

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was absent from votes last week for personal reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 72; YEA on Roll Call No. 73; NAY on Roll Call No. 74; and YEA on Roll Call No. 75.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on May 17, 2018, had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll Call vote No. 198 and No. 199.

On May 18, 2018, had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll Call vote No. 203.

HONORING SAND IN MY SHOES
AWARD RECIPIENT TONY ARGIZ**HON. DONNA E. SHALALA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Tony Argiz, recipient of this year's prestigious Sand in My Shoes Award from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. Tony Argiz is an exemplary community leader and illustrates the "sand in my shoes" tenet of life that sets Miami apart as a fantastic place to live and work.

The Sand in My Shoes Award takes its name from a letter Damon Runyon wrote to his friend Bill, a Hollywood movie producer, detailing why he had opted to stay in South Florida rather than return to California to write a movie script. He wrote:

"The truth of the matter is, Bill, we've got sand in our shoes. It's pretty difficult to explain that to anyone who doesn't know what it means. It means a land covered with sunlight . . . warm and soft. It means white and pink houses, with red and blue and green roofs . . . It means palm trees whispering mysteriously and tall melaleucas nodding their plumed heads to every breeze. It means big fat porpoises playing in Biscayne Bay and gaunt pelicans patrolling the sky at dusk, and folks fishing from bridges all day. . . . It means Hialeah and stately avenues of giant palms and pink flamingo, black swan and wild duck. . . . Turquoise blue waters of the ocean lapping white beaches and always the sun shining down in kindly warmth. . . . It means Bimini where the big game fish lurk and the nearby Keys where the ghosts of bearded old buccaneers still guard their buried treasure. . . ."

Originally from Cuba, Tony Argiz came to the United States with Operation Pedro Pan. He lived at a Catholic boarding school in Tampa until his parents came over, five years

later. He credits his early years in Florida with giving him the hunger for education, for hard work, and for success. He later attended Florida International University on a baseball scholarship, an experience that taught him the value of teamwork.

Today, Tony is Chairman and CEO of Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLC, one of the top 40 accounting firms in the nation. In 1986, he was appointed to Florida's Board of Accountancy, which he later chaired. He has served on the American Institute of CPAs Nominations Committee and on the PCP Executive Committee and its Technical Issues Committee. He is also a leader among South Florida nonprofit organizations, as chairman of the Adrienne Arsht Center Foundation and of Facts About Cuban Exiles.

I am pleased to recognize the contributions of my friend Tony to the greater Miami area and to celebrate his extraordinary achievements as a community leader.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained at the time of the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 70; "yea" on Roll Call No. 72; "yea" on Roll Call No. 73; "yea" on Roll Call No. 74; and "yea" on Roll Call No. 75.

RECOGNIZING THE RACHEL CARSON
COUNCIL'S "CLEAR CUT"
REPORT**HON. JAMIE RASKIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the important work of the Rachel Carson Council (RCC), which is named after the visionary marine biologist, nature writer and environmentalist who was a proud resident of Silver Spring, Maryland.

Founded and based in Bethesda, the RCC pays tribute to Rachel Carson's imperishable legacy by linking environmental, health, and social policy solutions "with the goal of building a more just, sustainable, and peaceful future."

The RCC recently released a comprehensive report called "Clear Cut," examining wood pellet production and its adverse effects on the health and sustainability of our forests and communities. The report details the process by which Southeastern forests are being cut down, chopped up, and dehydrated before being shipped and burned as carbon-intense fuel.

According to the report, despite being touted as a "green" alternative to fossil fuels, the sourcing of wood pellets contributes to widespread deforestation and pollution throughout much of the American Southeast. In North Carolina alone, the largest producer of wood pellets, Enviva, clear cuts more than 50 acres of forest each day. Left standing, these forests would help control the climate, maintain the

biodiversity of our ecosystems, and filter our air and water.

Following this environmentally invasive sourcing process of clear-cutting, pellets are burned, producing Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NO), and carbon monoxide (CO₂), all of which pose serious health risks to human beings. Although the pollutants emitted by wood pellet mills are indiscriminately harmful to nearby inhabitants, the RCC report notes that wood pellet mills have been disproportionately constructed near poor communities of color, which are bearing the disproportionate burdens of deforestation, including poor air quality and increased flood risks.

Although the environmental drawbacks of wood pellet production are clear—wood pellet mills emit approximately 65-percent more CO₂ per megawatt hour than modern coal plants—the RCC argues that the industry has continued to mislead the public about the sustainability of this practice. Moreover, the RCC's report concludes that the expansion of the wood pellet industry is making it harder for us to maintain our environmental standards and address the global crisis of climate change.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to review the well-researched and well-documented "Clear Cut" report by visiting the RCC website at www.rachelcarsoncouncil.org. We must keep the profound concerns raised in this report in mind as we enact environmental, forestry, and energy policies and work to protect the public health and safety.

HONORING THE NATIONAL COURT
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION'S
COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING
WEEK**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the National Court Reporters Association's Court Reporting and Captioning Week.

The NCRA supports and promotes excellence among those who capture and convert spoken words to text. These skills provide a foundation of public transparency for our courts, government hearings, and even our very own House of Representatives.

Court Reporting and Captioning Week is a nationwide initiative. It brings awareness to the importance of the work that court reporters and captioners do. Without the records they provide, assuring accountability and oversight over government institutions would be impossible. For this reason, court reporters, captioners, and the NCRA stand as part of the foundation of our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I commend the NCRA for its work and the work of its members, and I congratulate the NCRA on celebrating Court Reporting and Captioning Week.