42% to be utilized for Federal LWCF;

42% to State and local conservation and recreation projects; and

16% to fund UPARR programs.

It is important to point out that the funds allocated for State and local conservation and recreation projects only could fund one-half of the projects' costs and all expenditures would have to be consistent with the States' comprehensive outdoor recreation plans. Also the stated, territories, the District of Columbia, Indian tribes, and Alaska Native Village Corporations would all be eligible to receive matching grant funds.***HD***Title III

For over six years, some segments of the conservation community have advocated the creation of an excise tax to provide funding for non-game wildlife projects and conservation education. Included in this bill is funding for wildlife conservation and education. Conservation education is critical to ensuring that people understand the interdependence between man and the environment. We are losing the idea that people and the environment that surrounds them not only can coexist, but must coexist. As the urban sprawl envelops more of the public geography and ideology, we must work to educate with the principles of sustainable use. Hiking, biking, bird-watching, canoeing, mountain climbing, and hunting are all sustainable and acceptable uses of our lands and resources. Education by using sound scientific principles is the only way to ensure that our use of our resources will be sustainable for future generations.

Another void this legislation helps to fill, is the issue of game vs. non-game funding. This issue divides the sporting community who need unity to accomplish our common goals. The excise tax initiative, while well intentioned, was divisive as it created segmented funding for a particular species of wildlife. Our bill provides funding for both species of wildlife, game and non-game through the existing mechanism of Pittman-Robertson.

Pittman-Robertson currently allows for the flexibility to address the needs of non-game species, as well as game species. We all realize that Pittman-Robertson is currently focused on funding game species. However, our bill will create a new subaccount, named the ''Wildlife Conservation and Restoration'' subaccount. The conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1998 will provide funding at higher levels than any other federal source for wildlife. Above levels proposed by the excise tax initiative. This will provide wildlife funding to help move the conservation community beyond the debate of game versus non-game funding and provide for conservation education. This funding is provided with the knowledge that many states will utilize them for non-game and watchable species and these functions can take place with the bill as drafted. However, we allow the flexibility for individual states to maximize their digression.

I am very active in the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and am currently the chairman of the Executive Council. The Sportsmen's Caucus is the largest Caucus in the Congress and sportsmen's champion. Far too often, our sportsmen and women are criticized for their outdoor recreation. The mass public does not understand our role in the economy or appreciate our heritage. The sporting community, represented by those who enjoy and utilize the outdoors are a huge segment to our Nation's economy. Members of the Caucus leadership, like SAXBY CHAMBLISS often incorporate our significance in their speeches. We should take a moment to realize how much our sportsmen contribute to the economy and environment.

If hunting and fishing were a corporation, it would rank 10th on the Fortune 500 list. This is ahead of giant corporations like AT&T.

Sportsmen activities support more than twice the number of workers employed by Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart, incidently, Wal-Mart is the largest Fortune 500 employer.

Sportsmen's assets equal, $60 billion in retail sales, 1.9 million jobs supported, and $8.7 billion in state and federal tax revenues. Economists estimate that these factors create a $169 billion ripple effect in our country's economy.

Some additional facts related to the taxes the sporting community pays are also interesting:

Tax revenues generated by sportsmen are greater than the box office total of all United States movie theaters. Also, exceed the combined box office earnings of the all-time top ten grossing films.

Federal tax revenues generated by sportsmen could pay for the combined budgets of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species appropriation, Bureau of Land Management, National Biological Service, and National Park Service. For two years!

Federal tax revenues from New York sportsmen alone could pay for the entire U.S. Forest Service fish and wildlife budget. Pennsylvania sportsmen could pick-up the same tab.

Sportsmen's sales tax revenues generated in North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia could pay for their state's entire parks and recreation budgets.

All of you are well aware that the sporting community, especially those who engage in hunting and fishing, have been supporting the larger community of outdoor recreation for decades. Their generous contributions through the sportsmen trust accounts of Dingell-Johnson and Pittman-Robertson have immeasurably benefitted wildlife and their habitat. With that success in mind, I look forward to working with all individuals and groups to see this new subaccount passed into Law.

TRIBUTE TO PETER C. EAGLER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the Honorable Peter C. Eagler of Clifton, New Jersey. Peter is being honored this evening by the Clifton Democratic Club for his many years of invaluable service to the community.

Peter Eagler is a lifelong resident of the City of Clifton. In 1972, he graduated from Paul VI High School whereupon he entered Fairleigh Dickinson University as an undergraduate. He graduated from Fairleigh in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Russian Area Studies.

