

COUPLE PLEDGE TO FEED HUNGRY
GAINESVILLE SUN STAFF REPORT

When it comes to serving others, there's nothing more essential than feeding the hungry.

And that's just what Bill and Verna Brown have devoted their lives to doing for the past six years.

The Browns, co-founders of The Children's Table, an organization that provides food and assistance to the rural needy in 44 Florida counties, have been nominated for The Gainesville Sun's 39th Annual Community Service Award.

The roots of The Children's Table began with the efforts of the couple, who owned a commercial nursery, to give away food from their home garden to those who might need it. Little by little, they expanded their efforts, gathering more and more food to give away by purchasing it with their own money, asking for donations and trading plants from their nursery. They would then spend evenings delivering the food themselves.

Today, The Children's Table network distributes some 2 million pounds of fresh produce and USDA food to rural communities every month, according to Don Ricard, president of the Blessed Hope Foundation, one of many groups that works with The Children's Table. Ricard wrote one of 10 letters nominating the Browns for the award.

During 2001, the Browns put together a distribution network that extends north from Orlando to cover all of North Central Florida. They also have recently initiated hearing screening at rural food distribution sites and provided medicines to the needy.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Bill Brown on various food collection and distribution projects for the past two years," wrote Paul Fuller, a board member of Gainesville Harvest, which works with The Children's Table in their common mission to feed the hungry. "He and his wife, Verna, are the finest examples of Community Service I have ever known in my entire lifetime. . . . These folks love their fellow man and give because it is the human thing to do.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
HIGHLANDS STEWARDSHIP ACT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Highlands Stewardship Act of 2002, H.R. 5146, a new, cooperative approach to addressing urban sprawl in our Highlands region; an area which includes critical water supplies for three of our Nation's largest metropolitan areas.

The Highlands region, stretching from eastern Pennsylvania, through New Jersey and New York, to northwestern Connecticut, includes the drinking water supply for over 11 million people, a wide diversity of significant rare and endangered plants, animals, and ecosystems agricultural and timber lands, historic sites and structures, and landscapes. It is estimated that one in twelve Americans live within two hours travel of the Highlands region and an astonishing 14 million people visit the more than 200,000 acres of public land in the Highlands region annually, exceeding visitation to even our Nation's most famous national parks. In 1992, the USDA Forest Service completed their Highlands Study which, among other things, found the region to be a "landscape of national significance."

Mr. Speaker, "Urban Sprawl" and "Smart Growth" are modern terms coined by the environmental movement to describe the unsustainable growth patterns in certain suburban and rural areas throughout our Nation and efforts to promote sound planning initiatives. Anywhere that we witness population growth, from the northeast to the southwest, urban sprawl is or will become an issue important to communities and citizens. Urban sprawl can be readily addressed with effective and educated planning, proper zoning, and financial assistance. There is no better place for us to witness the impacts of urban sprawl, or to foresee future impacts, than in the Highlands region, where, it is estimated, that we are losing approximately 5,000 acres of Highlands land and resources, each year.

As noted in the USDA Forest Service Highlands Study (1992), the draft Update (2002), and other State and local open space and planning reports, the Highlands region is being imminently threatened and that there is a national interest in protecting the natural, historical agricultural and economic benefits of the Highlands for the residents of, and visitors to, the region.

Accordingly, in October of 2000, I hosted our Highlands Preservation Summit, which began our Highlands Preservation Initiative, a comprehensive effort to develop a proposal which would find a balance between the environmental and economic needs of the region and define what role the Federal Government should play in the Highlands.

While I feel that it is inappropriate for the Federal Government to influence local decisionmaking matters, I firmly believe that the Federal Government can provide sound leadership by ensuring that our communities have the information and support needed to protect critical, regional resources. Moreover, it is important to undertake a partnership approach which does not infringe on private property rights or the ability of communities to make sovereign decisions.

All of these components have been included in our Highlands Stewardship Act.

