

FISCAL YEAR 2021 PROHIBITION ON
MINING IN THE RAINY RIVER
WATERSHED

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, last week the House Appropriations Committee passed the Fiscal Year 2021 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which I proudly authored as the Chair of the Subcommittee. This bill makes many critical investments in protecting our natural resources and contains several provisions designed to stop the Trump Administration from moving forward on disastrous environmental policies. Unfortunately, one of those provisions is being grossly mischaracterized by some of my colleagues across the aisle, and I claim this time to set the record straight.

I included language within the Interior Appropriations bill that prohibits funds from the bill, for the 2021 fiscal year only, from being spent on reviewing or approving a mine plan within the Rainy River Watershed in Minnesota's Superior National Forest.

First, let me be perfectly clear that this language does not impact the traditional taconite mining that takes place on Minnesota's Iron Range. Mines currently operating under an approved plan would not be affected by this language. Furthermore, there is no iron ore project with a mine plan under review within the entire Superior National Forest.

A search of the Federal Register and the Bureau of Land Management's National NEPA Register show that there is only one mine plan under review within the Rainy River Watershed: the Twin Metals sulfide-ore copper mine. This proposed mine would be on the doorstep of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA), putting our nation's most visited wilderness at risk of toxic acid mine drainage.

Anyone suggesting that taconite mining in the iron range is at risk because of this language is either misinformed or misleading their constituents. I crafted this language for one purpose: to stop the Trump Administration from rushing through a deeply flawed plan for a toxic sulfide-ore mine before they are voted out of office this November.

Second, I want to emphasize again that this prohibition is for a single year of funding. Some of my colleagues have suggested that this prohibition would stop all future mine operations. That is simply untrue and suggests a misunderstanding of the way that federal appropriations bills work.

This language protects the BWCA until we are able to work with a more trustworthy administration next year. Multiple Trump Cabinet Members pledged during Congressional hearings to complete the mineral withdrawal study in this watershed. Instead, they abandoned the environmental review after 20 months and have refused to release its results. So clearly, the Trump administration cannot be trusted to review the plans for a mine that could devastate the Boundary Waters wilderness.

Third, some of my colleagues have claimed that stopping this mine plan from moving forward is depriving America of critical mineral resources. I can only assume that those colleagues are unaware of the fact that none of the minerals extracted at the Twin Metals

mine will stay in the United States. Twin Metals is wholly owned by the foreign mining conglomerate Antofagasta, who will ship the copper they extract overseas. Earlier this month, in fact, Reuters reported that for the second year in a row Antofagasta has signed contracts to send the copper they mine to China. The Twin Metals mine will not support U.S. national security interests. The copper will be gone, and all Minnesota will be left with its millions of tons of waste rock and acid drainage.

Finally, I want to address the claim that I somehow tried to "sneak" this language into my bill. Nothing could be further from the truth. I proudly highlighted this provision in my statements during our subcommittee and full committee markup. I have also repeatedly and publicly informed the Trump Administration during hearings in the Appropriations Committee that their refusal to release the results of the taxpayer-funded study examining the environmental impacts of sulfide-ore copper mining in the Rainy River Watershed was unacceptable, and that any mining plans should not proceed until the study results were released.

If I am trying to be sneaky about this provision, I am doing a very poor job, Madam Speaker.

The people of Minnesota and America deserve a president and representatives that operate with transparency, respect science, and follow our environmental laws. I have done my best to uphold those values in crafting my legislation, and I look forward to working with a new Administration that shares those values and can be trusted with our natural resources.

CELEBRATING NELL LONG'S 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Nell Long on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Nell Hill was born in Alabama's Oak Grove community on July 12, 1920. Her family settled in Alabama long before that. Nell grew up during the Great Depression, so she possesses a toughness and tenacity that only true hardship can produce. Nell worked hard to help her family as a girl. She harvested cotton with her father and preserved food with her mother. Nell went on to finish high school, most notably, in the light of an oil lamp—electricity did not come to Oak Grove until 1935.

