

The Environmental Restoration Act of 2005 creates incentives for the cleanup of dangerous and unsightly waste coal, or gob, piles by utilizing the waste coal as a domestic energy source. The bill provides transferable tax credits for the clean and safe burning of waste coal as fuel for power generation. The bill will result in the creation of jobs, enhanced energy security, recycled energy recovery from waste coal, and restoration of blighted areas back to productive use.

I want to highlight the environmental benefits of the legislation. This bill will produce electricity with a recycled waste energy resource. It will help clean up abandoned gob piles. There is over one billion tons of waste coal available on the ground today. Land will be restored to green space or productive use. Stream quality will be improved by eliminating sedimentation and acid mine drainage. Electricity will be produced with emissions lower than regulatory requirements. Finally, the need and number of refuse disposal facilities will be reduced.

The bill applies to existing as well as planned and future waste coal processing facilities. Today such facilities exist not only in my State of Pennsylvania, but in Utah, West Virginia and Montana. I hope to see more of these efficient plants developed.

I want to give an example of one of the Pennsylvania facilities that would qualify for credits under my bill—the Beech Hollow Power Project in Washington, Pennsylvania. Beech Hollow is a waste coal-fired power generation facility located in Robinson Township. The project is constructed on a 38-acre site immediately adjacent to a gob pile. The power generated will be transmitted via an interconnection with a transmission line owned by West Penn Power. The project has strong state and local support. There is a 17-year supply of waste fuel for this plant.

Beech Hollow has received all of its state and federal clean air act permits, with the strong support of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. By using clean coal technology the plant and will exceed federal emission standards.

Beech Hollow will produce 252,000 kilowatts of net electrical power, derived from clean energy. This will be enough power to supply about 240,000 homes. In addition to the significant environmental benefits associated with the removal of this large source of groundwater contamination, the Beech Hollow Project will also have significant and diverse positive economic impacts throughout the local community. For instance, between construction and operation, it is estimated that the project will generate a total of 7,906 full-time equivalent job years of employment in Pennsylvania.

In the spirit of comprehensive energy policy and energy independence, I urge my colleagues to take a close look at this legislation. It is a prime example of how environmental protection and domestic energy use can go hand in hand.

HONORING DELFORD BOYER

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an exceptional man,

Mr. Delford Boyer, who passed away on Tuesday, July 26, 2005. I offer my heartfelt condolences to his wife of 63 years, Dona Boyer, his son and daughter-in-law, Reg and Nancy Boyer, daughter and son-in-law, Jody and Roger Durand, daughter and son-in-law, Jill and Jim Maenner, his beloved grandchildren, Kristin, Molly, Aaron, Nick, Katie, Colin, Joslyn, and Marne and his brother Don and sister Shirley.

He was born in Cheney Nebraska on May 29, 1917 and served as a pilot with the Royal Canadian Air Force and with the U.S. Army Air Force in the China, Burma, India Theater during World War II. He was a recipient of the APTO Ribbon, Victory Medal, one Overseas Bar, Asiatic Pacific Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation I join all my colleagues today in expressing our sorrow and our thanks for the life and the service of Delford Boyer. His was a life full of love and grace. Words cannot express the grief of those whose lives he touched. He will be missed.

UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIME
ACT

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act with Congressman Bennie Thompson. As a former "Freedom Rider" in Mississippi during the 1960s, I have seen first hand the need for this bill.

While most are familiar with the recent prosecution of Edgar Ray Killen his participation in the slayings of Civil Rights workers James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, there are many other cases that aren't as well known or remain unsolved, like Emmett Till. These cases need to be investigated.

We as a Congress have a moral obligation to bring justice to the families of these victims. Furthermore, as a society based on laws, we have a responsibility to ensure that criminals don't go unpunished.

This bill creates a special section within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice to focus specifically on unsolved pre-1970 Civil Rights' homicides. In addition, the bill authorizes up to \$5 million annually for this new section, which will provide States assistance with prosecuting Civil Rights era cases that have grown cold over time.

Unlike many other endeavors that have come before this House to address past racial injustice, this bill goes beyond mere rhetoric and "lip service" and provides an avenue to actually address Civil Rights' crimes.

