buying more fuel efficient vehicles, or to prevent taxpayers from finding out about political contributions by defense contractors. For all of these reasons, I am voting against this bill.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2354) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Chair, I rise to strike the last word.

Mr. Chair, I rise today to object to the offset in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill that rescinds all unobligated funds for the High Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail program. This is funding that has been appropriated by Congress and awarded to worthy projects. Pulling it back now would break our commitment to our state partners, and cause costly delays for these job-creating infrastructure projects.

In opposing this bait-and-switch to high speed rail funding for our states, I am in no way discounting the need for emergency disaster relief for our friends in the South and Midwest who have survived catastrophic flooding and tornadoes this spring. Additionally, I've consistently been a champion of deficit reduction, believing firmly that we need to pay for what we spend.

However, I rise today to call attention to the absolute charade the majority is engaged in of requiring cuts to vital infrastructure investments to offset the cost of emergency spending. When this body appropriated funds for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, no other community was made to suffer. When this body appropriated funds for the victims of the California wildfires, no other community was made to suffer. When this body appropriated funds for the victims of the wildfires in Arizona, no other community was made to suffer. Yet, today, on the floor of this House, we are being asked to make a choice between one suffering community and another, for no reason at all.

Mr. Chair, I've come to the floor of this House numerous times explaining the dire economic situation facing my constituents. The foreclosure rate in my district is almost double the national average; three of the top ten cities in the country with the highest foreclosure rates are in my district. My district is home to three of the top ten communities with the highest unemployment in the nation. We have some of the highest poverty rates and lowest per capita income and educational levels in the nation. As if that weren't enough, the San Joaquin Valley also has some of the worst air quality in the nation. In a nutshell, there is no area in the United States that cries out for job-creating infrastructure investments more than my district.

Yet despite this incredible need, this bill proposes to eliminate $386 million dollars of funding for two rail infrastructure projects in my district, resulting in the elimination of over 10,000 direct jobs and an untold number that could be created by private economic development around the train stations. Further, recalling this funding would hobble a project that will ease traffic congestion and help to improve the air quality of my district. And this bill, for the first time, cuts funding for a regional and national priority in order to provide emergency relief. It is simply unconscionable to subjectively and maliciously force one community to suffer due to natural disaster somewhere else. It is simply unconscionable to make disaster relief for one region of the country come at the expense of a region that has been struggling for years due to the economic downturn. It is unconscionable and because of that, I urge my Colleagues to vote no on this bill.

THE WORLD WILL MISS KIP TIERNAN

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, an extraordinary woman died earlier this month and she is mourned by a vast number of her closest relatives—the poor, the people down on their luck, and the homeless. Kip Tiernan had a passion for helping those most in need of help that was coupled with an extraordinary understanding of how to get things done, even in the bleakest situations. She was inspired both by her own passion for battling the pain of her fellow human beings, and by Dorothy Day, another extraordinary woman who, like Kip Tiernan, translated her Catholic faith into a daily routine of charity to the best sense. Among those who worked closely with Kip on behalf of the homeless was my mother, Elsie, and I take great pride that these two women, both now passed away, admired each other strongly, and each often told of their great respect for each other.

Mr. Speaker, on the Fourth of July the Boston Globe ran an article by Bryan Marquard that did a first-rate job of telling those who did not know Kip Tiernan about her, and giving those of us who did know her and benefitted from the warmth that she radiated for humanity, a chance to remember the best of times.

Mr. Speaker, in the hopes that Kip Tiernan's life will inspire others the way she herself was inspired by Dorothy Day, I ask that Mr. Marquard's eloquent obituary of this great woman be printed here.

[From the Boston Globe, July 4, 2011]

(By Bryan Marquard)

Kip Tiernan, who founded Rosie's Place, the nation's first shelter for homeless women, and whose persistent, raspy voice echoed from the streets to the State House as she advocated for the poor, died of cancer Saturday in her South End apartment.

She was 85.

Usually clad in a canvas hat and work pants, a cross and a skate key dangling from a leather strap around her neck, Ms. Tiernan helped create an A-to-Z of agencies that assist the disadvantaged in Massachusetts. By example, she also inspired so many people to try to ease suffering that, directly or indirectly, she may have touched more lives of the poor in the Commonwealth than anyone else in the past four decades.

''Every day of her life she lived for social justice, and the lives she saved were untold,'' Mayor Thomas M. Menino said. ''She always said that someday we will stamp out homelessness, but until that day we have to make sure everyone understands that a homeless person could be one of us. She was a very special person, and there's a big hole in our lives today because Kip's not here. This nation is going to miss Kip Tiernan because of her fight for social justice.''

Along with Fran Froehlich, her partner in advocacy for more than 35 years, Ms. Tiernan founded, helped found, or was a founding member of a number of agencies and panels, including Boston Health Care for the Homeless, Boston Food Bank, Community Works, Aid to Incarcerated Mothers, Finex House, Food for Free, John Leary House, My Sister's Place, Transition House, the Greater Boston Union of the Homeless, and Boston's Emergency Shelter Commission.

The range of suffering was such that ''sometimes you think there aren't any tears left,'' Ms. Tiernan told the Globe in 1988, ''and you find yourself sobbing.''

Strong words were her response more often than tears, however. Drawn by faith to her calling, she brought unconditional love to each encounter with the homeless, and she didn't hesitate to criticize the powerful if they backed what she believed were unfair policies or tried to slide by with words of pity.

The cross she wore was more than a symbol.

''A rooted woman, Kip always wears that cross,'' Globe op-ed columnist James Carroll wrote in 1996, ''which marks her not for piety or for a religion of easy answers, but for being, in her words, 'an angry daughter of Christ. . . . I find that the cross of Jesus is the radical condemnation of an unjust world. You have to stay with the one crucified or stand with the crucifiers.' ''

Sue Marsh, executive director of Rosie's Place, said in a statement the she was ''so sorry to be saying goodbye to a good friend of mine. . . . She has been the fiery, feisty, and beloved touchstone for the mission and vision of Rosie's Place, a compassionate friend to every woman in need.''

On behalf of housing, health care, and an array of social justice issues, Ms. Tiernan lobbied, fasted, marched in protest, and was arrested during sit-ins at government offices. In November 1990, she began a fast in Arlington Street Church and explained why in an op-ed essay for the Globe.

''We should atone for what we have allowed to happen to all poor people in this state, in the name of fiscal austerity or plain mean-spiritedness. . . . We have, as citizens, much to repent for, for what we have and have not done, to ease the suffering of our sisters and brothers who have no lobby to protect them.''

Before founding Rosie's Place in 1974, Ms. Tiernan traveled to meet with legendary Catholic activist Dorothy Day, from whose life she drew inspiration and spiritual sustenance for the decades that lay ahead.

Beth Healy, a Globe reporter who is writing a biography of Ms. Tiernan, said: ''She had this soft spot in her heart for broken people, whether they were sick or mentally ill or struggling with addiction. Kip would hug a person dying of AIDS back in the 1980s when everyone else was running away. She would talk to someone living on the streets that no one else would talk to.''

Ms. Tiernan, Froehlich said, combined compassion with ''a pragmatic approach to solving issues, like: Hungry? Food. Homeless? Housing. And she challenged people with that clarity.''