

Mr. Chairman, as your Subcommittee prepares to mark up a surface transportation reauthorization measure, I urge you to retain ISTEA's basic program structure, which has proven so successful in the San Francisco Bay Area and in other parts of the country. I also encourage you to oppose efforts to repeal or reduce the federal gas tax. These ill-advised policies would wreak havoc on the federal Treasury, weaken our economic competitiveness, and could undermine national security interests. Finally, I urge members of the Subcommittee to consider the financial burdens that transit operators must bear in meeting the paratransit requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Transit operators are already reeling from steep reductions in Section 9 operating assistance and can ill-afford to absorb these new costs without federal assistance.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I would like to introduce Dan Richard, a member of the BART Board of Directors, who is here to address the BART Extension to the San Francisco International Airport, our region's number one priority for federal New Rail Starts. I look forward to the day in the not too distant future when BART initiates service to the airport. With your Subcommittee's continued support, Mr. Chairman, I am confident that we will reach that goal, and when we do, it will be a proud achievement for all Americans.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify. I look forward to continuing to work with you and in supporting your efforts to enact a strong surface transportation bill which will meet our nation's transportation infrastructure needs in the next century.

IN SUPPORT OF THE CREDIT
UNION MEMBERSHIP ACCESS ACT

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my distinguished colleagues on the House Banking Committee, Mr. LATOURETTE and Mr. KANJORSKI, and 15 other bipartisan colleagues, in introducing the Credit Union Membership Access Act. The bill will preserve the rights of millions of Americans to join and continue their access to credit unions.

In a ruling against the AT&T Family Federal Credit Union, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, ruled on July 30, 1996, that a credit union cannot have among its members more than one group having a common bond of occupation. That appeals court decision, as a result of a full court lobbying by large banks, casts in doubt the ability of a credit union to serve multiple groups of employees by overturning 15 years of established National Credit Union Administration [NCUA] policy as it relates to who is eligible to join a credit union.

If fast action is not taken, millions of Americans will be forced to give up their access to the financial services they otherwise would receive through a credit union. The Credit Union Membership Access Act is a bipartisan effort to bring a legislative remedy as quickly as possible to the common bond issue. The bill would preserve the longstanding policy of the NCUA with regard to field of membership in Federal credit unions. It would also clarify that it is the intent of Congress that the NCUA has

authority to determine occupational, associational, and community charters for Federal credit unions.

The measure, which I had been helping develop for the past several months, was carefully drafted in close consultation with local and national leaders of the credit union community. As a longtime supporter of the credit union movement in the United States, I am honored to be part of this effort and to be included on the ground floor of the bipartisan congressional group submitting this important measure to the House of Representatives. To reaffirm my continued support for our Nation's credit unions, I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support the passage of the Credit Union Membership Access Act.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN HORRAL

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Helen Horral of Duluth, MN.

Helen Horral has rendered long and distinguished service to the people and city of Duluth. She served on the Housing Redevelopment Authority [HRA] from 1985–1995, acting as president of the authority for 1 year. The HRA sets policy for Duluth's low-income housing and creates solutions to the city's low-income housing needs.

Helen has also served on the Single Room Occupancy Commission [SRO]. The SRO advises the city of Duluth on homelessness and the use of shelters and food banks, and it oversees grants and loans to SRO building owners to improve living standards and make housing more affordable. While serving on the SRO, Helen was a staunch advocate for the residents, making sure that the tenants were treated with respect. She was known as the resident caretaker of the SRO Commission.

The motivation for Helen's laudable efforts on behalf of the HRA and SRO is that she wants to help people less fortunate than herself. Many years ago, she saw that numerous Duluthians, especially senior citizens, had financial difficulties and could not afford decent housing. Helen decided to attack the problem head-on and take an active role in finding solutions. As a result of Helen's hard work, there has been real improvement in Duluth's low-income housing; there are now more low-income, high-quality units in Duluth, and low-income senior citizens can live in dignity. Even though she is now 82 years old, Helen continues to help others by planning meals and serving as a volunteer cook at senior citizens' centers around the city, which she has done for many years.

In addition to actively helping senior citizens, Helen has been involved in politics in Duluth for more than 25 years. She works as a volunteer for candidates in Minnesota during election years and is involved in grassroots politics all year long. Helen also provides transportation to seniors who do not drive, and she hosts political dinners and meetings on numerous occasions each year.

The 1996 election provided a good example of Helen's devotion to the political process. At one point near the end of the election, Helen worked at a campaign office in Duluth for 24

hours in a 2-day period. She did this not because she was asked to, but because she wanted to help. On many cold Minnesota winter days, when the next election may be more than a year away, Helen is still the first person at political meetings. And she rarely shows up for meetings or at the campaign headquarters alone—she is the best volunteer recruiter in the district and frequently encourages senior citizens to become involved in the political process.

Helen says, with very simple, honest modesty that she has been blessed in her life and wants to share that blessing by working to assist those less fortunate. Helen truly understands the value of life and the worth of helping others. I am proud and honored to share with my colleagues this brief, but deserved tribute to Helen Horral, who has given so much of herself to enrich the lives of others and to serve her community. She is both a role model and an inspiration.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANGELO
"SKIP" SAVIANO HONORED AS
MAROONS SOCCER CLUB "MAN
OF THE YEAR"

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, this weekend in Elmwood Park, IL, the Maroons Soccer Club, organizer of the first Italo-American soccer team in Chicago, will hold its 68th annual banquet. The Maroons are the proud sponsors of both soccer teams for the young and soccer teams for the "ageless" of the Chicagoland area. The purpose of the banquet is to honor two individuals who have actively contributed to the club in the same spirit that the club actively contributes to the community as whole. We join the Maroons in proudly honoring their Man and Lady of the Year for 1996–1997, Mr. Angelo "Skip" Saviano and Ann Mele. This is such a great honor. I am grateful to have the opportunity to recognize them in this way.

But I would like to take this special opportunity today to rise in the U.S. House of Representatives and publicly congratulate my long-time friend and colleague in the Illinois State House of Delegates, Skip Saviano.

Skip has been involved with youth soccer in our district for many years. He actively contributes to the well-being of our children and our community in many ways. In the most traditional sense, Skip Saviano is a role model. He is a strong legislator, and a champion of communities throughout Chicago and its suburbs. And his accomplishments are a direct result of his success as a community leader and as a good citizen.

I hope that my distinguished colleagues will join me in recognizing Skip Saviano for this much deserved honor. Further, I hope that they will join me in applauding his continued dedication to our communities and to the lives of the young people growing up in Chicago.