

Management Practices (BMP) to build soil through conservation programs, BMP implementation to improve water quality, and utilizing the best crop protection practices available, corn producers are truly planting a crop that can help clean up the environment, from both a water and air quality standpoint. The growing concern within agriculture is the small, vocal, hard-line environmental groups trying to impose regulations on production agriculture that are uneconomical, unproven and that could have the effect of driving our nation's food production capabilities off our shores.

Agricultural producers in Colorado are struggling with poor economic conditions in the marketplace due to burdensome supplies—supplies that could be sold in international markets—and environmental regulations that will choke off sustainable food production capabilities. Much has to be done in short order to protect one of our nation's most valuable resources—America's farmers and ranchers.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to express to you just some of the issues and concerns that Colorado corn producers will be focusing on in the near future.

Our last panelist of the evening was Ms. Elena Metro, State Executive Director of the Colorado Pork Producers Council. Her thoughts focused on the state initiative, earlier alluded to, Amendment 14. Ms. Metro's presentation included this statement which I ask to be included in the RECORD:

The Colorado pork industry has been singled out by individuals and groups to be "controlled" by harsh rules and regulations. Amendment 14 here in Colorado is the result. The Colorado Pork Producers Council on behalf of the pork industry in Colorado asks that if rules and regulations are written and become law, whether on a state or national level, that these rules be based on "sound science," be fair and equitable, and not "socially engineered."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by thanking all of the participants for their input. Former Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, Mr. Carl "Bev" Bledsoe moderated the forum in Hugo. Ms. Sparky Turner moderated the forum in Lamar. Both did an outstanding job and helped draw many helpful thoughts and comments from all speakers.

It's obvious after hearing from my constituents that more needs to be done to expand trade with foreign countries. We need to bring some sanity to the Endangered Species Act, and we need to use sound science when making decisions about regulations which will affect a very important segment of our population—the farmer.

REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR VETERANS

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1401, the bill to authorize our all-important national defense programs and in support of the en bloc amendment which includes language that addresses a crisis in our veterans community.

Throughout their lives, the men and women of our armed services make great sacrifices in the service of our country. Yet, many families requesting honor guards at the burials of veter-

erans are being told "NO"—that we do not have the resources to honor those who have served so nobly. As Americans, the very least we can do is make sure that our veterans are given a proper burial when they die.

My amendment strengthens the current language in the bill by requiring, not just permitting, the Secretary of Defense to provide necessary materials, equipment, and training to support non-governmental organizations—namely our VFW, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, and other veterans groups—in providing honor guard services.

Mr. Speaker, the newest of our National Cemeteries, Saratoga National Cemetery, will be opening in the heart of my district this July and will conduct funerals every thirty minutes for the next several years. Our active duty and reserve servicemen and women cannot keep up. Mr. Speaker—this is unacceptable!

Everyone who served in the armed forces gave something. Some who served gave everything. And we have a responsibility to give back!

Our veterans are eager to fill this void on a volunteer basis, but they do not possess the resources to do so. The committee bill will give private individuals the tools necessary to provide honor guard services, thereby reducing the demand on active duty servicemen or reservists.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and reaffirm our commitment to our veterans.

IN HONOR OF DR. DAVID KIRCHER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in tribute to Dr. David Kircher, Superintendent of Fairview Park Schools in Rocky River, Ohio. As he celebrates his retirement, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting his outstanding service and leadership in the Fairview Park Schools.

Dr. Kircher has dedicated a substantial portion of his life to the betterment of the Fairview Park Schools. For the past 30 years, Dr. Kircher has served as an important figure for the Fairview Park School district. He has held several positions throughout his tenure, but none as important as Superintendent of Fairview Park Schools, a position from which he will be retiring as of August 1, 1999.

As the fifth superintendent in the history of the Fairview Park Schools, Dr. Kircher worked his way up from an Earth Space Science teacher to Superintendent in 1996. Throughout his career he has been recognized for his hard work and dedication in the Fairview Park Schools. Many students and staff members are not only inspired by his motivation and hard work, but also appreciate the fact that he has helped create excellent schools. That is why in 1998 he was nominated for the National Superintendent of the year. The following year he received a resolution from the city of Fairview Park recognizing his 30 years of dedicated service to the Fairview Park Schools.

Education has always been Dr. Kircher first priority. He earned a Ph.D. in educational administration at Kent State University. His wisdom and educational background helped him

become one of the most influential superintendents in Fairview Park Schools.

Although his work puts extraordinary demands on his time, Dr. David Kircher has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family, especially his lovely wife, Maryann.

I ask that and my distinguished colleagues join me in commending Dr. David Kircher for his lifetime dedication, service, and leadership in Fairview Park Schools. His large circle of family and friends can be proud of the significant contribution he has made. Our community has certainly been rewarded by the true service and uncompromising dedication displayed by Dr. David Kircher.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing three bills which reflect my long-time interest in helping the economy and the people of Puerto Rico. Rather than spending taxpayer money on government programs, these bills will provide tax incentives for the private sector to help the economy of Puerto Rico.

In 1996, Congress phased out Section 936 over my objections. As a result, the economic incentives for U.S. companies to do business in Puerto Rico have dwindled, negatively impacting the economy. In an effort to reverse that trend, the Government of Puerto Rico reduced their tax burden by 19 percent in recent years. However, they need more help. We in Congress can play an important role in that effort by putting in place long-term tax incentives to spur private sector growth on the Island.

The first bill, the Puerto Rico Economic Activity Credit Improvement Act of 1999, will modify and extend the existing economic credit, which is due to expire at the end of 2005. My bill will build upon the replacement for Section 936, Section 30A, by extending the wage tax credit until the economy in Puerto Rico meets certain economic objectives designed to bring the Island up to a level more on par with the mainland. The credit will also be available to new companies locating in Puerto Rico. Companies already in Puerto Rico and utilizing the existing income credit will be given a one-time option to switch over to the wage credit before the termination date of the income credit.

The second bill will make the research and development (R&D) tax credit available to companies operating in Puerto Rico. The R&D credit has never been accessible in Puerto Rico, but, until the demise of Section 936, the lack of an R&D credit was of little tax consequence to companies operating on the Island. My bill will provide this small, but important, tax credit for Puerto Rico and the other U.S. possessions as a matter of fairness.

The third bill will repeal the limitation of the rum tax cover over. Under current law, a tax is collected on rum entering the U.S. mainland from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. A portion of this tax is returned (covered over) to the governments of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Because of a dispute in 1984, the cover over was limited to \$10.50 of the total \$13.50 per gallon tax. My bill will restore