Our country has come a long way since the 1960s. For example, seven states, since 1989, have reexamined 29 killings from the Civil Rights era, leading to 27 arrests and 22 convictions. However, as most are aware, there are still many unsolved homicides from that time period. And, while we can't go back in time, we can acknowledge our past transgressions and do our best to work towards correcting them.

"Justice delayed" is better than "Justice denied!"

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SAFE
COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2005"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, an essential component of livable communities is the ability to avoid, withstand and quickly recover from disaster events. Today I am joined by my colleague from Pennsylvania, CURT WELDON, in introducing the Safe Communities Act 2005. This bill will give communities the tools to help them plan for and reduce the impact of disaster events.

The Safe Communities Act will create a new grant program to support state, local and regional planning activities aimed at reducing threats posed by natural and human-caused disasters. Grant-eligible projects include: comprehensive risk assessment and inventory of critical infrastructure, land-use planning for natural hazards and terrorism security, updating building codes and urban design techniques for risk-reduction. The bill will also create a research program to investigate the best practices in comprehensive land use and community planning aimed at reducing threats posed by natural hazards and acts of terror.

The number of people who live in harm's way is expanding dramatically; more properties and more lives are at risk from both natural and human-caused disasters. It is estimated that almost 75 percent of our communities are at risk for some type of natural disaster, be it wildfire, hurricane, flooding, or earthquake. Rising disaster-recovery costs impact us all: taxpayers, the financial services and insurance industry, as well as local communities.

Federal investment in natural disasters should include prevention and mitigation as well as response and recovery. Investment in prevention can save money in the long-term: The World Bank and U.S. Geological Survey have estimated that \$40 billion invested in risk reduction strategies could have saved as much as \$280 billion in worldwide economic losses from disasters in the 1990s—a \$7 return for each dollar invested.

I hope that this bill moves quickly through the legislative process so that the Federal Government can be a good partner to communities to help them prepare for and prevent natural disasters.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of one of our nation's most vital and successful social programs: Medicare. To this day, it remains one of the greatest accomplishments, providing near universal coverage to America's most vulnerable citizens.

Since its inception in 1965, Medicare has drastically reduced the number of Americans

living below the poverty line, and considerably reduced the financial burden on seniors and their families. The program has increased life expectancy among Americans, giving minorities greater access to health care, and given individuals with disabilities access to health care that was never previously available. All the while, this program has operated efficiently with our tax dollars. Administrative costs average less than two percent of expenditures, a fraction of what private insurance companies spend on such costs.

Yet while we have seen remarkable success in the last 40 years, we must ensure that the mission of Medicare is carried on through this new century. So far, this Congress has fallen woefully short. The Republican majority pushed through the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 to provide prescription drug coverage to American seniors. A noble idea, but this law falls far short of the universal coverage and prohibits the government from using common sense negotiation strategies to keep drug costs low.

As future generations reflect on the legacy of this Congress, in many respects it will be shaped by the commitments—rather than the rhetoric—that we make to our seniors. Medicare is a program that offers stability and hope for millions. It is our responsibility to continue the strong history Medicare has built. Let's give America's seniors the drug and medical coverage that they deserve.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to celebrate August 6, 1965, the day President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the historic Voting Rights Act. It and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 are two of the most significant civil rights statutes ever enacted. Congress enacted the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to protect the voting rights of all Americans and ended the techniques that had been used for decades to deny millions of minorities the right to vote.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, those in the civil rights movement worked to get basic civil rights and voting rights enacted into statute. The cost for those in the movement was high: church burnings, bombings, shootings, and beatings. It required the ultimate sacrifice of ordinary Americans: James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner who simply sought to register voters and Jimmie Lee Jackson whose death precipitated the famous march from Selma to Montgomery.

After the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was enacted, those in the civil rights movement turned their attention to the importance of obtaining voting rights. The struggle for voting rights led nonviolent civil rights marchers to gather on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965—a day that would come to be known as “Bloody Sunday” when the bravery of the marchers was tested by a brutal response, with many marchers being beaten.

The Voting Rights Act provided extensive protections by prohibiting any voting practice

that serves as an impediment to the right to vote, such as: intimidation, voter harassment, poll taxes, literacy tests, language barriers, racial gerrymandering and other tools of disenfranchisement. It also provided for criminal and civil sanctions against persons interfering with the right to vote.

