities and for our environment. And make no mistake: communities of color are most impacted by these decisions and often bear the brunt of climate change and pollution.

In my home district, West Oakland residents are disproportionately exposed to dirty air pollution that is 90 times higher than the average Californian. 90 times. As a result, many West Oakland residents experience more asthma attacks, heart failures and strokes. On average, West Oakland residents have a higher death rate than other Californians just because of where they live. This is a shame and a disgrace. But these inequalities are not new.

In 2013, the American Academy of Allergy and Asthma found that one in six African American children and one in nine Latino children suffered from asthma compared to just 1 in 15 white children. These numbers are unacceptable and they should be a wake-up call to all of us to do more to fight for environmental justice. But with the current administration we must be ready for an uphill battle.

Last weekend marked President Trump's 100 days in office—which is really just 100 days of chaos, corruption, and dysfunction. In fact, the Trump administration has shown in the past 100 days that they are more committed to padding their pockets than protecting our planet. In three months, they have:

Approved the Keystone pipeline  
Approved the Dakota Access Pipeline  
Proposed devastating cuts to the EPA  
And allowed dumping of coal mining waste into our streams.

And with every executive order rolling back President Obama's progress on climate change issues, the current administration lives up to its belief that saving our planet is "a waste of [America's] money." But I stand here today to say "Not on our watch."

Our children's air, drinking water and futures depend on our ability to hold corporations accountable for their emissions and waste.

For some in our country, this is literally a matter of life and death, as communities of color are more likely to live near polluting facilities or be ignored when they notice high levels of lead in their water systems. We are all connected to our environment. It impacts everyone. It is time we recognize that an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, the past 100 days have shown us that this will be a long and arduous battle.

But we cannot afford to get tired—our very existence is at stake. We must continue to build a movement that can fight back against the constant attacks on our communities and on our planet. That's why we're here today as members of the Congressional Black Caucus: to show unified resistance by fighting for our communities, our environment, and especially our planet.

RECOGNIZING DR. CLIFF L. WOOD

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Cliff L. Wood, who will retire from his position as President of Rockland Community College in Suffern, New York, this June.

Dr. Wood has dedicated more than 50 years of service to community college education, having served in senior management positions at five institutions. In his 13 years as President of Rockland Community College, Dr. Wood has spearheaded several important initiatives including a subsidized childcare center for students and teachers and a new technology center, and has overseen growth in the College's enrollment, community involvement and workforce development. His tireless efforts at the College have helped improve the lives of thousands of students.

In addition to his work at Rockland Community College, Dr. Wood has volunteered his leadership to many organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Rockland Holocaust Museum & Study Center, Rockland Business Association, and Rockland Economic Development Corporation. He served as President of the New York Community College Association of Presidents, and is a member of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Wood's many accomplishments in higher education, economic development and civic involvement have had an undeniably positive impact on the communities he has served. I commend him for his outstanding work, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him for his five decades of dedicated service.

MAHAM SEWANI SELECTED TO REPRESENT TEXAS AT CONGRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Maham Sewani of Sugar Land, for being chosen to represent Texas as a Delegate at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists.

Maham was nominated for this position thanks to her excellent academic record and desire to enter the medical profession. Through this program, she will meet some important leaders in the medical field, including

Nobel Prize winners and top medical school deans. The Congress of Future Medical Leaders is hosted to help motivate the top students in the country to pursue their desired careers in the medical field. Maham is a student at Awty International School and a member of its debate team.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Maham Sewani for being selected for this honor. We are extremely proud and expect great things from her in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW BUTSON ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Matthew Butson of Metamora, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Matthew's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2021. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Matthew brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2021. While attending St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo, Ohio, Matthew was a member of the National Honor Society, as well as serving on student council and as class vice president his senior year.

Throughout high school, Matthew participated in football and basketball, serving as co-captain of the football team his senior year. I am confident that Matthew will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Matthew Butson on the offer of his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Matthew will excel during his career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM MARINO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on May 1, 2017 due to a family medical issue. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA for rollcall vote 237, YEA for rollcall vote 238, and YEA for rollcall vote 239.

## PRESIDENT TRUMP'S FIRST 100 DAYS LEAVE AMERICA WEAKER

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday marked President Donald Trump's 100th day in the White House. Over the last 100 days, Mr. Trump's policy proposals, irresponsible rhetoric, and controversial appointments have made our families and communities less secure, our businesses less confident about the future, and our nation more isolated in the world.

Despite total Republican control of Congress, President Trump has been incapable of governing responsibly. Just this week—because of Republican dithering—Congress was forced to pass another stopgap spending bill to keep the government open for just seven days, denying Americans the certainty they deserve.

The first 100 days have revealed a President who is proposing legislation and taking executive actions that hurt working Americans at every turn.

TrumpCare, the Republicans' disastrous health care bill, leaves 24 million Americans uninsured and causes out-of-pocket costs to skyrocket. It forces older Americans to pay higher premiums, ration health care for vulnerable children, seniors, and people with disabilities, and weakens the solvency of Medicare.

