

and Doris and Ken's service to our community.

First, were we truly men of courage * * * Second, were we truly men of judgement * * * Third, were we truly men of integrity * * * Finally were we truly men of dedication?

The answers to these questions is indeed, yes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding couple, Doris and Ken Rufener. It is an honor to congratulate the Rufeners as recipients of the coveted Civitas Award.

AIR QUALITY REGULATIONS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on November 27, 1996, the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] proposed new air quality regulations that will have an enormous impact on Colorado. These new standards increase the regulation of ozone and airborne particulate levels and are backed by dubious science which will carry enormous costs for businesses and taxpayers.

The new standards will be difficult and perhaps impossible to meet in many areas. The ozone standards will change from .12 to .08 parts per million. That means there will be less than one ozone molecule in every 10 million air molecules. The EPA rule for particulate matter size—essentially soot—poses additional problems. These new standards will set levels for particles of a size down to 2.5 microns. In comparison, the width of a human hair is 70 microns—28 times as wide.

EPA's focus in the development of these rules appears to have been on the Midwest and the Eastern United States. For example, when EPA last revised the particulate matter standards, they relied upon health effects studies primarily conducted in the Eastern United States. However, upon implementation the vast majority of the nonattainment areas were in the West. When impacts on the West are not appropriately addressed early in the process, the end result has been an unfair regulatory burden on the West.

Everyone wants cleaner air. However, there is no scientific foundation for these extreme regulations. Very little is actually known about the health effects of such low levels of ozone and particulates or whether there are any health effects at all. At first, the EPA claimed the new standards would save 20,000 lives a year. The agency then revised the figure to 15,000. EPA, however, has refused to release the data on which those estimates are based. Independent researchers say they cannot substantiate EPA's health claims on currently available data.

The costs are easier to establish. These standards will radically alter the way we live. The EPA has estimated that as much as half of the U.S. population will have to limit the use of automobiles, lawnmowers, wood-burning stoves, fireplaces, and even barbecue grills. These regulations will suppress economic growth and job creation throughout Colorado. The President's own Council of Economic Ad-

visers has estimated the costs of the new regulations to be between \$11.6 and \$60 billion per year, compared to benefits totaling between \$200 million and \$1 billion per year. Even the EPA's own calculations—which only estimate partial costs—show that the regulations' cost outweigh their benefit.

Air quality is improving nationwide even without new regulations. All six air pollutants tracked by EPA have shown dramatic improvements since 1975. Air particulates are down 24 percent, sulfur dioxide down 50 percent, carbon monoxide down 53 percent, ozone down 25 percent, nitrogen dioxide down 24 percent, and lead down 94 percent. In recent testimony before the House Commerce Committee, EPA Administrator Carol Browner stated that air quality will continue to improve substantially even without the new regulations. Full implementation of the regulations should be delayed until more of our questions can be answered.

TRIBUTE TO THE GRAAFSCHAP CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the congregation of the Graafschap Christian Reformed Church of Graafschap, MI, as they celebrate 150 years of service to God, family, and community.

On April 4, 1847, 104 pioneers left Rotterdam, the Netherlands with the hope of finding religious freedom and economic opportunity in America. They arrived in New York harbor on May 23, and settled on the south shore of Macatawa Beach in Holland, MI on June 20. The settlers soon founded the Graafschap Christian Reformed Church, dedicating their log church in 1848. The early church faced many challenges and difficulties, but the congregation responded with prayer and hard work. By 1862, the church had grown significantly and the current colonial church building was constructed.

As Graafschap Christian Reformed Church grew in numbers and strengthened her spiritual roots, its vision expanded beyond its own congregation and extended to the community. In the past 150 years, the church has been a strong supporter of Christian education. As a leader in community ministry, the congregation has supported and participated in mission projects around the world.

The past and present members of the Graafschap Christian Reformed Church have had a profound impact on the Holland, MI area. Now with more than 500 members, the church is dedicated to continuing its spiritual mission far into the future. I would like to extend my thanks to Graafschap Christian Reformed Church for 150 years of service and commitment to God and the community, and offer my congratulations on the celebration of their anniversary. May God continue to bless the congregation and their work in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYEES, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS OF THE LONG BEACH NAVAL SHIPYARD

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the employees, families, and friends of the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, which will close in a few days after decades of service. In addition to playing an integral role in America's national defense, the shipyard has been a cornerstone of the Long Beach community.

A half century of history, with all of the success and adversity that history can bring to bear, has forged strong bonds between the Long Beach Naval Shipyard and the city of Long Beach and its surrounding region. In the best sense, we have been one community where military and civilians have pulled together for the good of all.

Our relationship was born in the early, frightening months of the Second World War, when the shipyard was added to an already considerable Navy presence in the area. The relationship grew and prospered as America's Armed Forces produced the victories of 1945 and the hope of lasting peace. Instead of a lasting peace, we faced the long, bitter, and tense years of Korea, Vietnam, and the cold war. The shipyard took on the task of keeping the Navy ready for actual and potential conflicts at any time or place. Our Nation, the shipyard, and its exceptional employees passed the tests of efficiency and effectiveness with flying colors and played a vital part in the ultimate victory that brought down the Berlin Wall and ended the threat of Communism.

Those events and the job well done by thousands of talented men and women are what we will remember. And what we all should value, as we now bring to a close this long and highly successful partnership. For the past five decades, the Long Beach Naval Shipyard has played a vital role in our national defense and it has been a crucial part of our local economy. Those who have served at Long Beach's shipyard displayed superb skill, uncommon commitment, and an unyielding dedication. Their service, and the shipyard itself, will long be remembered as a source of pride for the U.S. Navy and for the city of Long Beach.

THE IMATION CORP. RECEIVES THE EPA 1997 PRESIDENTIAL GREEN CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE AWARD

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Imation Corp. of Oakdale, MN, for receiving the 1997 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]. Imation is a new imaging and information company located in my district, that was once part of 3M.

Imation has developed a new way to process x rays and other diagnostic medical images. Developing these images through the