

hearing on statehood, which was the first congressional hearing held on statehood in more than 20 years. The House held its hearing on statehood in 1993, and obtained a record number of cosponsors in the House and Senate, including then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, as well as the other top three Democratic leaders in the Senate. In addition, President Obama endorsed D.C. statehood in a public forum before the statehood hearing was held.

Statehood is the only alternative for the citizens of the District of Columbia. To be content with less than statehood is to concede the equality of citizenship that is the birthright of our residents as citizens of the United States. That is a concession no American citizen has ever made, and one D.C. residents will not make as they approach the 216th year in their fight for equal treatment in their country. This bill reaffirms our determination to obtain each and every right enjoyed by citizens of the United States, by becoming the 51st State in the Union.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL SPECIES TRANSPARENCY AND RECOVERY ACT

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to rightly include state and local entities in federal decision-making and determinations that could potentially have profound impacts on states, municipalities, and local stakeholders. Federal agencies like the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) are currently not required to share the underlying data used in listing decisions made under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) with the states or local entities that would be impacted by such listing decisions. The State, Tribal, and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act will amend the ESA to simply require that federal agencies disclose all data used to promulgate a potential or final listing determination to the states affected by federal regulatory actions. Local entities deserve to have input on matters with potentially significant impacts on their communities. This bill is a simple, straightforward step to ensuring that input is offered and given due consideration.

The legislation gives local stakeholders the opportunity to verify, dispute, or complement the information federal agencies use in an ESA listings. Far too often, states' data and species recovery plans are effectively ignored by federal agencies, even after earnest and costly efforts have been made to develop comprehensive and effective plans at the state and local levels. Regardless of these efforts, there is currently no guarantee that federal agencies will consider these plans nor the often superior data developed by local entities. By providing states, tribes, and localities the data used to promulgate these proposed listings, an opportunity arises for local stakeholders to get involved, and have their voices heard.

Federal agencies too often overlook local conservation plans developed to ensure the protection of native species. These local efforts should not be disregarded. Local stakeholders deserve to have input in these federal decisions, and also deserve to know whether their hard work is taken into consideration long before the end result of a federal listing decision is made public.

By involving local entities and the firsthand information developed on the ground by the groups, stakeholders, and communities who know these matters best, federal decisions will be more transparent, accountable, and comprehensive. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the State, Tribal, and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act to support greater involvement and assurances for local entities in federal agency decision-making.

TRIBUTE TO CHASE YOUNG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Chase Young for being named a 2017 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Chase is the director of the Education Leadership Initiative at the United Way of Central Iowa. In this role, Chase interacts with the over 800 members who donate \$1,000 or more every year to support middle school students to succeed in the goal of graduating. He also helps facilitate the investment, special events, and volunteer and campaign committees. Chase also coached football at Des Moines North High School, helping to organize parents and the Johnston Rotary Club to serve a pasta dinner the day before every game. Chase is married with two children, and enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, and snow skiing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Chase in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Chase on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

IN RECOGNITION OF KAREN RUSSELL

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and thank an extraordinary leader, Karen Russell, for the incredible impact she has had on individuals, families and communities in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia.

Every Citizen Has Opportunities, Inc., or ECHO, for short, is dedicated to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve their optimal level of personal, social and economic success. ECHO accomplishes this by providing comprehensive vocational assessments, supported employment, extended employment services, medically fragile day support and training in work skills and socialization.

In 1975, ECHO opened its doors offering services to 8 adults and 41 years later, the non-profit's accomplishments are extraordinary. It has served more than 550 individuals and currently has contractual arrangements with 14 business partners at 17 work-sites. ECHO also has 30 community partners and 15 community volunteers.

One person whose extraordinary leadership was essential to ECHO's success was Marketing Manager, Karen Russell, who retired on December 1st, 2016, after nearly 40 years in that critically important role. A native of Lovettsville, in Loudoun County, Karen started as ECHO's Secretary, Bookkeeper and Transportation Manager in 1977.

Karen Russell's marketing success has been derived from her belief in the dignity and worth of every individual and her passionate appeal to prospective employers, on behalf of ECHO participants. Karen has taken great pride in the accomplishments of this skilled and reliable workforce of 140 persons with disabilities, as they fulfill their responsibilities to commercial and government customers every day. Her tireless efforts advocating for ECHO participants has resulted in a profound change in public perceptions. Society has come to realize that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are actively contributing members of the community who, when they are given a chance to work, have a profound impact on the effectiveness and morale of individual businesses and government agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing and thanking Karen Russell, the Marketing Manager at ECHO, for her tireless and passionate advocacy on behalf of those with disabilities and her exemplary leadership of an organization that has been highly successful in empowering them to overcome barriers to employment and in achieving their optimal levels of personal, social and economic success.