that there are over 500,000 Brownfield sites across the country in need of cleanup and remediation. Brownfields represent more than just eyesores blighting individual communities. They threaten our groundwater supply, cost our local communities jobs and revenue, and contribute to urban sprawl.

Unfortunately, the largest obstacle cities face when redeveloping Brownfields sites is the lack of capital needed to carry out essential early-stage activities such as site-assessment, remediation planning, and actual cleanup. Because private financiers are often unwilling or unable to provide the funding to take a site through the full redevelopment cycle, local municipalities and local leaders find themselves confronted with the complex task of redevelopment. The Brownfield Economic Development Initiative or BEDI grant program was designed to help cities overcome this challenge. The HUD program was created in 1998 to provide flexible funds for any stage of the revitalization process, from site assessment and clean up to economic development.

Current law makes the BEDI grant difficult to utilize. If a local community wishes to pursue clean-up and redevelopment funds from HUD, they must first apply for a Section 108 loan. In order to secure this loan, they are required to put up a portion of their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money as collateral. Few cities are willing to tie up these funds on a loan guarantee—especially in the early stages of a Brownfields redevelopment. Tying up CDBG funds means a city may be forced to discontinue other programs which benefit low to moderate-income residents in order to pursue a riskier redevelopment project. For instance, CDBG funds are used to provide important community services such as Meals on Wheels and child care programs. Without the Section 108 loan guarantee, cities are effectively locked out of the BEDI grant.

The Brownfields Redevelopment Enhancement Act remedies this problem by de-linking the BEDI grant program from the Section 108 loan guarantee and clarifying that CDBG funds may be used for Brownfields redevelopment. In addition, the bill creates a pilot program for a revolving loan pool for Brownfields redevelopment. As a result, cities will have new options—they can proceed, as under current law, by applying for a Section 108 loan, to be secured by a portion of their CDBG funds, and then apply for a BEDI grant; they can simply apply for a BEDI grant; they can apply for pilot program funds; or they can use any combination of the above which best meets their project needs. With the flexible access to such government funding, we can help revitalize Brownfields sites across the country.

It is important to point out the benefits cities will receive under this legislation. First, there will be a direct, positive effect on the environment when the sites are cleaned up. Second, cities have an opportunity to minimize urban sprawl and preserve existing green space by working with local developers and builders to utilize previously developed properties. Due to the liability associated with Brownfields, many developers currently opt to purchase and plan projects on open space. This bill will empower cities to take ownership of their Brownfields and work with their development community to design projects that utilize existing infrastructure. Most importantly, it is estimated that up to $2.4 billion in new tax revenues can be generated through Brownfields redevelopment.

The goal of H.R. 2941 is to make two existing HUD programs work better for the communities they are intended to serve. In speaking with my local mayors, I learned that communities in my district are currently locked out of the BEDI grant program. The city manager of the City of La Habra, California, which is in my district, has stated that this bill ''would only further assist the City's efforts in pursing the clean-up of environmentally contaminated sites.'' I assure you that many of my colleagues will hear similar sentiments from community leaders in their districts.

Let's give cities access to the up-front financing they need to clean up Brownfields sites. I urge expeditious consideration of this crucial legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO LILLIAN WOOD FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE MARINE CORPS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to Mrs. Lillian Wood, who is well-known in many of our offices as the ''go-to'' person to provide service and answers to constituents who are Marines or former Marines. After 50 years of service as a civilian with the U.S. Marine Corps, Mrs. Wood is retiring as head of the Legislative Affairs Correspondence Branch.

As you and my colleagues know, when our constituents decide to ''call my Congressman'' to fix a problem, we turn to the agencies involved to help us with that solution. During her several decades with the Marine Corps legislative affairs office, Mrs. Wood helped tens of thousands of our constituents gain satisfaction, and she has become a shining example of a government official dedicated to public service.

A native of East Millsboro, Pennsylvania, Lillian went to work for the Marine Corps as a clerk-typist in 1952, not long after her high school graduation. She soon moved up to clerk-stenographer and began a quick ascent in the Marine Corps support services. From 1955 to 1966, she served with the Marine Corps dental/administrative division, and later with the reserve, aviation and G–4 divisions.

Her supervisors were so impressed with her business administration acumen that in 1966 Mrs. Wood was asked to join the Special Correspondence Branch of the Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department, formerly the Personnel Department. She was ultimately responsible for 28 employees in that department, and advanced to assistant branch head before her assignment to the legislative affairs correspondence branch.

Because of her personal integrity and the utmost respect and confidence she receives from the Corps, Mrs. Wood ensures that the Marines speak with one voice to congressional offices. She serves as the focal point for more than 4,000 written inquiries sent each year from Members of Congress. Her understanding of the needs of the average Marine and former Marine has been vital not only to our offices, but to the Secretary to the Navy, the Bureau of Medical Surgery and other military services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Lillian Wood for 50 years of dedicated service with the Marine Corps, for showing exemplary leadership and inspirational service that set the standard for civilian service in the Corps and the United States Naval Service. We wish her well in her retirement.

HATE SUCCEEDS IN INDIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, there was an interesting article in the Washington Post on December 11. It shows that hate can be a winning platform in India.

The article focuses on Jeetubhai Waghela, a candidate of the ruling BJP in the recent elections. He was involved in the killings in Gujarat last year, according to Muslims there. Now he runs as a protector of Hindus and this platform of hatred gains votes for him.

The Indian government has oppressed minorities for many years. In 1984, almost 20 years ago, it invaded the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the most sacred of Sikh shrines. Since then, over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered by the government, according to figures from the Punjab State Magistracy. 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners, according to a study from the Movement Against State Repression. These political prisoners should be released immediately.

The government was directly involved in the murders in Gujarat last year, according to published reports in India. It has killed over 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims as well as Muslims throughout the country. Over 200,000 Christians have been killed in Nagaland. Since Christmas 1998, priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned, and Christian schools and prayer halls have been attacked. Missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons were burned to death while they slept in their Jeep. Police broke up a religious festival with gunfire. These acts have been carried out by government forces or by their Hindu nationalist allies with government connivance. Is this a democracy?

We can help stop hate in the subcontinent. We must cut off our aid to India and we must come out for a free and fair plebiscite on independence in Kashmir, as India promised in 1948, as well as in Khalistan, in Nagaland, and the other countries seeking their freedom from India. Self-determination is the right of all peoples and nations, Mr. Speaker. That was the principle on which America is founded. It must be the principle that we promote around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Washington Post article I referred to into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 11, 2002]

IN INDIAN ELECTION, HATE IS PART OF PLATFORM

(By Rama Lakshmi)

AHMEDABAD, India—The candidate marched down the slum's narrow lanes, followed by men dancing to the sound of loud drums and