In sum, our measure recognizes the national significance of the Highlands region by defining it as our Nation's first "Stewardship Area," modeled after National Heritage Areas and underscoring the importance of the President's call for "good stewardship" and "cooperation" where "Private organizations, landowners, government at all levels are working with each other." The measure is broken into two provisions: Land Conservation and Office of Highlands Stewardship.

In the "Land Conservation" provision, instead of using a "Federal Government knows-best" approach, this measure builds on the outstanding work already completed by our States in their open space plans. Using these existing plans, the Governors of each State work together with the Secretary of Interior to determine which projects should be funded from the federal-side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). We are also including flexibility for the use of these funds to allow for innovative conservation approaches, notably conservation easements, which allow the land to be protected, but at the same time to remain on local tax rolls.

The use of Federal-side LWCF is the most contentious issue in this measure. However the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 provides for the acquisition of land, wa-

ters, or the interests in land and waters "within the exterior boundaries of the National Park System" and for "endangered species and threatened species." As noted in our measure, the Highlands region contains or is adjacent to numerous Federal designations, including the Walkkill River National Wildlife Refuge, the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Mr. Speaker, our Atlantic region benefits little from the Federal-side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. However, there is no appropriate Federal designation available to meet the diverse needs of the Highlands region. Moreover, time is of the essence in protecting this critical national treasure. Use of the Federal-side Land and Water Conservation Fund for the purposes described in this measure allows us to expeditiously access existing sources of assistance; ensures the funds are used for land preservation purposes of nationally significant lands; is justified by the findings of multiple State and Federal studies; protects resources in a manner which minimizes the acquisition of additional Federal lands and the need for additional Federal staff; and affords our Nation the opportunity to use a unique approach to addressing urban sprawl, an issue not known when the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 was adopted.

Mr. Speaker, our measure also authorizes the creation of an Office of Highlands Stewardship; designed to work with the States and communities, private landowners, including farmers, and individuals, ensuring that they have the information, resources, and support needed to protect the resources of this region. This includes technical and financial assistance for Highlands communities looking to update their master-plans or attempting to reduce non-point source pollution, support for farmers to reduce run-off, ensuring that towns and villages have scientific data and information on important Highlands issues, working with private landowners, etc. Various units of government could use the assistance for planning, carrying capacity analysis, smart growth initiatives, infrastructure assessments, appropriate economic development, eco-tourism, or the development of Smart Growth Resource Centers to develop a tool box for municipalities on Smart Growth and on environmental and land use education.

Due to the multi-state nature of this region, it is important that we ensure that our communities have the opportunity to coordinate with each other and with a Federal entity to ask for information or assistance.

Finally, this measure also creates a diverse working group of citizens, organizations, communities, and other interests in the region to consult with this office and with the states and act as guides to our agencies.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, in view of the national significance of the Highlands, the Federal Government has a significant role in assisting the States in creating, protecting, conserving, preserving, and interpreting areas of significant natural, economic, historical and cultural importance in the Highlands.

New York Governor Pataki, New Jersey Governor McGreevey, Pennsylvania Governor Schweiker, and Connecticut Governor Rowland are supportive of our measure. Our colleague in the Senate, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. CORZINE is offering a companion

measure with the support of Senator TORRICELLI, Senator SCHUMER, and Senator LIEBERMAN. Numerous local, regional, and national organizations are with us in this effort. We are gathering support from local governments, including mayors and county officials, and are bringing together a number of media outlets to help publicize this important initiative.

Moreover, the ongoing drought has heightened public interest in protecting water supplies and offers an excellent opportunity to respond to this crisis.

To encourage economic growth in locations and ways that are fiscally and environmentally sound, we must depend on quality infrastructure, mass transit systems, green spaces, water and recreational facilities, and comprehensive planning decisions. All of these components are necessary to provide good jobs, adequate services, livable neighborhoods, and are critical to the long-term health of the Highlands.

The Highlands Stewardship Act recognizes the national significance of the Highlands region, builds on the work of the USDA Forest Service Highlands Regional Study and Update, the open space and other related plans of Highlands States, and relies on the partnership needed between Federal, State, local, and private entities to meet the present and future need of this important region.

