

conflict. The women from Santa Cruz County will be joining women from 40 other countries.

Created in 2004, the "Follow The Women" annual bicycle ride is the brainchild of 2001 European Woman of the Year and Nobel Peace Prize Nominee Detta Regan. In April 2004, she gathered together 270 women from all over the world, including the United States, Palestine, Britain and Iraq, to bike across Lebanon, Syria and Jordan to campaign for peace and an end to violence in the region. Traditionally throughout the Middle East, women do not ride bicycles making the "Follow the Women—Pedal for Peace" ride extraordinary. It brings much attention to the worthy cause of promoting good relations between different cultures and ethnicities.

"Follow the Women" has held several different events in addition to the annual bike ride. In 2007, they distributed medical kits in Gaza throughout the conflict. That year, they also held a youth exchange to explore and share the experiences between different cultures. The participants gained a better understanding of themselves and others.

"Follow the Women" has also helped fund a counseling project in Ramallah. The aim of this project was to offer support to children and their families who were suffering following the conflict in the Middle East. This year, "Follow the Women—Pedal for Peace" hopes to raise enough funds to build a playground or possibly two for the children of Gaza.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Follow the Women and especially wish to recognize the riders from Santa Cruz. I wish them much luck in their annual bike ride.

REMEMBERING JACK ALLEN STONE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jack Allen Stone. Sadly, Jack passed away on July 28, 2009 in Bay City, Michigan. I have known Jack since the early 1960s and will deeply miss him.

Jack Stone moved to Michigan from Missouri in 1930. He was the Class President at Beecher High School when he graduated in 1944 and this began his dual interests in education and politics. He joined the U.S. Army and served as a Corporal E4 during the Korean War. Returning to Flint, Jack worked for Chevrolet and became a committeeman for the UAW. During this time he married, had three daughters and attended the University of Michigan-Flint. He graduated with a B.A. degree in 1961 and began teaching that same year.

Teaching US Government and Michigan History at Grand Blanc High School for 27 years, Jack was a moving force in starting the Grand Blanc chapter of the National Honor Society. During this time he also was active with negotiating teacher contracts. He negotiated the first teacher contract with Grand Blanc Schools and played a major role in negotiating contracts for many years. He was an advisor for MEA PAC and sat on the interview board for school board candidates. Active in the Genesee County Democratic Party, Jack worked on my first campaign and successive

campaigns. He also helped elect Senator Don Reigle and State of Michigan Speaker of the House Bobby Crim.

After retiring in 1988, Jack moved to Gladwin, Michigan and built his dream home on Sugar Springs Lake. He is survived by his wife Joan, and his daughters: Janine Wallace, Rebecca Tereau and Leslie Stone.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of a dear friend, Jack Allen Stone. Over the years I have respected his wisdom, enjoyed his friendship, heeded his advice and I am saddened by his passing.

RESOLUTION TO HONOR OUR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution supporting October 2009 as National Principals Month. This designation will honor and recognize the critical role that school principals play in the lives of our students.

One of the principle reasons behind a school's success is often a strong principal.

Elementary, middle and high school principals consistently provide the vision, dedication, and mobilizing force behind successful schools.

Principals set the academic tone for their schools and work collaboratively with teachers to develop performance goals and objectives, all in an effort to improve student achievement.

Today's principals are expected to fill a variety of roles, each complex in its own right.

On any given day, they are likely to be everything from educational visionary, to community builder, to budget analyst, to facility manager, to counselor.

This means that principals often work long hours. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that one in three principals works more than 40 hours per week and often works additional time supervising school activities at night and on weekends.

During my time on the San Diego School Board, I worked with many of these remarkable individuals. I witnessed how their commitment and energy can inspire an entire school—from the youngest student to the most senior teacher.

In the end, it is principals who are responsible for creating and managing the environment where our students learn and grow.

This month, let's honor this important role, which they dedicate themselves to year-round.

