

recent reporting date (May 31), of \$300,490 contributed to support Prop. 200, only \$490 came from in state. The remaining \$300,000 came from out of state, \$200,000 of it from the Drug Policy Foundation—a pet charity of George Soros—and the other \$100,000 came directly from Soros himself.” (Joseph A. Califano Jr., “Pro-Drug Campaigns’ Hidden Agenda,” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, December 22, 1996)

Soros Helped Finance a Pro-Marijuana Children’s Book. “Dr. Robert Newman, served on the Board of Directors for the Drug Policy Foundation as early as 1997, and presently serves on the board of directors with another minority witness, Rev. Edwin Sanders, of the Drug Policy Alliance (the new name of the Drug Policy Foundation since its merger with the aforementioned Lindesmith Center). The Drug Policy Alliance describes itself as “the nation’s leading organization working to end the war on drugs.” Along with its major donor George Soros, it helped produce *It’s Just a Plant*, a pro-marijuana children’s book. I will be very interested in learning from the witnesses today what they believe U.S. Government policy should be with respect to financing heroin distribution, safe-injection facilities, and how-to manuals like *H Is For Heroin*, published by the Harm Reduction Coalition, and children’s books on smoking marijuana, produced with the help of the organization run by two of the minority’s witnesses today.” (Mark Souder, opening statement, “Harm Reduction or Harm Maintenance: Is There Such a Thing as Safe Drug Abuse?”, hearing before the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources, February 16, 2005, <http://www.dpna.org/resources/current/02-16-5c.htm>; <http://www.justaplant.com>)

Soros and Two Friends give \$450,000 to “take apart [California’s] criminal justice system one step at a time.” “International financier George Soros and two other wealthy donors have contributed a total of \$450,000 for a November ballot measure that would alter California’s tough three strikes sentencing law . . . The donation marks the third time that this trio has backed criminal justice measures in California. In 1996, the three gave money to pass Proposition 215, which sought to legalize marijuana for medical uses. In 2000, they supported the successful Proposition 36, which diverts drug offenders from prison to treatment.” (Bill Ainsworth, “\$450,000 to help try to weaken law,” *San Diego Union-Tribune*, September 14, 2004.)

Soros Effort To Infiltrate the U.S. Conservative Movement. “The scheduled Friday CPAC event on “A Conservative Drug Policy” was to feature a mini-debate between Ethan Nadelmann of the Marijuana Policy Project (MPP). The Soros Open Society Institute has given the DPA millions of dollars, including \$2.5 million in 2004 alone. MPP has been funded by Soros as well as Peter Lewis, chairman of the Progressive Corporation, who was arrested in New Zealand several years ago after customs officers found marijuana in his luggage. Lewis, who gave \$340,000 to MPP in 2004, is also a major funder of the ACLU.” (Mark Souder, Congressional Record, insertion in the record of article by Cliff Kincaid, February 8, 2006, <http://reform.house.gov/CJDPHR/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=39349>)

Soros Support of Lynne Stewart, Lawyer to Terrorists. “George Soros funds many controversial projects, some extreme projects. One quick example is the \$20,000 that went from his Open Society Institute to the Lynne Stewart Legal Committee. Lynne

Stewart was the attorney who represented the blind sheik who was involved in the first bombing of the World Trade Centers and was later convicted for aiding and abetting his activities while in prison.” (Peter Flaherty of the National Legal and Policy Center, O’Reilly Factor, May 20, 2005, relying on Open Society Institute IRS Form 990 filings. Byron York, “Soros Funded Stewart Defense,” *National Review*, February 17, 2005.)

Soros Attacks “War on Terror,” Compares Bush Administration to Nazis. Soros told an audience at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, “We are working with a very false frame when we talk about a ‘war on terror,’ and yet it is universally accepted.” He added, “President Bush is exploiting it even further ahead of these elections . . . I would voice my concerns about the similarities between this administration and the Nazis and communist regimes.” (Monisha Bansal, “Soros Slams Terror ‘War,’ Compares White House to Nazis,” *CNSNews.com*, September 15, 2006.)

Soros To Encourage a U.S./Europe Split. “Soros, the Hungarian-American financier who has historically invested his billions in encouraging democracy in eastern block countries, is turning his attention to Western Europe because he thinks the EU is failing. Soros is to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in foundations, the first of which will be either in London or Paris.” Soros: “The practical message for Europeans is that the world really needs a strong European Union with a mission which is different to America’s priorities.” (Rupert Stein, “Soros lays foundations to restore EU purpose,” *The Scotsman*, July 15, 2006.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE ENDANGERED SALMON PREDATION PREVENTION ACT

#### HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 28, 2006*

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that provides an expedited process for the States of Washington and Oregon and the four Columbia River treaty tribes to manage aggressive California sea lion predation of endangered salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River. This bill is the result of months of collaboration with my colleague from Washington, Mr. BAIRD, and I thank him and his staff for their diligent efforts in working with me to develop this legislation.

