

organized a conference in Korea to discuss the challenges of globalization in the 21st century. She brought 268 students together from 67 universities around the world. Professors, policy experts, corporate leaders, and the media also attended the conference to give their own unique perspective on the challenges that lie ahead. As a leader of Harvard University's Project for Asian and International Relations, Supinda invited speakers and corporate sponsors, recruited delegates and managed the logistics of the event. Additionally, she raised \$200,000 in donations to help financially challenged students attend the conference.

Such initiative and intellectual endeavor can be seen throughout Supinda's experience at Harvard. She helped establish a forum on children's health at the Harvard School of Government and created the curriculum for an after-school project for underprivileged youth. Supinda has also traveled to Chile to conduct biological research.

Supinda is one of 20 college students from around the country to be selected as a member of the All-USA College Academic First Team. Twelve hundred fifty-three students from all 50 states and the District of Columbia were nominated for this honor.

Supinda will graduate with a degree in environmental science and public policy and would eventually like to become a college professor. Supinda's experience demonstrates how one individual can achieve so many extraordinary accomplishments through innovation, creativity, and leadership. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Supinda Bunyavanich, on her many accomplishments, and extending to her our best wishes for continued success.

A SALUTE TO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL VICTORS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize some high school students from Central High School in Woodstock, VA, in my congressional district for their outstanding sports achievement as State champions in cross country and basketball. Both the Central High School boys' cross country team and Central High School girls' basketball team won State championship victories in 1996. To have two teams from the same school obtain the title of State champions during the same year is certainly a true accomplishment. I would like to acknowledge the following team members and coaches for the dedication and hard work that brought them to victory.

Members of the Central High School girls' basketball team are: Christy Burgess, Jessica Wellard, Kathy Gochenour, Stephanie Lane, Sarah Dinardo, Meghan Peer, Brandi Fleet, Sarah French, Lindsey Rutz, Jewelee Magdic, Tata Dooley, and their coach Roger Wilkins. Members of the boys' cross country team are: Tim Cline, Matt Dinardo, Tim Clugasch, Damon Harper, Kirk Kirkland, Bryce Long, Jason Long, Tony Scott, and their Coach Joseph Huddle.

On behalf of the citizens of the 10th District, I salute these teams and Central High School.

H.R. 505, THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, we have the opportunity to take another step closer to a goal we all share with President Clinton: renewing investment in our cities and communities. I am joined by 18 other Members today in introducing H.R. 505, the Community Empowerment Act.

The Community Empowerment Act expands on the successful empowerment zone initiative we began in 1993 which created 9 empowerment zone demonstration projects and 95 enterprise communities. The bill I am introducing today provides tax incentives for an additional 22 new empowerment zones and 80 enterprise communities. The bill also provides tax incentives for cleanup of up to 30,000 brownfield sites across the country.

Everyone has an interest in seeing these communities thrive economically and environmentally. These tax incentives will mean our investments can finally pay off for both the investor and the community.

The bill would establish a new category of tax-exempt financing for 20 additional empowerment zones in 15 urban and 5 rural areas. The other newly designated areas, the 80 enterprise communities, 50 urban and 30 rural, and the 2 additional empowerment zones, would enjoy essentially the same incentives as provided under current law. Located mainly in low-income areas, the zones, and smaller enterprise communities, would be designated for tax and other incentives to enhance economic development, job growth, improved education, housing, and other benefits. As in the nine existing empowerment zones, communities would have the power to design their own specific programs.

The bill would also provide \$2 billion in tax incentives specifically to address the important problem of brownfields, which are abandoned, polluted industrial sites. The tax incentives will spur the private sector to clean up these sites and put them back into productive use. The incentives would apply to all distressed communities, including current and future empowerment zones and enterprise communities, and are expected to result in \$10 billion in private cleanup investment over the next 7 years. Under current law, the costs of new buildings or permanent improvements that increase the value of any property are not deductible. The community Empowerment Act would make certain remediation costs deductible if they were incurred while restoring a qualified site.

Mr. Speaker, leveraging public sector resources to encourage private-sector community investment is a fiscally responsible and wise means of promoting community development and prosperity. I invite my colleagues to sign onto this bill and vote for it.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1997

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill designed to promote greater telecommunications service to native Americans, including Alaskan Natives.

There is great optimism in this Chamber about last year's Telecommunications Act, particularly the provisions on universal service. While I join my colleagues in that optimism, I am concerned that these policies will prove insufficient for native Americans.

For too long, native Americans have fallen through the cracks of our national telecommunications policy. My bill will ensure that the universal service mechanisms designed by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 will benefit carriers designated to serve Indian lands.

Among the recommendations in the 1995 Office of Technology Assessment report, "Telecommunications Technology and Native Americans" is a strengthened Federal/tribal government partnership in the telecommunications field to provide better services to persons in Indian country and to enable tribes to be direct providers of telecommunications services.

In conjunction with this report and President Clinton's Executive order to require all Federal agencies to adopt specific policies to ensure responsible representation of the interests of native Americans my bill will direct the FCC to:

Establish an Indian telecommunications policy that takes into account the unique government-to-government relationship between the tribes and the Federal Government, the trust obligations of the United States.

Promote opportunities for meaningful participation and comment in FCC proceedings.

Obtain and maintain a database of reliable statistics concerning the extent of subscribership to, and the affordability of, telecommunications and information services on Indian lands.

The legislation will promote the exercise of sovereign authority of tribal governments over the establishment of communications policies and regulations within their jurisdictions. Furthermore, the bill will promote native-American participation in the consumption and provision of telecommunications services.

To focus Federal infrastructure development policy, the legislation that I have introduced today requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration [NTIA] to encourage investment in, and the deployment of, telecommunications systems on Indian lands.

We currently operate without any policy towards these sovereign entities, many of which retain great physical and geographical barriers to proper infrastructure. This lack of direction creates greater polarization between the technological haves and have-nots.

Many rural tribes are caught in a jurisdictional "catch 22" due to the existing lack of policy at both the Federal and State level. While many States require telecommunications carriers to serve rural areas in America as part of a larger overall regulatory agreement, the States are not compelled to extend these services onto Indian lands. Consequently, many rural Indian reservations fail to receive adequate service.