Peter has been employed by the New Jersey Highway Authority in Woodbridge since 1977 and is also a Coordinator for the PNC Bank Art Center, formerly the Garden State Art Center. He previously worked as an Assistant Coordinator for the Art Center and as a Coordinator of Heritage Festivals.

Peter's career in politics began back in 1974 when he was first elected to serve on the Clifton Democratic County Committee. He then became an active participant in several campaigns in North Jersey including being County Coordinator for Jimmy Carter's Presidential campaign, County Coordinator for Jim Florio's 1977 bid for Governor, member of the Steering Committee for Gloria Kolodziej's campaign for City Council, and County Coordinator for both Gary Hart's Presidential Primary bid and the Freeholder campaign in 1984. Peter also served Jim Florio's campaign again in 1989, as an advisor to the campaign's Ethnic Coordinator.

In 1990, Peter ran for a seat on the Clifton City Council and was elected. In 1994 and, again in 1998, he was re-elected to serve on the Council. As a member of the Council, he has served, and continues to serve, as liaison to the Planning Board and the Environmental Advisory Board, Chair of the Certificate of Occupancy Committee, and a member of both the Recreational Task Force and Real Estate Committees.

In 1995, Peter ran unsuccessfully for Freeholder but ran again and was elected to the Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1996. As Freeholder, Peter served as Chairman of the Community Services, Education, and Recreation Committee. In November 1997, the Democratic Party gained a majority on the Freeholder Board and in January of 1998, Peter was chosen as the new Director of the Freeholder Board.

Outside of his political involvements, Peter is also an active member of the community. He has been President of St. John Kanty's Parish Council (1975–1977), Administrator of Hamilton House (1981–1987), member of Passaic County's Sesquicentennial Commission (1985–1987), the Governor's Ethnic Inaugural Committee, the Clifton Historical Commission (1975–1990), and the Lakeview Civic Association. In December 1993, he was ordained a Subdeacon in Holy Apostles Church. Currently, Peter serves as a Trustee of Holy Archangel Broadcasting and is a Coordinator of the St. Nicholas Program at the Hamilton House Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Peter's family and friends in paying tribute to one of North Jersey's most dedicated servants of the community, the Honorable Peter C. Eagler.

HOME HEALTH CARE PAYMENTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. COYNE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts, I am today introducing a bill to help ameliorate the impact of the home health agency interim payment system and to delay the scheduled 15% cut in home health agency payments scheduled for next fall.

Our bill is revenue neutral.

It is different from the bill being developed by some of the Republicans on the Ways and

Means and Commerce Committees. It does not create huge new tax breaks which will cost far more in out-years than they raise in the near term. It concentrates its relief on those who have been careful, cost-conscious providers and does not throw out money at the agencies which have been abusing Medicare by providing excessive and often questionable visits.

Our bill is identical (except for the pay-for) to the bipartisan bill which has been developed by the Senate Finance Committee, and which may pass the Senate at any moment. Our pay-for simply changes the limits on the Medicare Medical Savings Account demonstration project, lowering the number of participants in the early start-up years and raising them in the out-years and extending the life of the demo. Very few people are likely to participate in this program in the early years, yet CBO charges us for the cost of a full-blown program. By starting more realistically, we will not hurt the program, but can be scored for budget savings.

Attached is a description of the formula changes our bill makes.

This is a small, do-able bill in the last hours of the 105th Congress. It does not waste money on the agencies who have created so much of the fraud, waste, and abuse problem in the home health sector. It is a reponsible pay-for. It is a bill that can quickly and easily be conferenced with the Senate.

We urge other Members to join us in supporting this approach.

SUMMARY OF FORMULA CHANGES

Reduces state and regional differences for ''old'' agency payments; brings down the per beneficiary limits for the highest cost ''old'' agencies; raises the per beneficiary limits for the lower cost ''old'' agencies and eliminates current 2% discount on per beneficiary limits applicable to new agencies. Raises the separate average cost per visit limits for all agencies.

CBO: budget neutral (through FY 2008).

Per Beneficiary Limits

1. ''Old'' agencies: payment is 50% BBA policy +50% (50% national mean +50% regional mean);

2. ''New'' agencies: payments are increased by 2% to equal 100% of the national median (about $3,450), (which continues to be regionally adjusted for wages); and

Per Visit Limits

3. Increase the per visit limits from 105% to 110%.

4. Delays for 1 year the 15% across-the-board cuts currently scheduled to go into effect on October 1, 1999.

CBO: Cost is $1 billion over 5 years.

HONORING RICHARD L. OTTINGER

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding leader, good friend, and beloved former member of this House, Dick Ottinger.

