

MINNESOTA'S NATIONAL TREASURES CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION ACT

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Minnesota National Treasures Conservation and Preservation Act [MNTCAP]. This legislation will offer further, needed protection to Minnesota's two special natural resources, Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness [BWCAW].

As my colleagues may be aware, Congress already has enacted major legislation on Voyageurs or the BWCA on three separate occasions. Each time, Congress, by an overwhelming bipartisan majority, has determined that these two unique lakeland areas are national treasures worthy of the highest protections the Federal Government can bestow—National Park designation and National Wilderness designation. With the Republicans in control of Congress now, a vocal minority is advocating a dramatic change from over 20 years of policy designed to protect these areas for future generations. This Minnesota minority advocates lowering the high standards that we use for Voyageurs and the BWCA, replacing resource protection with economic development and personal motorized recreation preferences. I and a vast majority of Minnesotans and the American people cannot and do not support this retreat from our Nation's commitment to Minnesota's lakeland wilderness and park areas.

The Minnesota National Treasures Conservation and Preservation Act will reaffirm, renew and resolve new questions by protecting the Voyageur's Kabetogama Peninsula by designating the 74,000 acre peninsula as wilderness. The Kabetogama Peninsula is home to 3 wolf packs and has 11 active bald eagle nests. Opening this area to snowmobiles and aircraft would have a devastating impact on the continued viability of these endangered species and would fragment and shred the intact wilderness character of this peninsula.

For the BWCA wilderness, MNTCAP will close all of Lac La Croix and Loon Lake to motorized use and will close Back Bay, Hoist Bay and the international border portion of Basswood Lake. In addition, MNTCAP will designate over 14,000 more acres of almost all public lands as part of the BWCA Wilderness. This land—primarily Federal, State, and local land—incorporates key parcels and brings in portions of lakes that are currently nonmotorized. One of the most significant additions will be the Sand Point Lake addition, which extends the BWCA along the international border by less than one quarter of a mile. This area is proposed, upon the expiration of existing individual leases with the State, will link Voyageurs National Park with the BWCA!

Clearly, the MNTCAP proposal is in response to the dramatic and far reaching changes envisioned by the numerous bills that have been introduced in the House and the Senate. Under the current anti-park and wilderness atmosphere in this Congress, I fully expect the Republican leadership to give serious consideration to acting upon these harm-

ful proposals, which mark a retreat from past commitments to our special Minnesota treasures.

To combat those efforts, I am introducing an alternative that reflects the views of a majority of Minnesotans. At last summer's congressional hearings in International Falls and St. Paul, an overwhelming majority of the public opposed weakening the protections for Voyageurs and the BWCAW. That view has been reconfirmed by two scientific public opinion polls of Minnesotans. Those polls show that over 80 percent of Minnesotans want the current balance between wilderness preservation and motorized use within these areas to be maintained or strengthened.

MNTCAP will refocus the current one-way debate. Thus far, the focus has been on what protections must be dropped or concessions made to motorized interests. I am offering a positive proposal that sets forth the legal steps that must be taken to protect the unique resources of Voyageurs and the BWCA.

Last month we celebrated the 26th anniversary of Earth Day. Some may feel that the spirit of the first Earth Day has dissipated; that American people are apathetic and will sit idly by while the progress of the past 25 years is undone. I don't hold that view. Now more than ever the American people, the people of Minnesota, recognize their generation's stewardship role. They realize and are committed to protecting our fragile resources and to turning over to our children and our grandchildren our lakes, rivers, and forests in at least as good a condition as we inherited them. The Minnesota National Treasures Conservation and Preservation Act will make that dream for Voyageurs National Park and the BWCA.

RECOGNIZING THE STUDENTS OF
ALERT

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the great flood of 1996 in the Pacific Northwest I would like to recognize the following 32 young men who gave their personal money, time, and energy to assist with flood relief. At the invitation of Mayor "Bud" Harrison and flood relief agencies in the communities of Clatskanie and Nehalem, OR, and under their direction, they served in and around towns for a period of 3 weeks from February 15 to March 10, 1996. During which time they assisted the local police department in maintaining order and safety on the roadways, helped in the salvage and cleanup of homes and businesses that had been damaged, and spread goodwill, faith, hope, and charity wherever they went. Their sacrifice, diligence, and thoroughness conveyed a true sense of brotherly love to the citizens of Nehalem and Clatskanie. The experiences these men received while serving will enrich their lives permanently, causing them to become better citizens, and thus have a greater impact on the world around them.

Skyler Bower, Washington; Jonathan Bowers, Tennessee; Jason Butler, Alabama; Seth Campbell, Washington; David Carne, Oregon; James Clifford, Ontario; Andrew Cope, South Carolina; Dan Davis, California; Paul Elliot,

Wyoming; Paul Ellis, Mississippi; Brian Gamotis, Washington; Ryan Gearhart, Oklahoma; Craig Guy, Missouri; Matthew Heard, Oklahoma.

Daniel Iliff, Kansas; Robert Myer, Florida; Justin Nall, Texas; Jonathon Nicholas, Wisconsin; Ryan Peterson, Minnesota; Rhett Prichard, Washington; Tim Rogers, New York; David Servideo, Virginia; Adam Shelley, Missouri; Michael Shoemaker, Indiana; Robert Smith, California; John Tanner, Texas; Joshua Tanner, Texas; Justin Tanner, Texas; Scott Westendorf, Oregon; Brian Wicker, Arizona; Matthew Wood, Texas; Matthew Yordy, Indiana.

IN TRIBUTE TO EDWARD UEBER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed Ueber, a steadfast steward of the gulf of the Farallones.

Ed received his master's degree in resource economics and fisheries from the University of Rhode Island, and conducted post-graduate work in maritime history at the Munson Institute. Serving for the last 6 years as sanctuary manager of the gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries, Ed has spent his career in the marine field.

Ed served aboard submarines and merchant ships in the U.S. Navy and the Merchant Marine. He has worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service and published peer-review papers on fish biology, fishing techniques, global warming, fishery economics, fish trade, fishery management, wood boat building, wooden ship reconstruction, oceanography and marina operations. He has chaired over 20 national and four international conferences on marine fisheries, fishery valuation and management of marine protected areas.

As a sanctuary manager, Ed has been dedicated and tireless. He has worked to build support and public enthusiasm for the national marine sanctuary operations. Ed's important work as a respected sanctuary manager has been critical for much needed support for the establishment of the Nation's three newest marine sanctuaries: Stillwagen Bank, Washington Coast, and Monterey Bay.

Ed and his small staff have been vigilant stewards of the sanctuary waters and their resources. The sanctuary staff has worked diligently to initiate new and innovative programs, many of which call upon a cadre of dedicated volunteers, such as the Beach Watch Program. These efforts to engage the public interest have also led to the creation of the Nation's first sanctuary support organization—the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, the people of the bay area thank Ed Ueber for his extraordinary work on its behalf, and wish him many more years of success in protecting and preserving our Nation's marine life.