I am pleased to introduce this bipartisan resolution with my colleague from the Education and Labor Committee, Congressman TODD PLATTS.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "WATER TRANSFER FACILITATION ACT OF 2009"

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, today with Congressman COSTA, I introduced the "Water

Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009." the measure should reduce unnecessary delays in water transfers at a time when Central Valley farmers have been hard hit by a three-year drought. It would allow new water transfers of roughly 250,000 to 300,000 acre-feet of water per year. The bill would grant authority to the Bureau of Reclamation to approve voluntary water transfers between sellers and buyers in the San Joaquin Valley. The measure also would streamline environmental reviews for Central Valley water transfers by ensuring that they occur on a programmatic basis, instead of the current project-by-project basis.

Transferring water between and within counties for water districts is a critical tool during periods of drought. While the best solution would be to fully operate the federal and state pumps, this change in the law provides us some relief. This legislation makes permanent the ability to transfer water to our Valley's farms when it is most needed, therefore, allowing our farmers a lifeline to continue to grow crops and help our local economy. More will need to be done to protect the Valley's water, and I will continue that fight.

The bill is supported by a great number of water users across the Central Valley, including the following: Friant Water Users Authority, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Authority, Delta-Mendota Canal Authority, Westlands Water District, Metropolitan Water District, Glen Colusa Irrigation District, Northern California Water Association, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, Association of California Water Agencies, Placer County Water Agency, Conaway Preservation Group, and the Reclamation District 2035.

I have submitted several of these support letters here for the record, and I understand that Mr. COSTA will submit additional letters as well.

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
WATER AGENCIES,
October 6, 2009.

Re ACWA support for Water Transfer Legislation.

Representative CARDOZA,
*Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

Representative COSTA,
*Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES CARDOZA AND COSTA: Thank you for introducing water transfer legislation for the Central Valley Project (CVP) which ACWA is pleased to support. As California's water supply challenges multiply, this legislation can provide greater flexibility for management of CVP water supplies. As you know, ACWA's 450 public agency members are collectively responsible for 90 percent of the water delivered in California for residential and agricultural uses.

California's water supply situation is dire and worsening. Three years of below average precipitation along with heavy regulatory restrictions through the ESA and Biological Opinions, have seriously diminished California's water supplies. Under these conditions, it is essential that short term actions, such as provided by your legislation to flexibly enable water supplies to move across the San Joaquin Valley, be pursued.

Again, thank you for introducing water transfer legislation. ACWA looks forward to working with you to secure its passage in an expedited manner.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY QUINN,
Executive Director.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
WATER ASSOCIATION,
Sacramento, CA, October 2, 2009.

Re Support for Water Transfer Legislation.

Hon. JIM COSTA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of the Northern California Water Association (NCWA), we thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a permanent long-term program to promote and manage water transfers in the Central Valley of California. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater flexibility in the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) and other water supplies to help meet unmet needs critical to the future of the State of California.

As you are aware, the devastating impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of three years of below average precipitation have been made even greater by the various regulatory restrictions, including the requirements established by the recent federal biological opinions for endangered fish under the ESA. Your legislation will provide immediate, much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP.

NCWA was formed in 1992 to present a unified voice working to resolve California's water issues and protect the water rights and supplies of the diverse Northern California region, now and into the future. NCWA represents 54 agricultural water districts and agencies, private water companies, and individual water rights holders with rights and entitlements to the surface waters and groundwater resources of the Sacramento Valley. Many of our members can and will actively participate in this water transfer program. The language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to implement the necessary long-term environmental processes addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake will be imperative to its usefulness and success.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

DONN ZEA,
President and CEO.

TEHAMA-COLUSA CANAL AUTHORITY,
Willows, CA, October 5, 2009.

Re Support for Water Transfer Legislation.

Hon. JIM COSTA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA), we thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a programmatic program to promote and manage water transfers in California, including the Sacramento Valley. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater regulatory certainty for the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) water supplies for water users.

As you are aware, the TCCA is intimately aware of the impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of below average precipitation and regulatory requirements placed upon the CVP and its water users through the requirements established by the recent National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinions for endangered

salmon. Your legislation will provide much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP.