Dick represented Westchester County in the United States House of Representatives from 1965 to 1971, and again from 1975 to 1985. Throughout his service in the Congress, Dick was a model of integrity and energy. He fought for the interests of working families and consumers, for the underprivileged and for seniors—always guided by a powerful sense of justice and idealism.

But Dick's greatest passion has always been the environment. He came to Congress at a time when few in Washington devoted sufficient attention to the cleanliness of our air and water, to the depletion of fossil fuels, or to the long-term relationship between economic growth and sound environmental stewardship. He left Washington with these priorities enjoying wide acceptance among lawmakers and the public alike. Without a doubt, Dick's contribution to the environmental cause was wide and deep—and today his legacy is as great as the American outdoors.

Mr. Speaker, Dick's accomplishments are not limited to the arena of elected office. Public service is at the very heart of Dick Ottinger's character, an instinct revealed in every season of his life. He was one of the founding members of the Peace Corps, a distinguished attorney, an author of numerous books and articles, and today the Dean of the Pace University School of Law as well as the Co-Director of Pace's prestigious Center for Environmental legal Studies.

For his extraordinary body of work, Dick Ottinger has been honored many times over. But perhaps the greatest tribute is the lasting affection and admiration of the men and women whom Dick so ably represented and about whom he continues to care so deeply.

I am pleased to recognize Dick Ottinger, together with his wife June, and to express my thanks to an outstanding role model and wonderful human being.

COMMENDING THE INCORPORATION OF THE SUABE NA TASI FOUNDATION ON GUAM

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the recent formation of a particular non-profit corporation known as the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation. On August 20, 1998, this foundation was officially incorporated on Guam to increase public awareness about the waters surrounding our beautiful island and to raise the necessary funding to study and implement measures to sustain our vibrant economy while protecting our precious ocean resources.

As many of my colleagues know, Guam's coral reefs as home to the most diverse fish populations in the world. Recent increased development have heightened the demand placed on our near-shore waters and, as a result, our reefs and ocean waters have not only been threatened but are becoming adversely impacted. Tumon Bay in particular, Guam's most developed shoreline, has produced signs of environmental stress and human activity is the leading apparent cause. Recent studies also point to an increase in algae growth and beach sands are turning from a pure white to an abused gray that gives way to erosion as each day passes.

In response to these growing signs of rapid development, various local governments as well as GovGuam have attempted to take constructive action to restore our environment and free it from intrusive and negative impact in the future. However, there is a single impediment standing in the way of needed progress and that is a tremendous lack of funds. The Suabe Na Tasi Foundation has stepped up to act as the engine to fund important local initiatives to save our environment and help Tumon Bay.

The people of Guam are especially grateful to Telo Taitague, a local and talented vocalist who has committed to release a compact disc to facilitate a public awareness campaign and offered all the proceeds in support of the Foundation's efforts. Telo, is a true civic leader on Guam as she has devoted her singing talent to aid not only the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation but in the past helped with the Toys for Tots campaign, Rest Homes in North Carolina, the Hawaiian Save the Waters campaign, Special Olympics, and Miss Guam Universe. The Foundation has also completed plans to hod a benefit concert with Telo and other Guam artists and musicians to release money for the restoration of Tumon Bay.

Mr. Speaker, it is also worthwhile to commend the work of several individuals, who with their determination and energy, worked to incorporate the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation. Mr. Paul Packbier, an advocate for protecting the environment who has over twelve years of experience in environmental consulting and chairman of the Foundation, is to be praised for his efforts in organizing the foundation as well as Mr. Sinforoso M. Tolentino, a hgihly respected lawyer and friend of the business community on Guam. Mrs. Beth S. Lizama, currently the Vice President of Marinas Credit Bureau and a Business Development officer for Mari-Net, also deserves recognition and are gratitude for her commitment to the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation. Without these three individuals, the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation would not have been incorporated and Tumon Bay would still be in dire need of our attention and care.

The Suabe Na Tasi Foundation is the first organization of its kind, and we on Guam eagerly await its benefits and look forward to proudly preserving our environmental resources. Let us continue as an island community to share our talents and energy for the betterment of Guam. Si Yu'os Ma'ase to the contributors and founders of the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation. May your organization and dedication to protecting our environment serve as a model for other communities across the United States to emulate.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF COMMANDER JAMES E. BURD

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest congratulations to Commander James E. Burd, the Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Technical Services Facility, on his retirement.

Commander Burd was born in Harrisburg and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1975 he graduated from the United States Naval Academy and he obtained of his pilot wings a year later.