If you are interested in more information or in supporting this important measure, I invite my colleagues to contact Brian Walsh in my office at 202-225-3776.

H.R. 5146

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Highlands Stewardship Act of 2002".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Highlands region is a geographic area that encompasses more than 2,000,000 acres extending from eastern Pennsylvania through the States of New Jersey and New York to northwestern Connecticut;

(2) the Highlands region is an environmentally unique and economically important area that—

(A) provides clean drinking water to over 11,000,000 people in metropolitan areas in the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania;

(B) provides critical wildlife habitat, in eluding habitat for threatened and endangered species;

(C) maintains an important historic connection to early Native American culture, colonial settlement, the American Revolution, and the Civil War;

(D) contains—

(i) recreational resources; and

(ii) cultural and multicultural landscapes relating to the development of commerce, transportation, the maritime industry, agriculture, and industry in the Highlands region; and

(E) provides other significant ecological, natural, tourism, recreational, educational, and Economic Benefits;

(3) an estimated 1 in 12 citizens of the United States live within a 2-hour drive of the highlands region;

(4) more than 1,000,000 residents live in the Highlands region;

(5) the Highlands region forms a greenbelt adjacent to the Philadelphia-New York City-Hartford urban corridor that offers the op-

portunity to preserve natural and agricultural resources, open spaces, recreational areas, and historic sites, while encouraging sustainable economic growth and development in a fiscally and environmentally sound manner;

(6) continued population growth and land use patterns in the Highlands region—

(A) reduce the availability and quality of water;

(B) reduce air quality;

(C) fragment the forests;

(D) destroy critical migration corridors and forest habitat; and

(E) result in the loss of recreational opportunities and scenic, historic, and cultural resources;

(7) the natural, agricultural, and cultural resources of the Highlands region, in combination with the proximity of the Highlands region to the largest metropolitan areas in the United States, make the Highlands region nationally significant;

(8) the national significance of the Highlands region has been documented in—

(A) the Highlands Regional Study conducted by the Forest Service in 1990;

(B) the New York-New Jersey Highlands Regional Assessment Update conducted by the Forest Service in 2001;

(C) the bi-State Skylands Greenway Task Force Report;

(D) the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan;

(E) the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan;

(F) the Connecticut Green Plan: Open Space Acquisition FY 2001-2006;

(G) the open space plans of the State of Pennsylvania; and

(H) other open space conservation plans for States in the Highlands region;

(9) the Highlands region includes or is adjacent to numerous parcels of land owned by the Federal Government or federally designated areas that protect, conserve, restore, promote, or interpret resources of the Highlands region, including—

(A) the Walkkill River National Wildlife Refuge;

(B) the Shawanagunk Grasslands Wildlife Refuge;

(C) the Morristown National Historical Park;

(D) the Delaware and Lehigh Canal Corridors;

(E) the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area;

(F) the Delaware River Basin;

(G) the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area;

(H) the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River;

(I) the Appalachian National Scenic Trail; and

(J) the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York;

(10) it is in the interest of the United States to protect, conserve, restore, promote, and interpret the resources of the Highlands region for the residents of, and visitors to, the Highlands region;

(11) the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, regional entities, and units of local government in the Highlands region have the primary responsibility for protecting, conserving, preserving, and promoting the resources of the Highlands region, and

(12) because of the longstanding Federal practice of assisting States in creating, protecting, conserving, preserving, and interpreting areas of significant natural, economic, and cultural importance, and the national significance of the Highlands region, the Federal Government should, in partnership with the Highlands States, regional entities, and units of local government in the

Highlands region, protect, restore, promote, preserve, and interpret the natural, agricultural, historical, cultural, and economic resources of the Highlands region.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to recognize the importance of the natural resources and the heritage, history, economy, and national significance of the Highlands region to the United States;

(2) to assist the Highlands States, regional entities, and units of local government, public and private entities, and individuals in protecting, restoring, preserving, interpreting, and promoting the natural, agricultural, historical, cultural, recreational, and economic resources of the Highlands Stewardship Area;

(3) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial and technical assistance for the protection, conservation, preservation, and sustainable management of forests, land, and water in the Highlands region, including assistance for—

