

during this period, total federal research funding for all fields of science and engineering declined by about 1%.

Inadequacies in the size of NSF's budget are evident from the fact that the agency currently funds less than a third of the research applications it receives and about half of those judged to be of high quality. Even when an applicant receives a NSF award, it is usually suboptimal and perhaps half the amount of a NIH award. The current situation leaves researchers in NSF-funded fields scrambling for funds and spending too much of their time chasing limited funding rather than in the laboratory or mentoring students.

The NSF authorization bill I am introducing will provide increases of 15% per year for fiscal years 2002 through 2004. The bill will result in a NSF budget of \$7.7 billion by the final year. The increases provided will allow NSF to go forward with substantial new research initiatives in the mathematical sciences and the social and behavioral sciences and to continue ongoing initiatives in information technology, biodiversity, and nanotechnology. Moreover, the budget growth will allow NSF to—

Increase average grant size and duration;

Fund national research facilities for the earth and atmospheric sciences, astronomy, and the computational and information sciences; and

Support large scientific instruments at colleges and universities.

Finally, the increases will support expansion of NSF's science education programs. Of particular importance will be increased efforts to improve the skills and content knowledge of K-12 science and math teachers and to increase participation in science and engineering by traditionally underrepresented groups. The increases will also expand education research programs, including quantifying the most effective uses of educational technology and strengthening efforts to assess education programs to determine and disseminate information about what methods and approaches are most effective in improving student performance in science and math.

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), a group of eighty scientific, engineering, and professional societies, universities, and corporations has called for providing no less than \$5.1 billion, a 15% increase, for the NSF in FY 2002 as the next step in doubling the NSF budget. CNSF has stated that:

Our national knowledge base in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering is increasingly important to broad economic and social interests. Doubling the NSF budget by 2006 will fund the crucial investments that the agency makes in key components of this vital knowledge base.

Mr. Speaker, the NSF Authorization Act of 2001 implements the recommendations of CNSF. I hope all my colleagues will join me in ensuring that NSF has the necessary resources to carry out its essential role in support of scientific and engineering research and education by becoming cosponsors and supporters of this authorization bill.

HONORING OUT FRONT COLORADO ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the largest gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender publication in the Rocky Mountain region, Out Front Colorado, for its tremendous success over the past 25 years. In April 1976, the first edition of Out Front Colorado hit the streets, only seven years after the historic Stonewall Riots in New York City. As a new publication for a growing community, Out Front Colorado began boldly with its first headline "There's No Turning Back." Indeed, in the last 25 years, Out Front Colorado has played an important role in the cultural and community development of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people in Colorado with valuable news coverage, arts and entertainment, community events, and photographs that have documented the vibrant history of Colorado's diverse community. And its impact continues to grow. Today, Out Front Colorado is available across the nation from New York City to Los Angeles.

The success of Out Front Colorado can in large measure be attributed to its extraordinary staff. Out Front Colorado was founded by Phil Price, who sought to create a newspaper specifically tailored toward Colorado's gay and lesbian residents. Out Front Colorado became successful in its reach and influence under his direction. Although Phil Price passed away in 1993, the current staff of Out Front Colorado should be commended for continuing the superb work that Phil pioneered.

I am pleased to support Out Front Colorado as a valuable institution to Colorado's community and history and am pleased to recognize there's still no turning back!

H.R. 1367, THE ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES CONSERVATION ACT OF 2001

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 1367, the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Conservation Act of 2001. I am pleased to be here today to talk about such an important issue. We stand at an historic crossroads for the conservation of highly migratory species (HMS). The effective management of Atlantic HMS is one of the most complex and difficult challenges facing the National Marine Fisheries Service. These species range widely throughout international waters and the jurisdictions of many coastal nations with diverse political perspectives on how to properly utilize and manage this valuable resource.

The fishing practices and marketing strategies are equally diverse. Unlike most other domestic fisheries, effective multilateral management is the goal of our nation's HMS policy. In fact, Congress placed Atlantic HMS management authority in the hands of the Secretary of Commerce instead of the Regional Fishery Management Councils, in theory, to ensure

that our government maintains an Atlantic-wide perspective and vision.

It is my firm belief that this Congress, together with thousands of concerned fisherman and conservationists, have a unique opportunity to work together to aggressively protect and rebuild stocks of HMS such as billfish, sharks and swordfish.

In August of 1999, I was approached by representatives of the longline industry and three recreation/conservation fishing organizations who suggested I sponsor legislation to: (1) permanently close an area of U.S. waters in the South Atlantic to pelagic longline fishing; (2) establish two time-area closures in the Gulf of Mexico to pelagic longlining; (3) reduce billfish bycatch and the harvesting of juvenile swordfish; and (4) provide affected fishermen a buyout to compensate them for the loss of fishing grounds and fishing opportunities. I remain a strong supporter of this concept.

I first began work on this important issue because I feel very strongly that a balance can be achieved. Prior to and following the introduction of H.R. 3331, my first bill targeting these critical needs, I met with, and spoke to, a number of pelagic longline fisherman, recreational fisherman and their organizations, and a number of conservation and environmental groups.

I introduced H.R. 3331, in the 106th Congress, in part, because the National Marine Fisheries Service established the pelagic longline fishery as a limited-entry fishery through the HMS Fishery Management Plan. As NMFS is well aware, I have been asking them to take this action for many years. The establishment of a limited access system is critical to reduce harvesting capacity through attrition or a buyback program. Hence, once pelagic longline permits for HMS are bought-out as proposed in my bill, there would be no further vessels re-entering the fishery.

I believe in this concept because the current management system whereby NMFS publishes a regulatory rule that is challenged by seemingly endless lawsuits is not an effective way of promoting sound HMS fishery management. This system has to change.

The International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), led by the United States, approved a ten-year rebuilding plan for North Atlantic swordfish. Although the final approved plan did not go as far as I would have liked in reducing the annual quota internationally, it nevertheless set an important tone for conservation. I commend the U.S. ICCAT Commissioners for their tenacity in getting the rebuilding plan approved.

This is the continuation of an arduous process, but I am confident that we can provide a conservation measure that is good for our beleaguered highly migratory species of fish. I look forward to continuing to fight until this measure is passed and becomes law.

INTERNATIONAL ROMA DAY REVISITED

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on International Roma Day last year, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities released a detailed report on the situation of