It is clear that the Voting Rights Act has been a great success. Consider the statistics. At the time the Act was adopted, only one-third of all African Americans of voting age were on the registration rolls in the specially covered states, while two-thirds of eligible whites were registered. In some states, fewer than five percent of African Americans were registered.

Today, African American voter registration rates are approaching parity with that of whites in many areas, and Hispanic voters in jurisdictions added to the list of those specially covered by the Act in 1975 are not far behind. Also, thanks to the Voting Rights Act, today there are 81 members of Congress of African American, Latino, Asian and Native American descent, and thousands of minorities in elected offices around the country. Despite the progress from 40 years of enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, voter inequities, disparities, and obstacles still remain for far too many minority voters.

It is important that we recognize this significant anniversary because The Voting Rights Act is an expression of important American values—equality, nondiscrimination, fairness, and ensuring the full participation in our society by everyone. Therefore, I celebrate this anniversary with pride and reflection knowing that although we have come a long way, we still have great distance to go in order to fulfill our nation's ideals of equality and equal opportunity.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, DR-CAFTA is good for our country, and good for Kansas. The market access provisions of the agreement will remove remaining trade barriers in the region that raise the cost of Kansas exports, and will keep Kansas exporters competitive internationally. According to the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, exports of manufactured and non-manufactured products from Kansas to the Central American region totaled \$23 million in 2004. That figure will grow after the signatories to the agreement implement DR-CAFTA. For manufactured goods, duties on 80 percent of U.S. exports to the Central American region will be eliminated immediately, with the remaining duties phased out over a period of up to 10 years. Manufactured goods accounted for 89 percent of Kansas' exports in goods to the DR-CAFTA countries last year, and Kansas will continue to benefit under the market access provisions of DR-CAFTA.

Additionally, DR-CAFTA will open markets for American agricultural goods. For agricul-

tural products, duties on over 50 percent of U.S. exports would be eliminated immediately upon implementation of DR-CAFTA, with the rest phased out over a period of up to 20 years. Together, the DR-CAFTA countries are Kansas' 11th largest market for crop exports. This agreement will benefit Kansas farmers.

As a transportation hub, the Kansas City metro area, which is ideally situated on the banks of the Missouri and Kansas Rivers and home to hundreds of miles of commercial rail lines and highways, will play a critical role in moving Kansas exports to market.

Finally, trade liberalization benefits American consumers. Greater movements of goods and services between the United States and other nations increases competition and applies downward pressure on prices, which will help keep inflation at historically low levels. Though the importance of international trade on subduing inflation should not be overstated, neither should it be dismissed. Increased competition, together with a reduction in production costs, can reduce the prices for consumer goods and services in our country.

The global integration of markets for goods and services, referred to as “globalization,” is a fact of modern life. As we enter the twenty-first century, the pace of globalization is accelerating. The United States has been a global leader in international trade for decades. And our country is well positioned to shape the direction of globalization if we continue to engage with the rest of the world.

In theory, international trade can raise standards of living and efficiently allocate resources between nations. In reality, the potential benefits and drawbacks of trade are usually addressed within the language of trade agreements. Each trade agreement that the United States considers entering into with our trading partners needs to be examined carefully on the merits of the agreement. While I have concerns with DR-CAFTA, I believe the potential benefits of the agreement outweigh its potential deficiencies. For that reason, I plan to vote in favor of DR-CAFTA.

Mr. Speaker, twenty years ago several of the DR-CAFTA countries, each of which has its own unique history and culture, were mired in civil war and suffering from deplorable human rights abuses. The region has come a long way over the last two decades, but there is more work to be done. By passing DR-CAFTA, we have an opportunity to help the region in its progress toward greater freedom and economic prosperity. As former President Jimmy Carter wrote in expressing his strong support for DR-CAFTA: “For the first time ever, we have a chance to reinforce democracies in the region. This is the moment to move forward and to help those leaders that want to modernize and humanize their countries. Moreover, strong economies in the region are the best antidote to illegal immigration from the region.”

DR-CAFTA has the potential to create jobs in the region, raise standards of living for the citizens in the DR-CAFTA countries, and further stabilize what has been an unstable region. Defeat of this trade agreement will have devastating consequences for the region, which will likely lose textile and apparel jobs to countries with lower wages and weaker worker protections. Turning our backs on the DR-CAFTA countries is counterproductive, both for the Central American region and for America, while engagement holds the promise of future benefits in our hemisphere.