

Under the leadership of CEO Doug Parker, the hospital expects to continue to grow with the increasing demands of the county. As the hospital continues its innovative and compassionate approach to the care of the patients, it dedicates itself to maintaining a leadership position in the health industry; not only in the quality provided, but also in the manner in which it educates, informs, and contributes to the community.

FAMILY FARM AND RANCH  
INNOVATION ACT

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 11, 2002*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to help ensure our nation's family farms and ranches continue to produce the agricultural products that have made us the breadbasket for the world.

Small family farms and ranches helped build the foundation of America. Thomas Jefferson once wrote in a letter to George Washington, "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness." Today many small farms and ranches have disappeared. This is in part because the smaller farms and ranches have not been able to change to more profitable means of production. To continue as a viable business in agriculture farmers and ranchers need to be able to use modern techniques that increase profitability, and do it in a manner that is environmentally sound.

As a friend of mine, W.R. Stealey, reminded me when I was first elected to the Colorado Legislature, "If you eat, you are in agriculture."

The Family Farm and Ranch Innovation Act (FFRIA) would provide necessary tools for small agriculture businesses to modernize and become more competitive in today's market, access to credit and a plan to turn the credit into increased revenue.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Commission on Small Farms report titled "A Time to Act" found, "The underlying trend toward small farm decline reflects fundamental technological and market changes. Simply put, conventional agriculture adds less and less value to food and fiber on the farm and more and more in the input and post-harvest sectors. We spend more on capital and inputs to enable fewer people to produce the Nation's food and look primarily to off-farm processing to produce higher value products. Sustainable agriculture strives to change this trend by developing knowledge and strategies by which farmers can capture a large share of the agricultural dollar by using management skills to cut input costs—so a large share of the prices they receive for their products remain in their own pockets—and by producing products of higher value right from the farm." (In context of the report farms include ranches.)

The innovation plans in FFRIA, to be developed with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, would provide the blueprints to increase the value of farm and ranch Outputs.

The report also found, "Agricultural operations require high levels of committed capital

to achieve success. The capital-intensive nature of agricultural production makes access to financial capital, usually, in the form of credit, a critical requirement. Small farms are no different from larger farms in this regard, but testimony and USDA reports received by this Commission indicate a general under-capitalization of small farms, and increased difficulty in accessing sources of credit." If small farms and ranches are going use improved technologies laid out in innovation plans they will need capital. The Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan program has a long history of helping small businesses and would be a great tool for small farmers and ranchers to implement their plans.

America's small farms and ranches need a hand up to remain viable in our rapidly changing marketplace. Often today's small agriculture businesses are family owned and have only a very small profit margin. The combination of low market prices for raw agricultural commodities and the rising cost of land means that many of these businesses cannot afford to carry on. And that causes more urbanization of valuable farm and ranch land.

This legislation recognizing the importance of our small farming and ranching businesses. They provide diversity in the market place, local production of food, less pollution, and jobs, all of which strengthen our economy. And, farms and ranches that are part of our community remind us that food and other agricultural products don't just come from stores, and remind us of our connection to the land.

Mr. Speaker, small farms and ranches have provided the livelihood for many families since the beginning of our country. This bill will help ensure small farms and ranches do not become a thing of the past by providing the technical expertise and capital to allow them to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

JOBLESS RATE IS AT 18-YEAR  
HIGH IN DISTRICT

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 11, 2002*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned. I am concerned that my district lost 12,400 jobs in the past year including 300 from Global Crossing. I am concerned that this jobless rate is an 18-year high. I am concerned that in the last decade, 41 percent of Rochester, New York citizens between the ages of 20 to 34 have left town.

While my area has survived the wave after wave of layoffs over the last 20 years by the giant employers such as Kodak, the bankruptcy filing of Global Crossing in January was a shock. Global Crossing was seen as the wave of the future. Two outstanding labor leaders in the Rochester community summarized the thoughts of many workers in an essay which appeared in the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle on March 19, 2002. I have attached for the record a copy of this guest essay for my colleagues' consideration.

HOLD ALL CORPORATIONS ACCOUNTABLE, OR  
OUR ECONOMY WILL NOT IMPROVE

(By James Bertolone and Gary Bonadonna—  
Guest Essayists)

Recently, it's been reported that Monroe County has experienced a loss of 12,400 jobs

during the last year. Unemployment also has risen to a 10-year high of 6.4 percent (story, March 6). We have also learned that over the last decade, 30,000 young people have left this area looking for better opportunities.

These statistics may come as a surprise to people in Monroe County, especially those who have been following the predictions of a hopeful economic future from the Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Management Council and the Center for Governmental Research the past few years.

In a trend that started in the 1980s, Monroe County has endured an astonishing deindustrialization of its work force. Due to one-sided free trade deals, the rate of this deindustrialization has accelerated rapidly. Eastman Kodak Co., Bausch & Lomb Inc., Xerox Corp., Valeo Electric Systems Inc. and others have announced wave after wave of layoffs. Small manufacturing concerns, many of which sprung up to fill the gap as large corporations shed workers, are suffering also.

The job loss at large manufacturing companies was, despite our instincts to the contrary, supposed to be good news. We were told by pro-corporate cheerleaders of the new economy that despite these layoffs, our local economy would still continue to grow jobs. We were merely an economy in transition, and the wonder of free trade and the dawning of a new Internet-based economy were supposed to lead these workers to a more modern workplace.

So what exactly has this new economy brought us?

Based on statistics, apparently a whole lot less than we bargained for. In this new world, we are supposed to get rich through investment in an ever-expanding stock market, not by punching a time clock. The old economy wouldn't be missed, although it served our community and generations before us so well. But the truth is unmistakable—12,400 jobs lost; 30,000 of our best and brightest seeking greener pastures elsewhere and the so-called experts at a loss to explain how this happened.

Working people can no longer stand idle while the corporate elite strip away our future and while regulations that had been designed to protect us from corporate greed are being dismantled by highly paid, pro-corporate lobbyists. According to that wild-eyed radical Alan Greenspan, two-thirds of economic activity in the United States is based on consumer spending. If workers don't have decent paying jobs, they don't have money, and there goes two-thirds of the economy.

It's time to recognize that our economy cannot improve without corporate accountability. Big business must be held accountable to their workers, to communities in which they operate and their investors.

We must regulate and protect the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively because, like it or not, organized labor is the only protection we have against the unfettered power of corporate management.

Organized labor's struggle to change labor standards, health and safety regulations and general social policy has become the greatest anti-poverty program in the history of the industrialized world.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL DAY IN  
AFGHANISTAN

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 11, 2002*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the children, families, and teachers of Afghanistan for celebrating their first back-to-school