

I know no better way of providing jobs in our Hudson Valley, New York region than by approving a responsible Clean Water Act that provides strong environmental protection and the restoration of our natural water resources. Relaxed water quality standards will jeopardize many of our Nation's largest industries, including the \$400 billion a year travel and tourism industry and the \$55 billion a year fishing industry.

Similarly, we must not forget the air we breathe, our most precious resource. No matter what our party affiliation we are not immune from having to breathe clean air to survive. Air pollution has been linked to cancer, birth defects, brain and nerve damage, and long-term injury to our lungs and breathing passages. Moreover, air pollution damages our environmental surroundings. Tree, lakes, and animals have been harmed by air pollution. Accordingly, Congress passed the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to improve our air quality standards. I was pleased to be an original cosponsor of that landmark legislation.

Today, we are rethinking our approach to environmental policy. As has been reported by my colleague, Representative SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, "the first fruits of that re-evaluation can be seen in the landmark conservation section of the farm bill Congress passed last month."

The farm bill has set aside billions of dollars for conservation programs to assist farmers in preserving wetlands and reducing agricultural runoff. I would argue that this bill is one of the most important environmental pieces of legislation to come out of Congress since the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

We in the Congress must never forget the need for clean air and water, as well as the need to preserve our important natural resources. More importantly, we should never forget the great environmental gains we have made during the past decade.

In recognition of Earth Day, let us all commit ourselves in our own communities to do our part. Together we can ensure that our environment will be a clean, safe, and beautiful place for generations to come.

THE CALIFORNIA PACIFIC
MEDICAL CENTER

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express the profound appreciation felt by many of my constituents for the transplant physician team at the California Pacific Medical Center [CPMC] in San Francisco.

The patients, their families, and their loved ones through their organization, the CPMC heart transplant support group, are gathering today for their 11th Annual Heart to Heart Gala. The gala celebrates their appreciation, and their gratitude, for the work, the extraordinary skill, and the love given by the CPMC heart transplant team. They celebrate as a way to acknowledge the gift of life and the gift in the improved quality of life received as a result of heart transplant surgery, a truly lifesaving procedure for many in the bay area. This form of extension of life is so awesome that there are few words that can adequately ex-

press their feelings of respect and gratitude for the exceptional CPMC physicians and support staff who have dedicated themselves to this cause.

The first heart transplant at CPMC was performed in January 1984. Since that time, 20 to 25 transplants have been performed each year at CPMC, totaling over 250. The majority of candidates who receive a transplant have advanced disabling heart disease remediable by no other known therapy. The CPMC transplant physician staff, consisting of J. Donald Hill, M.D., chairman of the department of cardiac surgery; G. James Avery, M.D., transplant surgeon; Ernest Haensslein, M.D., medical director, heart transplant service, and James Hershon, M.D., director of the medical surgical intensive care unit, are to be commended for the exceptional skills, knowledge, compassion, and tireless efforts they routinely demonstrate while treating and caring for their patients.

Although we are awed by the art of the transplant process and recognize the transplant team's exceptional knowledge and technical abilities, it is apparent that the high esteem in which the patients and their families hold this surgical team is due to the very special attentiveness and the love that they give throughout the arduous preoperation, operation and postoperation period. Such a combination of attributes is indeed rare and must be recognized.

It is therefore a privilege for me to join with my constituents, and I invite you to join us, in recognizing, saluting, and honoring this exceptional group of professionals today.

TRIBUTE TO ROSE AND CHARLES
MATT ON THEIR 61ST ANNIVERSARY
AND 85TH BIRTHDAYS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two people in my district who made, and have kept, a lifetime commitment to one another, Rose and Charles Matt of Riverside, IL.

The Matts recently celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary and their 85th birthdays with family and friends at a local restaurant. They were married June 16, 1934, at Mary Queen of Heaven Church in Cicero, IL. Over the years, the Matts have been active in the local business community and involved in civic affairs.

The Matts opened a successful appliance store and two bowling alleys in Cicero. In addition, Mr. Matt served as a member of Morton High School District Board and is a past president of the Cicero Rotary Club. Mrs. Matt is a past president of her church's Alter and Rosary Society.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Matts on 61 years of commitment to each other and their community, and wish them many more years of wedded bliss.

EARTH DAY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, as the House was not in formal session on April 22, Earth Day, I wanted to take the floor and talk about the importance of protecting the environment. While I recognize this day was used by many to feign interest in appearing "Green," not to mention fund raise, I think it is time to cast aside the "sound-bites" and have an honest and open discussion about the best way to improve our environment.

While some people planted trees, posed for pictures with fuzzy birds, or made fiery speeches set against a scenic backdrop, it takes more than symbolism and scorecard votes to make our environment safe. Even though Russell Peterson of the National Audubon Society coined the phrase "Think Globally, Act Locally," our national environmental policy has been void of local control, flexibility, or involvement. We need the efforts and input of every thoughtful and concerned person to move environmental protection from the sloganeering stage to a daily reality.

Several times during this Congress, we have been presented with legislation in which it has been suggested that passing these bills would improve the environment. Now, without commenting on the merits of these bills, I want to suggest that many of them were dismissed out of hand because they did not follow a "traditional" protocol for environmental protection, greater regulation and/or use of expensive technology. This development troubles me in that collegiality of thought is continuing to be sacrificed on this issue.

Many here in Congress, on both sides of the aisle, as well as those in the media, propose and advance the notion that the only way to enhance environmental protection is to use the most expensive technology available or institute more restrictive regulations. I reject that notion. While new technology or tough restrictions are not in themselves evil, it shows lack of foresight and depth of understanding that other means can accomplish the same end. The bottom line is that tighter regulations and "Cadillac" technologies cost money. And, regardless of what people may think, we only have a limited amount of resources, private and public, that we can commit to environmental protection. We should be placing our resources toward the most pressing environmental concerns of our day, and getting them remediated, not chasing allegations of hearsay or negligible, scientifically defensive problems.

Let me propose one of my favorite examples of what I mean to illustrate this point. Federal regulations currently require cities to keep atrazine levels in drinking water below three parts per billion—which on the surface sounds reasonable, nobody wants to be serving up a glass of weed killer to their friends or family. However, under these levels, a human would have to drink 3,000 gallons of water, or 38 bathtubs, per day with three parts per billion atrazine to equal the dose found to be cancerous in rates. Of note, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a "Health Advisory" for atrazine, which states that a child can drink water containing 100 parts per billion for 10 days or 50 parts per billion for 7