(A) voluntary programs to promote and support private landowners in carrying out forest land and open space retention and sustainable management practices; and

(B) forest-based economic development projects that support sustainable management and retention of forest land in the Highlands region;

(4) to provide financial and technical assistance to the Highlands States, regional entities, and units of local government, and public and private entities for planning and carrying out conservation, education, and recreational programs and sustainable economic projects in the Highlands region; and

(5) to coordinate with and assist the management entities of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Walkkill National Refuge Area, the Morristown National Historic Area, and other federally designated areas in the region in carrying out any duties relating to the Highlands region.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term "eligible entity" means any agricultural producer, regional entity, unit of local government, public entity, private entity, or other private landowner in the Stewardship Area.

(2) **HIGHLANDS REGION.**—The term "Highlands region" means the region that encompasses nearly 2,000,000 acres extending from eastern Pennsylvania through the States of New Jersey and New York to northwestern Connecticut.

(3) **HIGHLANDS STATE.**—The term "Highlands State" means—

(A) the State of Connecticut;

(B) the State of New Jersey;

(C) the State of New York; and

(D) the State of Pennsylvania.

(4) **LAND CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECT.**—The term "land conservation partnership project" means a project in which a non-Federal entity acquires land or an interest in land from a willing seller for the purpose of protecting, conserving, or preserving the natural, forest, agricultural, recreational, historical, or cultural resources of the Stewardship Area.

(5) **OFFICE.**—The term "Office" means the Office of Highlands Stewardship established under section 6(a).

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(7) **STEWARDSHIP AREA.**—The term "Stewardship Area" means the Highlands Stewardship Area established under section 5(a).

(8) **STUDY.**—The term "study" means the Highlands Regional Study conducted by the Forest Service in 1990.

(9) **UPDATE.**—The term "update" means the New York-New Jersey Highlands Regional

Assessment Update conducted by the Forest Service in 2001.

(10) WORK GROUP.—The term “Work Group” means the Highlands Stewardship Area Work Group established under section 6(c).

SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGHLANDS STEWARDSHIP AREA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior shall establish the Highlands Stewardship Area in the Highlands region.

(b) CONSULTATION AND RESOURCE ANALYSES.—In establishing the Stewardship Area, the Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) consult with appropriate officials of the Federal Government, Highlands States, regional entities, and units of local government; and

(2) utilize the study, the update, and relevant State resource analyses.

(c) MAP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior shall prepare a map depicting the Stewardship Area.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection at the appropriate offices of the Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 6. OFFICE OF HIGHLANDS STEWARDSHIP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment, the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency, the Chief of the Forest Service, and the Under Secretary for Rural Development, shall establish within the Department of Agriculture the Office of Highlands Stewardship.

(b) DUTIES.—The Office shall implement in the Stewardship Area—

(1) the strategies of the study and update, and

(2) in consultation with the Highlands States, other studies consistent with the purposes of this Act.

(c) HIGHLANDS STEWARDSHIP AREA WORK GROUP.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the “Highlands Stewardship Area Work Group” to assist the Office in implementing the strategies of the studies and update referred to in subsection (b).

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Work Group shall be comprised of members that represent various public and private interests throughout the Stewardship Area, including private landowners and representatives of private conservation groups, academic institutions, local governments, and economic interests, to be appointed by the Secretary, in consultation with the Governors of the Highlands States.

(3) DUTIES.—The Work Group shall advise the Office, the Secretary, and the Secretary of the Interior on priorities for—

(A) projects carried out with financial or technical assistance under this section;

(B) land conservation partnership projects carried out under section 7;

(C) research relating to the Highlands region; and

(D) policy and educational initiatives necessary to implement the findings of the study and update.

(d) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office may provide financial and technical assistance to an eligible entity to carry out a project to protect, restore, preserve, promote, or interpret the natural, agricultural, historical, cultural, recreational, or economic resources of the Stewardship Area.

(2) PRIORITY.—In determining the priority for financial and technical assistance under paragraph (1), the Office shall consider the recommendations of the study and update.

