

The Federal Government—and Congress—have a legitimate interest in knowing what is happening on a Federal transportation system. We are not preventing States from doing what they want, but we and the States have a responsibility to know and squarely face the consequences of our actions.

We and the States need the facts. This report will provide the data and help guide future decisions. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

#### TRIBUTE TO FRANK REDMILES

### HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 28, 1995*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Frank Redmiles, a man who has dedicated 45 years of his life to bettering his family, his community, and the lives of tens of thousands of working men and women throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York.

Frank Redmiles is retiring from four decades of toil and service in behalf of the men and women of the United Auto Workers. And while he may be retiring from active service, his legacy is certain to live on and inspire future generations of labor advocates.

From the very beginning of his working life, in 1950 at the former ITE Circuit Breaker Co. in Northeast Philadelphia, Frank Redmiles was a union man. He began in the then-independent union, the ESU, which later affiliated with the United Auto Workers.

He started out, like so many advocates, as a shop steward. He served 12 years on the United Auto Workers' negotiating committee. He became chairman, of that committee.

Frank Redmiles was in the forefront of the affiliation of the ESU with the United Auto Workers in 1969. He served as a trustee and as shop chair, and then was elected president of UAW Local 1612—a post he held for 7 years.

In 1979, Mr. Redmiles was appointed as an international representative of the UAW for southeastern Pennsylvania, and in 1985, he reached the pinnacle of his union advocacy when he was appointed Pennsylvania area director of region nine of the UAW—a post from which he represented the interests of more than 75,000 working men and women.

The 1980's, as we all know, were difficult economic times for working men and women in the United States. The constant pressures from foreign companies and foreign competition fell particularly hard on the automobile industry, and the workers of the UAW felt those pressures and hard times.

But through every one of those difficult days, months and years, Frank Redmiles never stopped fighting. He never stopped fighting for fair and equitable contracts for his rank and file. He never stopped fighting for a living wage. And he never stopped fighting to save the jobs of American workers.

And, while Mr. Redmiles was serving as such a tireless advocate for UAW workers, he was also finding time to serve his larger community as well. He served on the Philadelphia Mayor's Scholarship Advisory Committee, and he served on the city's zoning board as well, eventually as chairman. In addition, he served

on the board of the Ben Franklin Partnership, and in 1992 he was appointed to serve on the transition team of Mayor Edward G. Rendell.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to bring to the House's attention the life story and public service of Frank Redmiles, a man whose 45 years of advocacy to the cause of the working men and women of the United Auto Workers do much justice to the historic legacy of a proud American labor organization.

#### TONGASS TRANSFER AND TRANSITION ACT

### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 28, 1995*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, throughout the West, a growing frustration with Federal land barons and their policies is rekindling the sagebrush rebellion. Nowhere are Federal land decisions more destructive to families and hard working people than in the 17 million acre Tongass forest in southeast Alaska.

In a forest that large it should be easy to balance the uses and make people happy, but the Federal Government has failed miserably.

The bill that I am introducing today gives Alaskans a chance to take control of their future in the Tongass National Forest. Today I propose a way to end the continuing Tongass brawl and give Alaskans a chance to resolve their differences at home.

When this bill becomes law, and the Alaska State Legislature and our Governor take advantage of the privilege offered in the bill, ownership of the Tongass National Forest automatically transfers to the State of Alaska. One year later when the transition period expires, management of the Tongass will be in the capable hands of Alaskans. Everyone will have a better chance of stability.

I have no choice but to make a proposal to liberate the Tongass and the Alaskans so adversely affected by the current Federal policies and requirements in the Tongass.

Since statehood, it has never been worse in the Tongass.

Nobody is happy. It takes 3 years for tourism operators to get access permits in a 17 million acre forest. Leaders in fishing groups complain existing protection for fisheries are not enforced. Crabbers fight for space and permits to store their crab pots. Cabin permits become Federal issues when simple improvements are made. Millions of dollars are spent on studies that produce no conclusions and call for more money for more studies. Even the environmentalists are so unhappy with decisions in the Tongass that they continually appeal and sue the agency.

Time after time, the Federal Government has failed those who rely on the Tongass. Congress has withdrawn 6 million acres in the Tongass only to have the agency propose even more land withdrawals. A series of new Federal laws and more impossible regulations are added.

Alaskans in the Tongass are frustrated with the leadership of the U.S. Forest Service, particularly the political appointees who control it. While they ignore the needs of Alaskans, their decisions produce no real benefit to the environment or to fish and game and do not consider the needs of people.

I told the agency heads back in January that Alaskans had suggested the type of proposal that I am making today. I told them that I was considering a proposal that would transfer their lands. I asked that they improve their policies and decisionmaking on our national forests and public lands. I have seen no improvement. Decisions just keep getting worse.

Even after the President's political appointees in the Government decided to cancel the large timber contract, they still refuse to offer timber to small business people. While 80 million board feet should be available for small mills, only 35 million board feet has been provided in the Tongass this year, most of it at the end of the season when it does little good.

Communities in southeast Alaska are suffering. Productive, hardworking people are out of work. Forty-two percent of the timber jobs are gone in Southeast. The President's political appointees who control the Federal land managers just do not seem to care. They continue to propose problems instead of solutions.

Alaskans and others realize that their State legislature is closer to the economic and ecologic needs in the Tongass. It has a much better understanding of policies that will bring peace to the Tongass than does the U.S. Congress and the Federal Forest Service.

Given the choice, a majority of southeasterners would rather see the State of Alaska own the Tongass than continue with Federal management. Fifty five percent would support a Tongass transfer to the State according to a recent poll. Alaskans clearly favor what my bill seeks to accomplish.

No particular group asked for this bill. I stress that point. No particular group asked for this bill, but I have listened to what Alaskans have been saying since the passage of the Tongass Timber Reform Act. I have discussed the ideas in this draft with Alaskans.

I have listened to our Governor of Alaska speaking through Commissioner Willie Hensley. At Senator MURKOWSKI's workshop on the Senate bill Commissioner Hensley said:

The hallmarks which guide our [state] policies in connection with the Tongass include . . . maximum self determination for the people of Southeast Alaska with respect to land management decisions which affect them, and a minimum of legislative prescriptions from Washington D.C.

My bill relies on the Governor's wisdom. My bill gives Alaskans a chance to achieve maximum self-determination for the people of southeast Alaska. There will be no running back to Washington, DC, to a Congress that uses the Tongass as a political pawn. Tongass policies will be Alaskan policies. Our Governor wants no Washington, DC, legislative mandates and that is what my bill proposes.

I also heard elected leaders of the State legislature. This year the Alaska Legislature overwhelmingly passed Senate Joint Resolution 6. That resolution noted that America's Founding Fathers knew that control of land is power. They knew that centralized Federal Government with a substantial land base would eventually overwhelm the States and threaten individual freedom. Senate Joint Resolution 6 said:

Be it resolved that the Alaska State Legislature urges the 104th Congress of the United States to . . . transfer to the states, by fee