

that the Environmental Protection Agency is absolutely out of control. They have adopted a policy of any means is justified by its political ends. They seem absolutely determined to destroy the family farm as we know it today. They have completely abandoned sound science, or any science, for that matter. They pursue the idea that any regulation is a good regulation as long as it causes a lot of chaos and economic disruption.

Earlier this year, EPA attempted to regulate as a point source silviculture in this country. They have pretty well been felled by that effort. But now they are attempting, in a rather secretive way, to try to regulate aquaculture, another very important agricultural pursuit in this country.

They have absolutely no scientific data indicating that there is a problem with pollution with aquaculture industry. After all, these farmers raise fish, they do not want their produce growing in polluted water.

The Environmental Protection Agency, as part of their plan to implement their regulatory process based on the economic success of their producers, they have this form that they are asking our aquaculture producers to fill out. And if they do not fill it out, there will be a penalty and they will be in violation of a Federal law and there is a severe threat.

One of the questions they ask, and they do not ask any questions in this form, not one, about water quality or how they treat your water. What they do ask, Mr. Speaker, is, If this company borrows money to finance capital improvements, such as waste water treatment equipment, what interest rates would they pay? In the event that this company does not borrow money to finance capital improvements, what equity rate would it use? When you finance capital improvements, what is the approximate mix of debt and equity? What are your revenues from aquaculture? The revenue from other agriculture activities that are co-located with aquaculture? What are other farm facility revenues? Do you get Government payments and how much are those Government payments? Is there other non-farm income? What are the total revenues? And the list goes on and on, Mr. Speaker.

This is not a questionnaire to help improve the water quality of this country or the areas where aquaculture is located. This is an attempt to destroy an industry, one more attempt by the Environmental Protection Agency to destroy agriculture in this country as we know it.

It is time for it to stop. Enough is enough.

The Environmental Protection Agency should be the premier scientific agency of this Nation. And yet, it has turned itself into nothing more than a political yardage to pursue perfectly legitimate and harmless industries.

#### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the federal government's commitment for increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). My colleagues and I have urged the appropriators since 1998 to double NIH's budget over 5 years. The distinguished gentleman from Illinois, Chairman PORTER has been an avid supporter of these requests and as a result, the budget has seen the appropriate increases each year.

As a member of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, Alzheimer's Task Force, Biomedical Research Caucus and Working Group on Parkinson's Disease, I have met with countless individuals who ask each year that Congress invest more money into research funding at NIH. And each year I am proud to be able to report back that the House has been able to fulfill this request. More than half of my constituents who visit my office each year, come to discuss research funding and the budget request for NIH. Scientists are confident that with recent dramatic developments in technology over the past decade, that they are on the verge of making significant discoveries for both cures and vaccines for a number of diseases from diabetes and cancer to AIDS and Parkinsons.

With the continued support from this Congress by way of dollars for research, NIH will be able to continue making advances toward the eradication of countless diseases that afflict millions of Americans and countless others around the world. I am pleased to report back to my constituents that this Congress is continuing its support of medical research and I look forward to continue the fight for NIH and its committed scientists and doctors.

#### CALLING ON GOVERNOR BUSH TO SUSPEND TEXAS EXECUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today and last week, I sent a letter to Governor Bush asking him to suspend executions in Texas and to form a commission to review the administration of the death penalty.

The moratorium would give the commission time to review the adequacy of both legal representation, the advances in DNA technology, and the possible biases in the capital sentencing process.

The support of the use of the death penalty, in appropriate cases, I support totally. But we must make sure that we impose the capital punishments fairly and without bias. That is basic to our sense of justice.

In light of recent events, I am no longer confident that we in Texas are administering the death penalty with the highest standards of justice in mind. We should not tolerate the possibility of executing an innocent person, especially when we have the means to avoid it.

Recent reports in the media, other reports and studies that have been conducted, have highlighted the mistakes made in capital cases both in Texas and throughout the country and in other States around the country.

As my colleagues well know, concerns with the administration of death penalty and the adequacy of legal representation prompted Governor George Ryan of Illinois to declare a moratorium on executions.

We have asked Governor Bush and I am pleased that Governor Bush recently made a decision to pardon a man wrongly convicted of being sentenced for 99 years in prison. His release came, however, after he had served 16 years and was determined that he had been innocent after DNA studies had been conducted.

With recent efforts to expedite executions and remove many cases for appeal, it is possible that similar convictions in Death Row equally might be innocent. These executions could be postponed so that we would be able to assess those three specific areas that I have mentioned. And that is to make sure that we have had adequate legal representation for these individuals; secondly, to make sure that, with the new technology and with the new advances in forensic technology, the DNA analysis in particular, that we have the best opportunity in our history to rule out or, at least, to have serious doubts, concerns, and possibilities that the defendant or convict in fact committed the specific crime in question.

As we look in terms of the situation where we find ourselves in, I ask the Governor to help out in the process of asking the Board of Pardon and Paroles to seriously look at assessing our process in Texas. And yes, we might have a great operation in San Antonio, but I know that each county and each community operates differently.

I know that a large number of cases in Houston, over 70, that a particular district attorney used to brag about the number of people that he was sentencing into Death Row. Those types of things need to be questioned.

We have had specific situations where psychologists have utilized stereotypes and racial profiling to determine some of those decisions. So those biases need to be looked at very carefully. Not to mention, and I stress the importance of the technology that we have before us, and especially in those cases that there is some sufficient DNA that is available where we can go to reaffirm our decision to make sure that in those cases we will not be making a mistake.

I fully understand the plea of victims for the swift administration of justice, but justice requires that we know for sure that we are applying the ultimate earthly penalty fairly and properly. I am not sure that we are doing this at the present time.

I, therefore, call upon the Governor to help and assist on the Texas Board of Pardon and Paroles to look at a