

are made to reward as many political entities as possible, and the level of investment is spread too thin to be effective."

The National Association of Public Administrators [NAPA] agrees. In its publication "A Path to Smarter Economic Development: Re-assessing the Federal Role", NAPA asserts that government agencies "tend to perpetuate a focus on small political and geographic units rather than regions."

The RCA is an important first step in changing the Federal Government's divisive approach to funding economic development activities. The RCA encourages regional cooperation by amending the criteria used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] to award Economic Development Initiative [EDI] grants. The new criterion will simply read: "When applicable as determined by the Secretary, the extent of regional cooperation demonstrated by the proposed plan." Note that my measure in no way mandates regional cooperation. Rather, if such cooperation is appropriate, applicants will benefit if their proposals reflect a sense of cooperation with their neighboring communities.

EDI's potency as a tool for enhancing and expanding economic activity make it an appropriate starting point for encouraging regional cooperation. Since its inception, over \$400 million in EDI grants have funded the revitalization efforts of over 100 communities. Further, EDI funds are competitively awarded, are limited to a percentage of the section 108 and must work in tandem with the loan guarantee. As such, the amount of an EDI award is controlled, yet no formula has been uprooted to implement my measure.

The Tri-County Mini-Loan Fund, Inc., a revolving loan fund for small business ventures in my congressional district, is a nationally renowned program that boasts strong regional cooperation. Since its inception in 1992, the Mini-Loan Fund has pumped nearly \$2 million into the regional economy with few defaults.

In establishing the Mini-Loan Fund, we observed the impact of fractionalized efforts and took a different path. We worked with banks, local universities, and non-profit organizations from all over Ohio's Mahoning Valley to ensure the entire market would benefit from the fund, not just those within specified political boundaries. In applying for EDI and section 108 funding to enhance the program, three counties and three cities submitted six separate applications and bundled them together to form a singular, powerful application.

As a result, HUD not only awarded our Mini-Loan Fund nearly \$8 million in grants and loan guarantees, but then-Assistant Secretary Andrew Cuomo declared it a "national model of regional economic development." The now-Secretary Cuomo went on to thank the commissioners and mayors of the respective counties and cities for "pooling your resources to grow jobs for the region."

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is and will continue to be a key in successful local community development activities. It just needs to play its role a little smarter. Instead of playing communities off one another, it needs to bring them together. As we witnessed in my district, such cooperation can be a powerful tool for revitalizing not only a community, not an entire region.

Again, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Regional Cooperation Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARIAN ANDERSON CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago, on February 27, 1897, Marian Anderson, one of the world's greatest singers, a champion for civil rights, and a leader in the advancement of global peace, was born to a poor family in Philadelphia, PA. She died at the age of 96 on April 8, 1993. To honor the centennial of the birth of this great individual during Black History Month, I am today introducing with my 13 other colleagues, the Marian Anderson Centennial Commemorative Coin Act.

This legislation is a bipartisan effort to honor Ms. Anderson's life of achievements and accomplishments. Marian Anderson, a master of repertoire across operatic, recital, and American traditional genres, played a vital role in the acceptance of African-American musicians in the classical music world. In 1939, the Daughters of the American Revolution [DAR] refused to allow Anderson to sing at Constitution Hall because of her race. As a result of the ensuing public outcry, Eleanor Roosevelt resigned from the DAR and helped arrange a concert at the Lincoln Memorial that drew an audience of 75,000—an audience far larger than Constitution Hall could ever accommodate.

Marian Anderson was awarded 24 honorary degrees by institutions of higher learning. In 1963, she was given a Presidential Medal of Freedom. Congress passed a resolution in 1974 to have a special gold medal minted in her name. Marian Anderson was also an alternate delegate to the United Nations where she received the U.N. Peace Prize in 1977. In addition, she was awarded the National Arts Medal in 1986.

The surcharges from the sale of coins will be distributed to the Smithsonian Institution and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for the endowment of exhibits and educational programs related to African-American art, history, and culture, as well as on the life of Marian Anderson. In addition, this bill assures that minting and issuing coins will not result in any net cost to the U.S. Government.

As we celebrate the centennial of the birth of this great individual during Black History Month, I urge my colleagues in joining us to support the passage of the Marian Anderson Centennial Commemorative Coin Act.

THE LATE REVEREND RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY, JR.

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am once again pleased and honored to introduce legislation honoring the Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, Jr., leader of the National Poor People's Campaign of 1968. My legislation would authorize the construction of a memorial on the National Mall in honor of the Reverend

Abernathy and the thousands of individuals who participated in the Poor People's Campaign.

During the 1960's, I was honored to be a part of the civil rights movement—a movement that changed the face of our Nation. People from throughout our Nation—old and young, black and white, rich and poor—joined the nonviolent revolution that made our country a better, fairer, more just Nation. During this time, I was fortunate to get to know Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his partner in the movement—Dr. Abernathy.

Dr. Abernathy was an inspiring and committed leader from the earliest days of the movement. When Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to stand in the back of the bus while there were empty seats in the white section of the bus, she inspired the Montgomery bus boycott. As ministers of the two leading black churches in Montgomery, AL, Dr. King and Dr. Abernathy worked together to organize and sustain that boycott. Thus began the strong bonds of friendship and commitment that would last as long as the two men lived.

Dr. Abernathy had a lifelong commitment to securing and protecting basic civil rights for all Americans. I marched with him many times throughout the South, including Selma and Montgomery. After the assassination of Dr. King in 1968, Dr. Abernathy assumed leadership of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and worked to carry on the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After Dr. King's death, Dr. Abernathy continued to organize and lead marches and other events, including the Poor People's Campaign, a massive demonstration to protest rising unemployment, held in Washington, DC.

The Reverend Abernathy passed away 7 years ago. Today, I am introducing a resolution authorizing the construction of a memorial to the Reverend Abernathy and the Poor People's Campaign on the National Mall. I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort. The monument will celebrate the achievements of the past, commemorate those who marched alongside us many years ago, and pay special tribute to the sacrifices and the contributions of Dr. Abernathy and others who participated in the Poor People's Campaign. Thousands of people participated. Some had small roles, others large roles. The Reverend Ralph David Abernathy had many roles, often at the same time. He was a teacher, a leader, an organizer, a soldier, and a friend. Many were inspired by his spirit, his good humor, and his guidance. Today, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating his legacy and his life.

IN HONOR OF MORTIMER LEVITT ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and esteemed respect that I acknowledge my constituent, Mortimer Levitt, for his many achievements.

Mr. Levitt, founder of the Custom Shop Shirtmakers, started his venture in 1937. After losing his job and his savings in the height of the Great Depression, Mr. Levitt courageously