

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DANIEL W.
KRUEGER

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American soldier and citizen, and I am proud to recognize Colonel Daniel W. Krueger in the Congress for his invaluable contributions and service to the Mid-South region and our nation.

Colonel Krueger has served for the past three years as the Memphis District Commander for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and he has distinguished himself by focusing on meeting the region's water resource needs, reducing costs, and decreasing project delivery time without sacrificing quality. His exceptional leadership skills guided the Memphis District into the 21st Century with an engaged workforce dedicated to open communications, improved safety and mission focused training.

Key projects completed under his command include: Hickman Bluff Stabilization, White-man's Creek, Francis Bland Floodway, and the initial on-farm construction phase of the Grand Prairie Demonstration Project.

He has dedicated his life to serving his fellow soldiers and citizens as a leader in both his profession as an engineer and his military service, and he deserves our respect and gratitude for his contributions.

On behalf of the Congress, I extend congratulations and best wishes to this faithful servant, Colonel Daniel W. Krueger, on his successes and achievements.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2002

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I want to commend my colleague from Michigan.

This is a solution though, that is looking for a problem. There is not one State in the Great Lakes Basin that allows off-shore drilling, not one. In Michigan, there is a moratorium on new directional angle drilling wells. What are we doing with this amendment?

This amendment is not about protecting the Great Lakes. For instance, it does nothing to address the potential for diversion of our fresh Great Lakes water. This amendment goes in a direction that I hope many in this chamber find disagreeable as it deeply involves the federal government in Great Lakes decision-making. I trust my Governor. I trust the Governors of the Great Lakes States to be in charge of the water of the Great Lakes States.

As a matter of fact, underneath the Great Lakes today, there are roughly 22,000 barrels of crude oil that float per hour under the Great Lakes. There are 550 off-shore wells operated by Canadians. This bill addresses none of that. There are 5 million tons of oil bobbing around on the Great Lakes every year via cargo ship, which leads to an average of 20 spills a year on our Great Lakes. This amendment does nothing to address any of those issues.

This amendment is not about protecting the Great Lakes; instead, it is about the federal government going into the State of Michigan and telling the legislators in Lansing that they do not know what they're doing. There are some great protections of our Great Lakes, and I trust those Governors, and I trust those Great Lakes state legislators to do the right thing.

I want to say it again, because this is very important, and I've heard it 10 times if I've heard it once, that somebody is out there trying to build an oil rig in the Great Lakes and that President Bush is leading the charge. This is ridiculous. There is not one State in the Great Lakes Basin that permit off-shore drilling. Not one. There is a moratorium on new licenses for directional drilling in the State of Michigan today. So what is the purpose for the Bonior Amendment?

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that a bureaucrat in Washington, DC, whose only experience with Michigan's Upper Peninsula is a picture in the National Geographic, is better equipped to protect our shoreline and our Great Lakes. I want the people who live on the Great Lakes to make those decisions. The gentlewoman from Ohio talked about HOMES, the acronym by which schoolchildren learn the names of the Great Lakes. HOMES is appropriate because the people who make their homes in the Great Lakes States should be making decisions about the Great Lakes. Why? Because we live there. We see the water, we see the pollution, we fought back and reclaimed Lake Erie. We can again eat the fish that swim in our lakes. Why? Because the people of the Great Lakes States took action. It is nothing that Congress did. That is why this argument should not be taking place on the floor of the United States House, it should be taking place in the legislatures of the Great Lakes States.

Mr. Chairman, I am passionate about the Great Lakes, but we have a true difference of opinion on the proper role of Congress in this debate. For example, look at the issue of water diversion. There is a bill in this House to empower Congress to decide what happens on diversion issues in the Great Lakes. The last I checked, the dry states of the Plains and Southwest could use a bit more extra water; and, the last I checked, there are more members from those states in this chamber than from Great Lakes States. These issues have no business in this Chamber. It has all the business in the chambers in our State legislatures back home.

This is a solution that is looking for a problem.

There is a package of bills in the House to address this issue in a manner that doesn't encroach on our States' rights. One concerns the diversion and export of Great Lakes water. Another is a resolution urging States to continue the ban on off-shore drilling in our Great Lakes and that goes after those 550 wells currently in operation in Canada.

It is important to remember that what the Federal Government can give us, they can take away. Pretty soon, maybe the faces of this Chamber will change, and maybe pretty soon the folks in this Chamber will decide that we want oil production from the Great Lakes. And since most of the members of this Chamber do not reside in the Great Lakes Basin, nor do the Washington, DC bureaucrats overseeing federal policy, the decision may come from Washington to tap into the Great Lakes oil reserves.

There is only one thing that can protect us from that: Our state legislators and our governors of the Great Lakes States.

Mr. Chairman, I want to urge this body to reject the Bonior Amendment, to throw out all the rhetoric about how without this amendment there will be polluted water, people rushing to put oil rigs on the Great Lakes, and how oil will start gushing into the waters of Lake Michigan or Superior. This is just absolutely untrue.

What I would encourage the gentleman from Michigan to do is to work with us. We should take a look at studying the quality of those pipes that are pumping those 22,000 barrels an hour under the Great Lakes today. Let us get together and tell Canada, get off the water. Shut down those rigs that are pumping on the water as we speak. We should work together to ensure that those ships bobbing around on the Lakes carrying 5 million tons of oil are safe and don't continue to average 20 spills each year.

Does the gentleman want to do something for the Great Lakes? Let us partner with our states and help solve this issue. The federal government should not come in and flex its muscles and tell state legislators that they really don't know what they are doing.

I used to be an FBI agent, and when I would walk into a local police station and tell them the federal government was here to help, I can tell you I never received a warm welcome. And I can tell you that passing legislation like the Bonior Amendment ensures that Congress will not receive a warm welcome in the State halls of Lansing and other Great Lakes capitals.

Mr. Chairman, this is an important issue. It is an extremely important issue. I grew up on a lake. I want that lake safe for my kids. I want them to go to Lake Michigan and be able to play in the water and not have to worry about turning green when they come home. I want them to be able to eat the fish in Lake Erie.

I mean no disrespect to this Chamber; but, I just came from the State legislature, and I have seen the good things that Congress can do, and I have seen the bad things that Congress can do. I also served with some very

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