

federal dollars to provide lasting impact on areas of the country that need it most.

Mr. Speaker, again I thank the members and alumni of the AmeriCorps Program for their tremendous service to our country. This twenty years marks a successful milestone for the program, and I look forward to seeing the accomplishments of the AmeriCorps Program over the next twenty years.

RECOGNIZING WEST WARWICK'S
CENTENNIAL

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize the 100th anniversary of West Warwick's incorporation on September 23, 1913. Although it is the youngest of Rhode Island's municipalities, it has a rich and vibrant history, and it has played a great role in shaping our state.

While we are celebrating West Warwick's 100th birthday this year, 2013 is also the 340th anniversary of its settlement. In 1673, Warwick divided among five families a parcel of land around what is today the village of Natick and opened it for settlement. The new residents quickly discovered that, in addition to rich stocks of timber, fish, and farmland found in West Warwick, the area also boasted enormous potential in its waterways. Within the town's eventual boundaries, the branches of the Pawtuxet River enter at an elevation of 150 feet before joining up and dropping to a mere fifty feet above sea level on the eastern border. This natural resource, combined with a good dose of Rhode Island ingenuity, was to prove vital to the growth of the community.

As early as 1737, the force of the river was harnessed in the form of a saw and flour mill. The citizens of West Warwick remained mostly subsistence farmers, however, until the community's first textile mill opened in 1794. Following closely on the heels of Samuel Slater's famous mill in Pawtucket, the Centerville Mill would usher in enormous changes in the town. By 1810, five of the seven largest mills in the state were located in West Warwick.

This rapid industrialization fundamentally altered the way of life in town. Rather than living on relatively isolated farmsteads, mill workers moved into factory housing near their workplaces. This swiftly increasing population density led to a greater demand for services, and soon, taverns, shops, churches and schools were springing up around these factory hubs. In fact, all of the villages that make up West Warwick—Natick, Centerville, Arctic, Clyde, Riverpoint, Wescott, Phenix, and Crompton—grew up around a mill of some sort.

In post-war West Warwick, the industrial base, until then rapidly expanding, exploded. Driven first by the Civil War and then by the vastly improved transportation infrastructure that permeated the state, West Warwick's textile production increased by orders of magnitude. Commercial developments sprang up to serve the thousands of factory workers, and cultural and civic institutions were strengthened. A housing expansion tied to the mills' desire for labor also served to bring the villages together as the fields and forests separating them were given over to homes.

By the late nineteenth century, the citizens of West Warwick were clamoring for better representation. Their political views diverged significantly from the more agrarian and coastal residents of Warwick proper; in fact, they were so divergent that the Republican-controlled General Assembly refused to consider any split of the municipality for fear that Democrats would gain power. In 1912, however, the town held a referendum through which division passed, and the General Assembly granted the town its charter in 1913.

The century since has seen both dramatic change and stability. The change centered on the collapse of the Rhode Island textile industry beginning in the 1920s. As textile jobs moved south, the town struggled to adapt to new economic realities. And yet, despite this traumatic shock, citizens of West Warwick retain the same industriousness they displayed 340 years ago, a spirit that will continue to lead them to future success.

As we celebrate that spirit this year, I must acknowledge and thank the fine work of the West Warwick Centennial Committee. Led by its President, Council Member Edward A. Giroux, the Committee has developed a wonderful program to celebrate the town's religious, industrial and cultural development.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the people of West Warwick as my constituents, and I am honored to join them in celebrating the town's 100th birthday.

RESTORING HEALTHY FORESTS
FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1526) to restore employment and educational opportunity improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land, while also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from National Forest System land, to provide a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 1526, the Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act. Counties in my district in Oregon and across the state have long faced revenue shortfalls because of declining timber receipts, and the extended economic downturn of the last few years dealt another blow. Sequestration has further reduced the availability of federal funds, and for many counties their financial problems are even more acute.

There is no question that federal policy governing the management of the O&C lands must change. Current policy results in consistently low revenue from timber receipts, harming already cash-strapped counties. The failure to allow for fuel reduction that can prevent wildfires is threatening other forestland and the safety of our constituents and their families.

As I have said many times, we need a legislative solution that will help our counties put

their finances in order, protect vital natural resources and wildlife habitat, and mitigate the danger posed by wildfire. That solution, however, must be one that can pass both chambers and be signed into law; otherwise our efforts here in D.C. will not make a difference back at home.

H.R. 1526 does extend vitally important county payments through the Secure Rural Schools program by one year. It would lead to more active management of federal forestland in Oregon and it does include some vital environmental conservation provisions. But the overall proposal does not adequately balance economic and environmental priorities and has no chance of becoming law.

Some of my colleagues from Oregon have already put in long hours searching for a solution to this issue that our counties face, and I applaud Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. SCHRADER for their efforts to resolve this issue.

I look forward to continuing to work with my House and Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support a bill that will help our counties and, importantly, will become law. I hope that we can work together with haste to draft and enact broadly-supported legislation that will help our local and county officials back home.

HONORING THE IOWA VETERANS
WELCOME CENTER

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and celebrate the grand opening of the Iowa Veterans Welcome Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

In January 2013, three Vietnam veterans, Roger Wiest, Doug Adamson, and Richard Harvol, set out to establish the first independent veteran's social center in the Cedar Rapids area. Their vision was to create an environment for veterans of all ages to come together, share their experiences, and provide support for their brothers and sisters. These men contributed their own funds and resources to ensure that their idea came to fruition.

The center will provide a safe haven for men and women to interact with their fellow veterans through various activities. In addition, it creates a vital support system so necessary to combatting the various issues our brave veterans face every day. I applaud the efforts of these three men and the Iowa Veterans Welcome Center. They truly embody the notion that service to their fellow brothers and sisters in arms doesn't stop when the uniform comes off.

HONORING BAYPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 20, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the courageous volunteers of the