Many of our members have participated in water transfer programs in the past and would continue under this legislation in a more flexible manner. Also, the language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to implement the necessary long-term environmental processes addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake will be imperative to its usefulness and success.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY SUTTON,
General Manager.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,
Los Angeles, CA, October 5, 2009.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is pleased to support the legislation you are introducing related to water transfers for the Central Valley Project (CVP). This legislation will help provide good water management while providing flexibility for CVP customers.

As a regional wholesale water provider, Metropolitan provides water for nearly 19 million people throughout our six-county service area in Southern California. As Metropolitan and the entire state continue to address water supply challenges throughout California, the vitality of our economy and environment has been seriously affected. Your proposed legislation will help address these critically important issues.

Please let me know if we can be helpful in any way.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY KIGHTLINGER,
General Manager.

GOVERNOR OF UTAH EXPRESSES CONCERNS WITH UNFUNDED MANDATES IN HEALTH REFORM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns regarding health reform proposals which would create unfunded state mandates. Legislation currently before the House would dramatically expand the Medicaid program and place over \$35 billion in new liabilities on state budgets over the next ten years. In addition, these proposals would expand the federal government's role in administering Medicaid, which would severely handcuff states' ability to run their own programs and preempt state authority to manage Medicaid eligibility and benefits.

Over the last several weeks, governors have expressed concerns over these proposals. I would like to submit for the RECORD the following letter from the governor of Utah:

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009.

DEAR SENATOR BENNETT, as Governor of the State of Utah, I am aware of the critical

importance of health system reform in our country. However, I believe the best place for innovation and policy change is in the individual states, as we have a greater understanding of the specific needs of our citizens. This effort is already underway in Utah, with great success. I am worried, however, that the direction of the current language of federal health system reform bills will preclude state-directed reform and place a detrimental burden on states' budgets. Therefore, I am contacting you in order to forge a partnership to enact reform that will benefit not only the citizens of Utah, but will benefit everyone throughout our great country.

In Utah, we have a good system of public medical programs that provide for our neediest population. However, the weight of the current programs strains our state budget. So far, we have managed to fully fund the existing programs, although it becomes more challenging each year. The extension of Medicaid to additional populations, as discussed in proposed federal healthcare legislation, will amount to an unfunded mandate that would create financial havoc for our state.

While I understand the idea that everyone must "share in the pain," and appreciate the Administration's commitment to reforming healthcare without increasing the size of the federal deficit, to force Medicaid cost increases onto states will simply shift massive cost increases to the states. As I am sure you know, Utah, like most other states, is suffering from the negative impacts of a nationwide recession. As we prepare the state's fiscal year 2011 budget, we face continued cuts to agency budgets and reduced government services on top of painful reductions made last year. The unfunded mandate of a forced Medicaid expansion will only exacerbate an already dire situation. If required to increase our Medicaid program as envisioned in Washington, Utah, and most every other state, will be forced to find the money to do so through other means. This will require states to either raise taxes or continue to cut budgets in areas currently suffering from a lack of funding, such as public and higher education. We must work together to ensure that no new requirements for states to fund health care for additional populations pass.

This does not mean, however, that the State is ignoring or has forgotten about middle-income uninsured families in Utah. Quite the contrary, the aggressive health system reform being pursued in Utah is designed to address the healthcare needs of those families in a manner that does not shift additional burden to the State.

As mentioned above, Utah has made remarkable progress toward health system reform. One of the cornerstones of our State's efforts is the introduction of a defined contribution health benefit system and implementation of the Utah Health Exchange, which provides the technology to make that market work. This new market approach is proving to be very popular. In fact, in just nine days, following the official launch of the Utah Health Exchange, 136 of Utah's small businesses signed up to contribute to health care coverage for their employees, representing approximately 7,000 covered lives.

It is essential that federal legislation not derail this promising effort to provide insurance in a new way to Utah's small business employees, who are the backbone of our economy. When fully implemented, the Exchange will help individuals and employees access the information they need to make informed choices about their health and health care, as well as their health insurance. This tool has a standardized application process and allows people to apply for a broad range of coverage electronically; which further increases access to affordable coverage.