

safer way to transport products than trucks or other methods and the current bill increases that safety factor.

I have also been working with several of my Texas colleagues and colleagues in the southwestern United States to secure Federal approval of a project called the Longhorn Pipeline. The Longhorn Pipeline begins at Galena Park, Texas, in east Harris County in the district I represent and goes across Texas for approximately 700 miles to El Paso, Texas.

This pipeline is intended to carry refined petroleum production from Houston to southwest markets of the United States in El Paso and Midland/Odessa and hopefully beyond. After much delay, the Federal Government now seems to be willing to move forward in the process. George Frampton, chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, has recommended the EPA and the Department of Transportation to include the analysis of the Longhorn Pipeline project by finishing the environmental assessment.

The many studies and analyses conducted by the Federal Government indicate that the extensive mitigation plan supports this action. The Longhorn Mitigation Plan protects the environment and all the people along the pipeline route and is of a scope and rigor unprecedented in the pipeline industry. It includes measures designed to reduce the probability of a spill as well as measures designed to provide greater protection to the more sensitive areas, including areas where communities and drinking water could be affected.

The Longhorn Pipeline meets or exceeds current statutory, regulatory and industry standards. The pipeline would be the safest in the history of the United States. I do not make this statement lightly. For instance, the mitigation measures are adjusted along the route of the pipeline based on the sensitivity of the area. The route was divided into approximately 8,000 segments, and the relative sensitivity at each segment was determined based on factors including the proximity to population centers, drinking water supplies, and protected species habitat.

I cannot begin to understand why the Federal Government has taken this long, and to have made such a difficult process in the regulatory lag is amazing. We still have time to salvage the good intentions and still have the success that was started with this process. But we need to act now. I say we, the Federal Government. Since Longhorn filed for the pipeline conversion in 1997, two other previous crude-oil-conversion-to-refined-products pipelines are up and running. I repeat, they are up and running with not the mitigation measures that are part of this Longhorn Pipeline.

If we are interested in pipeline safety, we need to encourage pipeline companies to establish mitigation measures such as these. Working together, we can ensure that pipelines remain a

viable transportation means while maintaining and improving public safety.

#### SERVING THE SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 86 years of service given to the San Diego community by the Neighborhood House Association and at the same time the 35th anniversary of Head Start, both nationwide and at this location.

Neighborhood House is a multipurpose social service agency whose goal is to improve the quality of life of the people served. It is one of the largest nonprofit organizations in San Diego, reaching more than 300,000 San Diego residents with its programs. Since Dr. Howard Carey assumed leadership as president and chief executive officer in 1972, Neighborhood House has grown from a budget of \$400,000 and a staff of 35 to the current budget of approximately \$50 million with 800 employees. Among the most important of the services of Neighborhood House is Head Start, and the 35th anniversary of Head Start is being recognized at a Gala 2000 event by the Neighborhood House Association on November 17, 2000.

As we all know, Head Start is the most successful federally funded program for children that has been created. It has touched the lives of tens of thousands of low-income preschool children and their families. The Neighborhood House Head Start serves 7,000 preschoolers and their families in 77 centers, the largest San Diego Head Start program. And plans are in place to provide for over 11,000 children to be reached in over 130 centers.

Mr. Speaker, Head Start and the Neighborhood House are in the business of helping people to help themselves. They strive for permanent changes, and long-term self-sufficiency is their goal. On the occasion of the Neighborhood House Association's Gala 2000, I am honored to congratulate both Head Start and the Neighborhood House for their many contributions to the children and families of San Diego.

#### PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we have just witnessed last night the first of the presidential debates between the candidates of the two major parties. After a great deal of wrangling, I was pleased to see that Governor Bush agreed to the debate commission's recommendations and has agreed to share the platform. I think it is important

that we are now turning to issues that confront the American public. Unfortunately, sometimes with the barrage of issue ads that we see and at times conflicting claims, I can understand how the American public can be confused about what the actual truth may be in a particular area. But I will tell you in the areas that relate to the environment, there is really no excuse for confusion. The differences could not be clearer between the two political parties and the two major candidates.

We wanted to take a few minutes this afternoon to address those issues of the environment, where people stand and what difference it makes for the American public. I am honored to be joined in this discussion this afternoon by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), the ranking member of the Committee on Resources, a gentleman whose legacy in terms of protecting the environment, dealing with natural resources, fighting against pollution, leadership on a wide variety of issues is unparalleled.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman very much for yielding, and I thank him for taking this time that we might have an opportunity to discuss both the environmental challenges that are presented in this election season and by this Congress and by the differences between Governor Bush and Vice President GORE.

I, as many Americans last night, was shocked when, although I guess we should not have been surprised but shocked when Governor Bush suggested that the way out of our energy crisis was to simply drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and that would in fact solve the problem.

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As was correctly pointed out by Vice President GORE, if you simply do that, you do nothing but add a couple of months of oil supply to the total consumption of the United States, but you have done nothing on the other side, which is consumption, conservation, new technologies, all of which are necessary if we are going to use these oil resources in a wise fashion.

It is unfortunate that the first thing that Governor Bush would suggest to the American public is that we ought to, in fact, treat the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge much as we would an oil field in East Texas. There is a world of difference between those two, and perhaps Governor Bush does not understand that.

But the Arctic Wildlife Refuge is not just that. It is a refuge for wildlife, of caribou and other species, that are greatly threatened by additional development in the Arctic, and it is important that we understand that, because I think, again, as Vice President GORE pointed out, you need not destroy our environment to improve the energy situation in this country.