The Columbia River is the heart of our region, and runs right through my district in Central Washington state. This river is critical for power production, irrigation, transportation, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat. This river is renowned for its salmon, which are an important part of the regional economy and way of life, and of great cultural significance to the Native American people of the Pacific Northwest. Unfortunately, at this time, we have a number of salmon and steelhead runs that are listed as threatened and endangered under the Endangered Species Act in our region. Many of these are in the Columbia River and its tributaries.

Our region is working diligently to restore healthy salmon runs, and we have made great progress over the last 10 years. We have invested hundreds of millions of dollars each year in direct spending in support of salmon

recovery. I have long argued that we must take a balanced approach to salmon recovery that recognizes the many factors that influence their life cycle. This includes the so-called “four Hs”—hydropower, hatcheries, harvest, and habitat—as well as things like ocean conditions and the high level of predation by certain birds and marine mammals. This legislation is about addressing the latter problem.

We have witnessed dramatic increases in the number of California sea lions over the past few decades. In fact, their numbers have grown six-fold to nearly 300,000 coast wide. While these animals have always been present in and around the Columbia River, we have seen them appear in growing numbers in recent years—especially during the peak of the spring salmon run. A few years ago, just a few sea lions were witnessed in the tailrace below Bonneville dam, where the salmon tend to gather before entering the fish ladders. Now, it is becoming the norm to see nearly 100 of them. Recent estimates by the Army Corps of Engineers indicate that California sea lions are responsible for eating more than three percent of the run as observed at Bonneville dam. This does not include the numbers of salmon eaten elsewhere in the lower Columbia River by sea lions.

Despite efforts by federal, state, and tribal officials to discourage the sea lion predation through aggressive nonlethal hazing, the sea lions appear to be becoming more brazen with each passing year. It is clear that lethal removal of some of the worst actors is necessary to deter this sea lion behavior and to help recoup more of our substantial investment in salmon recovery.

Similar conflicts between protected marine mammals and ESA-listed fish have occurred in the Northwest before. In fact, the Marine Mammal Protection Act was amended in 1994 to address the problem of California sea lions eating returning winter steelhead at the Ballard Locks in Seattle. The process established by that amendment allows states to apply to the Commerce Department for legal authority to remove marine mammals under certain conditions. However, in practice, the application process takes 3 to 5 years to come to a conclusion.

The Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act, which I am introducing today, would provide expedited authority for states and tribes to manage the sea lion problem while the states concurrently apply for longer-term authority through the established process. There are numerous protections in this proposal to ensure that only a limited number of sea lions are removed. In addition, the permit holders would have to determine that the sea lion in question has preyed upon salmon stocks and has not been responsive to non-lethal hazing methods. The proposal calls upon the Commerce Secretary to report to Congress on the need for amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act to address conflicts between protected marine mammals and fish species that are listed under the Endangered Species Act.

In addition to Mr. BAIRD, I am pleased to be joined today upon introduction by Mr. WALDEN and Mr. DICKS. This proposal is a measured, common-sense response to the very real problem of increasing California sea lion predation of threatened and endangered salmon, and I hope my colleagues will allow us the opportunity to move this legislation expeditiously before the end of the 109th Congress.

IN HONOR OF MIKE HURST

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 28, 2006*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, as we near the end of this session of Congress, I see the end of the loyal service of my legislative director and counsel, Mike Hurst. He leaves my office in October to become an Assistant United States Attorney in Mississippi. Today I make these remarks to honor Mike's service and to recognize the challenges we faced together as he now embarks on this new opportunity.

It was August 2003 when Mike Hurst first joined my team. After graduating from Newton County Academy as the valedictorian in 1993, he attended East Central Community College on a basketball scholarship where he earned an Associates of Arts degree. He was the student body association president and "Mr. ECCC." He went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science at Millsaps College in 1997 here he was recognized for his academic achievements and earned a law degree from George Washington University Law School in 2000. After working in the private sector for a few years at Troutman Sanders, Mike turned to public service as majority staff counsel for the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on the Constitution.

Mike joined my staff as legislative director and counsel and led my staff and committee work on telecommunications, transportation, and energy issues including the House-passed Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act of 2006 and Mississippi specific language in the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act of 2004. He served as my representative on the conference committees for the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. Following Hurricane Katrina, he assisted me in drafting and passing into law—in less than a month—the Local Community Recovery Act of 2006. He also played an integral part in drafting the Housing Opportunities and Mitigating Emergencies Act of 2005, which served as the model for Mississippi's post-Katrina housing initiative implemented through community development block grants.

