

the Arctic Ocean regions to nations in the Pacific Ocean, and from Scandinavia to the Caribbean.

The sustainable use of renewable marine and wildlife resources under proper management is a commitment the international community should recognize and support. And yet, we have witnessed that in many cases emotion and subjective philosophies have become national policy regarding certain species. If the scientific evidence supports consumptive use of a renewable resource that provides food, economic, cultural and religious benefit to people, it should be permitted regardless of whether the subject species is an elephant, a plant, a tree or a whale. This is a commitment the community of nations must make if true conservation of flora and fauna is to be successful on this planet.

At the conclusion of the General Assembly, a Resolution was passed that I suggest my colleagues review. Although the basic concept of the Resolution calls for the recognition of sustainable use of non-endangered whales, it is important to note that its application could apply to any species. This is a fundamental principle that should be recognized by governments when formulating policy on the international regulation of whaling.

THE WORLD COUNCIL OF WHALERS
FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MARCH 2-6, 1998
Resolution

Whereas, whaling and the sustainable use of whales by peoples around the world contribute significantly to community identity and integrity by satisfying socio-economic, cultural, religious and dietary needs;

Whereas, high seas whale resources are important natural resources for the benefit of all mankind;

Whereas, the current majority of members of the International Whaling Commission have failed to meet their legal obligations under the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling by: (a) maintaining the moratorium on commercial whaling and adopting a sanctuary in the Antarctic Ocean without regard to "scientific findings" as required by the Convention and by (b) ignoring the requirement that regulations on whaling "take account of the interests of the consumers of whale products and the whaling industry"; and that these actions have, caused severe socio-economic and cultural distress to whaling communities.

The World Council of Whalers:

1. Affirms its conviction that the sustainable use of whales is essential for the food security, culture and health of peoples, and that commercial activities related to the sustainable use of whales are appropriate and as such, is acknowledged by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 25) and the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Article 11); and recognized by the Kyoto Declaration of 1995 regarding food security.

2. Emphasizes that, in accordance with Article 1 of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights and Article 1 of the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, no people may be deprived of its own means of subsistence;

3. Underscores the consensus of the international community, as reflected in Agenda 21 and the Convention on Biological Diversity, that indigenous peoples and local communities should continue to be sustainable users and stewards of the living resources upon which they have traditionally depended for their livelihood;

4. Concludes that Regional organizations involving resource users are the most appro-

priate bodies to responsibly manage renewable marine resources and that the use of international institutions or the use or threat of unilateral trade measures to prevent resource users from harvesting whales in a sustainable manner is a violation of universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as a violation of the legal obligations of states under the above noted instruments.

Now therefore be it resolved:

1. That the World Council of Whalers is united in the cause of sustainable use and human rights to natural resource use and committed to continue their cooperation in furthering the objectives of the organization;

2. That the World Council of Whalers supports the aspirations of those, particularly, the Nuu-Chah-Nulth First Nations, Iceland and the small-type whaling communities in Japan, wishing to exercise their right to sustainably use whales;

3. That the World Council of Whalers recognizes the sovereign prerogatives of nations to utilize resources on a sustainable basis; and

4. That the World Council of Whalers encourages its members to ensure that national representation to appropriate international fora includes members of their communities involved in the sustainable use of whales.

And urges:

1. That the World Council of Whalers submit a copy of this Resolution to their respective legislative assembly and appropriate administrator of their government;

2. That the World Council of Whalers transmit a copy of this Resolution to each Commissioner of the International Whaling Commission, to the secretariats of the International Whaling Commission, the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations International Year of the Ocean, the United Nations Decade of Indigenous Peoples of the World, the United Nations Decade of Education in Human Rights and, other appropriate international organizations;

3. That the International Whaling Commission recognize and accept its legal obligations under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling;

4. That the Parties to CITES acknowledge their legal obligations under that Convention; and

5. That National Governments be responsive to the petitions from the rights of aboriginal and coastal peoples related to the sustainable use of renewable marine resources.

A TRIBUTE TO COLORADO SMALL BUSINESS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the thousands of dedicated small business owners across my home state of Colorado. This growing group of innovative and hard-working entrepreneurs is the heart and soul of our thriving economy. It is an honor to commend the men and women of Colorado who play such a critical role in our nation's economy.

At the heart of every small business owner is the entrepreneurial spirit of our forefathers

who founded and shaped this great country. It is this unrivaled spirit that has blessed us with the largest and strongest economy in the world, and yet one that still continues to provide customers with friendly, traditional "service with a smile." And while major corporations continue to downsize across America, small businesses are growing and growing rapidly. Two-thirds of all new net jobs over the past 25 years have been created by small businesses, and the small business sector accounts for 99.7 percent of the nation's employers, employs 53 percent of the private work force, contributes 47 percent of all sales in the country, and is responsible for 50 percent of the private gross domestic product. This is especially impressive considering half of the small and independent business owners start their businesses with less than \$20,000, and that one in four of Inc. Magazine's 500 fastest-growing companies started with less than \$5,000.

Yet, an unnecessarily complex and unfair tax code, overly-burdensome and excessive government regulations, and decades of liberal tax and spend policies, are stifling the very economic force we ought to encourage. The unchecked, unimpeded growth of the federal government over the past 40 years has not only spawned the largest and costliest bureaucracy in history, but it has done so at the expense of American workers, taxpayers, consumers, and small business owners who are often forced to pick up the tab through expensive unfunded mandates on the private sector. These government costs are in addition to our nation's \$1.7 trillion federal budget and result in fewer jobs, reduced employee benefits, higher consumer prices, and declining goods and services. Small business is the ideal example of what is right with America, and what is right with the free-market economy. The more regulated and burdened this market becomes, the more small business owners are unable to do what they do best—create new jobs for others.

I am dedicated to champion legislation designed to encourage small business growth and prosperity, and committed to being one of its chief advocates. To that end, I have supported the issues that are important to small business. Last year, for example, Congress passed the Taxpayer Relief Act, which included significant tax relief for small business. The Act encourages economic growth by providing tax relief to our small, family, home-based, and self-employed entrepreneurs who are growing our communities and creating new jobs.

Some of the small business tax victories I helped enact during this Congress include the restoration of the home office deduction, an increase in the health insurance deduction for the self-employed, real death tax relief, a reduction in the capital gains tax, a minimizing of the alternative minimum tax, a moratorium on the stealth tax, and an extension on the electronic filing tax payment system requirements for small business.

But Mr. Speaker, much more remains to be done. We must ensure that the hard-working entrepreneurs who consistently demonstrate drive, initiative, imagination, and commitment, continue to have the ability to further serve their communities and strengthen our economy. It is a great privilege to recognize the small business owners throughout my state for their contributions to building a better Colorado and a stronger America.