

City, TN. Youngest son David lives in Howell, MI. Bart and Fran have nine grandchildren, Karen, Jeff, Brian, Kristen, Angela, Kevin, Courtney, Michael, and Paul; and two great-grandchildren, Justin and Cassandra.

Growing up on stories of the Civil War and early pioneers to standing on the edge of the 21st century, they have seen much, shared greatly, and anticipate the new century. Congratulations and best wishes.

THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A BALANCED BUDGET

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, last week my Republican colleagues and I passed an historic bill which will save the American people \$43 billion. It eliminates over 200 wasteful programs—more than 100 in the Labor, Health and Human Services bill alone. And it puts us on target for a balanced budget in 7 years.

In his attempt to put his best spin on this bill, President Clinton demanded we present him with a balanced budget. Apparently, he forgot—we did. He vetoed it. The President has shown little sign that he is truly committed to balancing the budget. He refuses to make tough decisions that count—like real welfare reform and saving Medicare from bankruptcy.

My Republican colleagues and I are now looking toward next year's budget. We are committed to real budget reform that balances the budget, creates real jobs and ensures a bright future for our children. We remain committed to the five keys to a balanced budget—genuine welfare reform, real reductions in spending, tax relief for families and job creation, moving power out of Washington, and saving Medicare from Bankruptcy.

Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues and I have proven our resolve for a balanced budget. When, the President presents us with a budget that really balances and tackles the tough issues, we will know he too is serious about saving our children's future.

EARTH DAY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, May 1, 1996 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

EARTH DAY 1996: PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

On this, the 26th anniversary of Earth Day, we can take great pride in the advances that have been made in environmental protection. We have succeeded in reducing the levels of lead and other dangerous pollutants from the air. Lakes and rivers, once so contaminated they could catch on fire, now support large fish populations. Forests are rebounding. Endangered species, like the eagle and the buffalo, have been saved from extinction and are now thriving.

Hoosiers strongly support cleaning up our air, water, and land, and they want to leave the environment safe and clean for the next

generation. They do not want to cut back on our environmental investment. Hoosiers do not say to me that we have too many parks, or that the air and water are too clean. They overwhelmingly support sensible, targeted and moderate laws necessary to keep the environment clean. They also support the view that states and localities have a greater role to play in the environment, and that environmental laws should be based on sound science and a careful balancing of costs, benefits and risks. I agree with their common sense beliefs.

Several federal laws provide the foundation for environmental protection in this country. As we celebrate the 26th Earth Day, it is helpful to understand how these laws work, how they have contributed to a cleaner environment in Indiana and around the country, and how we can improve them as we meet new challenges.

IMPROVING AIR QUALITY

The Clean Air Act, originally passed in 1970, seeks to protect human health and the environment from outdoor air pollution, such as car exhaust and factory emissions. The Act has dramatically reduced air pollutant levels. From 1984 to 1993, emissions of lead declined by 89%, particulates by 20%, sulfur dioxides by 26%, and carbon monoxide by 37%.

Congress substantially revised this law in 1990 to strengthen the ability of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), states and the private sector to work cooperatively to improve air quality, particularly in cities with significant pollution problems. The new law also aims to reduce pollutants which cause acid rain and contribute to global environmental problems, including ozone depletion and global warming.

The new law also expanded efforts to develop cost-effective ways to reduce emissions for coal-fired power plants. Such utilities are common in southern Indiana and throughout the Midwest, providing relatively inexpensive electricity to residents in the region. The burning of coal, however, does contribute to air quality problems. The Clean Coal Technology Program, which funds six projects in Indiana, provides assistance to help defray the costs of pollution control.

CLEANING OUR WATER

The Clean Water Act, passed in 1972, is the main law protecting our streams, lakes, estuaries, and coastal waters. It aims to limit the amount of waste flowing into surface waters. It also provides local communities with low-interest loans to assist in the construction or upgrade of municipal wastewater treatment facilities.

Wastewater treatment has dramatically reduced pollution in our rivers, lakes and streams. These efforts have improved the quality of drinking water and preserved fish and other aquatic life. Since 1972 the number of people served by modern sewage treatment facilities has almost doubled and the level of pollution discharged by municipal treatment plants has declined by 36%.

The other important federal law protecting water resources is the Safe Drinking Water Act, passed in 1974. The Act requires EPA to determine which contaminants threaten public health and set standards for safe pollutant levels in drinking water. These standards generally apply to public water systems. The Act has made tap water safer from harmful contaminants, including bacteria, viruses, and certain chemicals.

I appreciate that improving water quality costs money. I am sensitive to the concerns of local leaders who want the flexibility to achieve cleaner water in more cost-effective ways. Consequently, I have supported measures to make federal rules more flexible, less costly and less complex to assist them in pollution control efforts.

CONSERVING THE LAND

The federal government has worked cooperatively with farmers since the Dust Bowl of the 1930s to control soil erosion. The Natural Resource Conservation Service, formerly the Soil Conservation Service, has national responsibility for helping farmers and ranchers develop and carry out voluntary efforts to conserve and protect our natural resources. This effort has helped improve farm productivity while preserving water and soil quality.

Considerable debate has focussed in recent years on wetlands conservation. Wetlands include swamps, bogs marshes, and prairie pot-holes, and are considered crucial to water quality protection and flood control. The problem is that wetlands have been disappearing at a significant rate. Indiana lost well over 80% of its wetlands between the late 1700s and the mid-1980s. Nationwide, wetlands are declining, primarily because of growth and development, at a rate of 290,000 acres a year.

The key to wetlands conservation is finding a way to protect these valuable resources without imposing significant economic costs on farmers and other landowners. The 1996 farm act approved earlier this year takes some steps toward striking an appropriate balance between environmental and economic interests. The new law streamlines current rules and makes them more understandable to farmers and other land users.

CONCLUSION

Indiana and our country have been blessed with a bountiful environment. This blessing cannot be taken for granted. We all have a stake in the preservation of our environment. Earth Day reminds us of our successes over the last 26 years—cleaner water, cleaner air, cleaner land—while committing us to preserve our natural heritage for future generations.

The challenge facing the U.S. is finding an appropriate balance between preserving our environment and promoting economic growth. Cleaning the environment has become more complicated. We must search for more effective ways to protect the environment with less cost and less regulation. My view is that we do not have to sacrifice environmental protection to get economic growth. We can have both. Growth creates jobs and increases our standard of living; environmental protection improves public health, conserves valuable resources upon which growth depends, and preserves the natural beauty of this country.

LEGISLATION TO ENCOURAGE LONG-TERM-CARE INSURANCE

HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to encourage Americans to purchase long-term insurance and address the growing cost to the Medicaid program of long-term care services.

The Long-Term Care Insurance Incentives and Consumer Protection Act of 1996 provides incentives to buy long-term care insurance and assistance in paying for long-term care.

This measure helps families afford the cost of long-term care services by treating payments for long-term care services as medical expenditures eligible for the same tax deduction as other health care services—deductible