Mike is a son of Newton County who grew up in what we affectionately call Hurstville, a "suburb" of the town of Hickory, population 512. His father Mike operates Mike Hurst Trucking and his mother Lucy is an assistant district engineer for the Mississippi Department of Transportation. I know they, along with his sister Aime'e Hurst Lang, are proud of Mike.

Now Mike, his wife Celeste and their children Anna Reagan, Amelia, Asa with another on the way, have returned home to Mississippi. Our office will miss his experience, knowledge, and skills, but Mississippi and our Nation will continue to benefit from his service as an assistant United States attorney.

Mike Hurst leaves a formative mark on the shape and operation of my office. We will miss his good nature, humor, and dedication to his work. But I thank him for his service to this office and to Mississippi.

HONORING THE SAFETY RECORD OF THE UTILITIES DISTRICT OF WESTERN INDIANA REMC

**HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 28, 2006*

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Utilities District of Western Indiana Rural Electric Membership Corporation (REMC) for its remarkable safety record, specifically working more than 750,000 hours without a lost-time accident.

Since its incorporation some seventy years ago, UDWI REMC has focused on its core mission of providing reliable and affordable power to its member consumers. The electric cooperative was formed to serve southwestern Indiana residents in 1936 when most of our nation's rural homes and farms were without the benefits of electric power.

Today, UDWI REMC delivers power, services and energy solutions to nearly 19,000 homes, businesses and farms in Indiana's Greene, Clay, Daviess, Knox, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Owen, Putnam, Sullivan and Vigo counties. Through its efforts, the Bloomfield-based cooperative has improved the quality of life for thousands of Hoosiers.

Ensuring reliable electric distribution is a vital job that requires dedication, skill and safe work practices. Electricity provides light, heat, cooling, and comfort, and power for labor-saving conveniences and electronics along with life-saving benefits. Yet electricity demands proper respects and attention. UDWI REMC's 49 employees have demonstrated their commitment to safe work practices by compiling an exceptional safety record, working from February 24, 1998 to August 10, 2006 without a lost-time accident.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the efforts and cooperation as demonstrated by UDWI REMC that our country's rural communities enjoy the benefits of clean, safe electricity. We take great pride in commending UDWI REMC General Manager Roger Davis, the cooperative's employees, and Board of Directors on a job done well—and safely—for the past 8 years. Thanks to these men and women, and others like them, the future is bright in southwestern Indiana.

**DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAMAR S. SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 25, 2006*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I strongly support the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. This bill demonstrates the strong bipartisan commitment of Congress to address to the terrible crisis in Sudan.

Day after day, month after month, we have watched the situation in Darfur deteriorate before our eyes. The genocide occurring there is a clear example and tragic reminder that atrocities still exist in the world today.

This bill sends a clear message that the United States and the entire global community must do more to intervene in this catastrophe.

It will expand our ability to support peace-keeping operations in the region and will hold accountable those responsible for committing atrocities.

I recognize that this bill alone will not stop the violence in Darfur. However, it is a step, and an important step. I am hopeful that this will signal the beginning of our increased engagement with this issue.

**THE U.S.-OMAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (H.R. 5684)****HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement, which perpetuates the flawed CAFTA model by sacrificing worker rights and environmental standards for the sake of greater profits for the elite.

American policies should promote global trade that is both fair and free. Trade agreements that meet this standard improve the quality of life for American families by expanding export markets for our products while also providing economic opportunity, human dignity and political stability for workers around the world.

Unfortunately, the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement is another step towards a lowest-common-denominator global economy where sinking labor and environmental standards undermine American competitiveness and global security. The intellectual property provisions of the agreement will hinder the spread of lower priced generic drugs, which could improve public health and stabilize populations in Oman. The agreement's only enforceable labor protection is a requirement that Oman enforce its own labor laws, even though the country's laws fail to comply with basic international labor standards in ten specific areas. Rather than requiring improvements in Oman's labor law, H.R. 5684, accepts unenforceable promises from Oman's government. Even the most basic labor safeguards in this agreement have been crippled: the Bush Administration subverted the will of Congress and stripped out a provision inserted by the Senate Finance Committee stipulating that goods made in Oman with forced labor may not benefit from the trade agreement.

Global trade is the keystone of America's economic success. Expanding trade promotes economic growth in our country and the quest for higher living standards and opportunity abroad. And, as with foreign policy, America's trade policy is an expression of our values and a tool to advance our global vision. Unfortunately, this Oman Free Trade Agreement contradicts America's much-touted commitment to foster global democracy and freedom. If America is to find success in our efforts to spread democracy, serious commitments to the conditions that support democracy: economic stability, environmental sustainability and human dignity. To secure economic prosperity at home and human rights around the world, we in Congress do better than H.R. 5684.