At nineteen, Nell married James Long and started a family. They had three beautiful children. As an active mother, Nell volunteered as a substitute teacher, a 4-H Club leader, in the PTA, and on local campaigns. She worked in her children's school lunchroom. She did all this in addition to helping James on their farm. Nell and James were committed to conservation in Madison County and the fruits of their labor can still be seen in our community today. In 1986, Nell was named Madison County Woman of the Year for dedicated service in the community and church.

After James' passing, Nell has remained active in the community. She is a member of the local Homemaker's Club, Hunt Springs Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolu-

tion (DAR), and of Owens Cross Roads Church of Christ. She has inspired scores with her dedication to improving the lives of others.

Madam Speaker, the Tennessee Valley is fortunate to have such an exemplary citizen for 100 years. Nell Long's unwavering hard work, strong family values, and unshakable faith embody the best of our community.

I wish Nell and her entire family the very best as they celebrate Nell's centennial birthday.

HONORING FRANCIE COMBS IOWAN
OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Mrs. Francine Combs for her decades of hard work in her community and her 100th birthday this month by naming her our Iowan of the Week.

Francine started working as a waitress when she was only 18. She worked at The Joy Ann, a restaurant on the northwest side of the square in Greenfield, Iowa whose local claim to fame was being the first eatery in town to have a juke box. From those first table at The Joy Ann, Francine's tenacity and dedication to her work and the community took off.

Over the course of her 65 years as a waitress; Francine worked at several other eateries—all the while raising four sons—John, Dan, David and Dennis—with her husband Frank.

Francine's son John Combs and his wife Phyllis recalled that, "Every restaurant there ever was in Greenfield, she was a waitress there." Diners and patrons in Greenfield came to know and love Francine as a staple of their community.

A significant portion of Francine's decades of waitressing were at the Maid-Rite Café—an Iowa community staple for nearly three generations and a venerated home to our famous loose meat sandwiches. In all her years, if Francine ever learned the secrets behind the Maid-Rite's incredible rendition of this classic Iowa sandwich, she still hasn't told.

In honoring Francine today, I want to underscore the values of hard work, attentiveness, and interpersonal skills that serving Iowa's hungry families teaches to everyone working in the hospitality industry. As a former waitress myself, I know how much I learned from the long hours on my feet and the diligent yet delicate work that is required of any food service professional—and I am so proud to recognize one who embodies that Iowa work ethic through decades of service to her thousands of patrons.

In 2004, Francine hung up her apron at the age of 84 for a well-earned retirement. And as she reaches another incredible milestone—100 years old this month—I can only imagine how she has seen the world change.

As we all know, the restaurant industry is evolving. From meal delivery services to contactless ordering through kiosks; some of the personal touches that Francine gave to her customers are becoming rarer. But it's my hope that as restaurants and other food services continue to weather this pandemic and

economic downturn, they can take Francine's story to heart and know that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. In her years serving Iowa, Francine saw the inauguration of ten new presidents, the moon landing, the birth of the microwave and the microchip, the end of a world war, and countless economic ups and downs. But through it all, Francine always turned to the next table with a smile.

It is my distinct honor to name Francine Combs as our Iowan of the Week, and wish her a very happy 100th birthday. Although we cannot celebrate in person with Francine this year, I hope everyone will celebrate her work this month by supporting your own local restaurant—and helping those who've dedicated their days to following in Francine's footsteps.

IN HONOR OF PRETRIAL, PROBATION AND PAROLE WEEK 2020

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

MS. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the nation's community corrections professionals and the vital role they play in enhancing public safety throughout the United States.

In honor of the invaluable contributions of these dedicated public servants, the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) and its associated members have designated the week of July 19–25, 2020, as "Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2020."

I thank the thousands of men and women who perform these important public safety duties, particularly during the coronavirus, and urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in support of APPA's week-long recognition efforts this year. We honor and commend the great courage and resolve community supervision officers have demonstrated this year. They have found new ways to remain connected with the men and women they supervise and continue guiding them in the interest of safety.

Thousands of women and men in the nation's capital and across the country serve as pretrial, probation and parole officers or administrators. As public servants, they, along with many other Americans, commit themselves on a daily basis to helping improve the lives of those involved in the criminal justice system. The work of these professionals ultimately results in stronger and safer communities for all.