Huge opposition from Democrats and active, engaged citizens has stopped this legislation for now, but Mr. Trump is still working to sabotage the Affordable Care Act. He has even threatened to cause the total collapse of our health care system and undermine the coverage we all depend on for purely political purposes. That is despicable.

If working families were unsettled by Mr. Trump's threat to their health care, his proposed budget shows just how far backwards he wants to take our country. He wants to slash job training programs, hurt American seniors by cutting Meals on Wheels, slow down our communities by gutting infrastructure funding, and eliminate important investments in health research, education, and the arts and humanities. And Mr. Trump's backwards budget strips the Environmental Protection Agency of the resources it needs to protect public health and safety.

As the Ranking Member of the House Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, I know that the attack on the EPA's budget is just one part of Mr. Trump's all-out war on clean air, clean water, and our public lands. In his first 100 days, Mr. Trump and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt have undone protections for clean water, allowed the continued use of dangerous neurotoxins, and reversed clean air rules that help stem the threat of climate change. In doing so, they have repeatedly ignored the findings of their own scientists.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Pruitt's denial of climate science and pledges to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement are transforming our nation from the global leader

in combating climate change into an environmental rogue state. The only winners? Billionaires, the fossil fuel industry, and polluters that profit at the expense of our families, our communities, and our planet.

Billionaires and big corporations are also the big winners in Mr. Trump's so-called tax reform plan. His proposal amounts to a massive giveaway to the wealthiest Americans adding trillions to the federal debt and leaving working families holding the bag. Since Mr. Trump has broken with precedent and kept his tax returns secret, we can only speculate about how much he and his family businesses will benefit from his tax plan.

In fact, until Mr. Trump releases his tax returns, a cloud of suspicion will hang over his entire White House. Given that Russia interfered in our electoral process to help Mr. Trump win the election and his first National Security Adviser, Michael Flynn, left amid a Russia-related scandal, Americans deserve a complete and independent investigation. Yet Congressional Republicans continue to cover up for President Trump and are still blocking accountability and transparency.

Every time President Trump has made alarming decisions, from an unconstitutional ban on immigrants and refugees to attacks on women's health care at home and abroad, millions of engaged Americans have spoken up and spoken out against his dangerous and divisive policies.

In Minnesota, I have seen engaged citizens make their voices heard at my town hall meetings and vibrant demonstrations, like the Women's March, the Tax March, and the March for Science. There is a consensus among the tens of thousands of Minnesotans I have spoken to: We want America to move forward and we will work to resist and stop Trump administration policies and proposals that take our nation backwards.

After President Trump's first 100 days, it is clear that we must join together to hold his White House accountable. In the next 100 days, and all the days that follow, I will keep standing alongside my constituents fighting for the values we believe in.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE 47TH ANNUAL CAP-TO-CAP PROGRAM

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce—and, in particular, Program Chair Erica Taylor—for leading the 47th Annual Capitol-to-Capitol program this year. As this delegation of business, civic and political representatives from the six-county Sacramento region concludes its program in Washington, D.C., I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these fine Sacramentans.

For nearly 50 years, the Sacramento Metro Chamber has organized an annual delegation lobbying program in Washington, D.C. This year, over 300 leaders from the Sacramento region descended on the capital for a series of meetings, field tours, and receptions to speak

collectively as a unified voice for Sacramento's business community. The delegation of volunteers organized itself into 12 policy committees covering key priority issues for the Sacramento region, such as flood protection, transportation, health care, and workforce development. I always enjoy meeting with the delegation teams and hearing about a variety of topics that are important to my hometown.

I would especially like to commend the 2017 Cap-to-Cap Chair, Erica Taylor of Golden One Credit Union. As a leader in the community, Erica spends her time serving on boards and organizations with the goal of improving Sacramento for all. She has immersed herself in Chamber activities for years, including serving as a founding member of MetroEDGE, graduating from the Chamber's Leadership Sacramento Program, and serving on the Chamber's board of directors. Outside of the Chamber, Erica currently serves on the board of directors for KVIE, the Los Rios Foundation, and Sacramento Covered. Her commitment to the Sacramento Region is clear from her extensive civic involvement, and I want to congratulate her on the impeccable job she did organizing and leading this year's Cap-to-Cap program.

Mr. Speaker, in large part due to Erica's leadership, Cap-to-Cap this year was a significant success for the Sacramento region. I am honored to recognize the Metro Chamber's delegation for its economic and civic contributions to the Sacramento Region. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Sixth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in commanding their unwavering commitment to Sacramento's growth and development.

## JUN-YONG WINS TEXAS STATE BAR ESSAY CONTEST

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jun-Yong Kim of Katy, for placing first in the State Bar of Texas Law Day writing contest.

The theme of this year's competition was "The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy." Jun-Yong won first with his essay, "Monsters of My American Dream," which explores the meaning of the 14th Amendment through his perspective—a South Korean immigrant. Jun-Yong represented the Katy Bar Association and will be recognized for his first place win at the Texas Law Center in Austin, TX, where he will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Jun-Yong is a student at Seven Lakes High School.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Jun-Yong for winning first place in the State Bar of Texas Law Day contest. We are very proud of his talented work and look forward to his future successes.