(3) CONDITIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The provision of financial assistance under this subsection shall be subject to the condition that the eligible entity enter into an agreement with the Office that provides that if the eligible entity converts, uses, or disposes of the project for a purpose inconsistent with the purpose for which the financial assistance was provided, as determined by the Office, the United States shall be entitled to reimbursement from the eligible entity in an amount that is, as determined at the time of conversion, use, or disposal, the greater of—

(i) the total amount of the financial assistance provided for the project by the Federal Government under this section; or,

(ii) the amount by which the financial assistance has increased the value of the land on which the project is carried out.

(B) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—The Federal share of the cost of carrying out a project under this subsection shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2010, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 7. LAND CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary, the Office, and the Governors of the Highlands States, shall annually designate land conservation partnership projects that are eligible to receive financial assistance under this section.

(b) CONDITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for financial assistance under subsection (a), a non-Federal entity shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of the Interior that—

(A) identifies—

(i) the non-Federal entity that will own or hold the land or interest in land; and

(ii) the source of funds to provide the non-Federal share under paragraph (2);

(B) provides that if the non-Federal entity converts, uses, or disposes of the project for a purpose inconsistent with the purpose for which the assistance was provided, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, the United States shall be entitled to reimbursement from the non-Federal entity in an amount that is, as determined at the time of conversion, use, or disposal, the greater of—

(i) the total amount of the financial assistance provided for the project by the Federal Government under this section; or

(ii) the amount by which the financial assistance increased the value of the land or interest in land; and

(C) provides that use of the financial assistance will be consistent with—

(i) the open space plan or other plan of the Highlands State in which the land conservation partnership project is being carried out; and

(ii) the findings and recommendations of the study and update.

(2) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—The Federal share of the cost of carrying out a land conservation partnership project under this subsection shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the land conservation partnership project.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior from the Treasury or the Land and Water Conservation Fund to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004

through 2013, to remain available until expended.

(2) USE OF LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.—Appropriations from the Land and Water Conservation Fund under paragraph (1) shall be considered to be for Federal purposes under section 5 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–7).

NAMES OF THOSE WHO ARE MISSING OF HAVE PERISHED AS A RESULT OF SEPTEMBER 11, ATTACKS

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2002

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, for the past few months, I have submitted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of those who are missing or who have perished as a result of the September 11 attacks. Today, I would like to complete the list of names that are available to date. This will be an ongoing effort as more names are released. The fallen deserve our recognition, our remembrance, and our respect.

Paula Morales, Martin Morales, Abner Morales, Carlos Morales, John Moran, Gerard Moran, Lindsay S. Morehouse, George Morell, Vincent Morello, Steven P. Morello, Roy Wallace Moreno, Yvette Nichole Moreno, Arturo Alva Moreno, Richard J. Morgan, Dorothy Morgan, Nancy Morgenstern, Sanae Mori, Blanca Morochó, Leonel Morochó, Dennis G. Moroney, and Odessa V. Morris.

TO DESIGNATE THE NEW POST OFFICE IN THE TOWN OF EMERSON, NEW JERSEY AS THE GARY ALBERO POST OFFICE

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2002

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to designate the new post office in the town of Emerson, New Jersey in the name of a man who exemplified our American ideals, Gary Albero. On September 11, Gary was killed while conducting the nation's economic business in the World Trade Center. A dedicated husband, proud father, and intelligent insurance broker, Gary Albero lived his life with a unique perspective. As his family explained, “he could find the extraordinary in the very ordinary.” And although he may have been taken early from this life, we have the opportunity today to extend his spirit and legacy beyond his friends and family by naming the Emerson Post Office after this man.

Mr. Speaker, when Congress names particular facilities in honor of someone, we do it to recognize their outstanding contributions to society. Gary's wife, family and friends can best describe the contributions he made to their lives, and the community can best explain the character and friendliness he brought to the town. I will tell of the contribution Gary Albero made to our nation, as a proud American.

That Tuesday in September, Gary went to a meeting in Tower Two as an employee of