In honor of Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2020, I take the opportunity to recognize those who carry out community corrections and supervision services, especially in the District of Columbia, including the officers and professionals of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA). CSOSA and the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA) are dedicated to reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety in the nation's capital. CSOSA and PSA are recognized as model community supervision entities because of their use of evidence-based practices and community partnerships.

Madam Speaker, again, I extend my gratitude to these public servants for their commitment, compassion and contributions to

healthier and safer communities throughout the United States. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing July 19–25, 2020, as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2020 to acknowledge the impact community corrections professionals have on the quality of life of all Americans throughout our country.

RABBI ISAAC FURMAN

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

MR. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Rabbi Isaac Furman.

Rabbi Isaac Furman was a pillar of the southern New Jersey Jewish community. Rabbi Furman was the Rabbi of Congregation Beth El in Voorhees, New Jersey and helped found the Beth El Academy in 1961, now known as the Kellman-Brown Academy.

An immigrant to this country, Rabbi Furman's family left Poland in 1939 after the German occupation. His family initially fled east to Siberia before making their way south and then west at the conclusion of the war. It was at the displaced persons camps of Poland that Rabbi Furman met the love of his life, Molly.

Southern New Jersey was truly fortunate that Rabbi Isaac and Molly Furman chose our community to settle down. A graduate of Yeshiva University, Rabbi Furman found his true calling as a teacher. Throughout his nearly 60 years as a rabbi in southern New Jersey Rabbi Furman taught tens of thousands of Jewish children. His former students remember him as kind, funny and generous of spirit.

Rabbi Furman and Molly raised their daughters, Esther and Phyllis in the community, and took great pride as they began families of their own. Molly Furman was an accomplished teacher who was a fixture of the community and I'm told that their love for one another lived on after her passing in 2016. Through Esther and Phyllis, the Furmans were blessed with six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am told that his family was truly much larger than his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Rabbi Furman was beloved by generations of students, his congregation and his community. Though Rabbi Furman passed away last week I know his memory will be a blessing for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING DR. CHERYL ANDERSON AS CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Dr. Cheryl Anderson, founding dean for the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science at University of California San Diego, and the fast Black female dean in the 60-year

history of the campus, as the Constituent of the Month for July. Specializing in the study of under-represented populations, Dr. Anderson is an epidemiologist holding Doctoral and Master's degrees from the University of Washington, and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Anderson's appointment comes at a time where our country faces dual crises. Not only are we battling a public health crisis, we are also collectively addressing the deep rooted systemic racism that has long plagued our nation. As our community continues to battle the coronavirus, we are seeing Black Americans and other minority groups make up a disproportionate amount of COVID-19 fatalities.

The impact of COVID-19 inadvertently exposed other public health problems American minority groups are facing, such as air pollution, poor water quality, poor maternal and child health, lack of access to health insurance, and opportunities for healthy lifestyle behaviors. Dr. Anderson's curriculum and focus for the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health seeks to address these public health matters with an emphasis on research and education designed to prevent disease, prolong life and promote health through organized community efforts.

With these goals in mind and the imminent threat of COVID-19 in our community, the UC San Diego public health scientists found themselves in hyper-speed, launching quickly into research, studying treatment and solutions to overcome the coronavirus pandemic.

I launched a Constituent of the Month program to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to make our region and our country a stronger place for everyone to live and thrive. Our public health professionals are vital in the fight to overcome health crises and threats, like COVID-19. I am honored to recognize Dr. Anderson as my Constituent of the Month, and I thank her for her passionate advocacy and amplification of public health equity in our district and the country, and ultimately, helping to save lives of those who are marginalized.

HONORING THE FAITHFUL SERVICE OF MASTER SERGEANT DERRICK FLOWERS OF TENNESSEE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant Derrick Flowers for his distinguished service to this nation.

Master Sergeant Flowers served honorably in the United States Army's only Special Operations Aviation Regiment for two decades, demonstrating excellence and selfless service during multiple combat operations. As a flight medic, Master Sergeant Flowers was directly responsible for saving the lives of multiple tier one special operators, often under heavy enemy fire.

As the leader of aero-medical training, Master Sergeant Flowers trained an untold number of flight medics, leaving a lasting impact on the Army for years to come. He oversaw medical and combat readiness, and planned the