

nearly \$5 billion in direct investment in these communities; and

Whereas, Ellen Lazar has developed a strong management team and operational plan to expand the scope and effectiveness of Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation;

Therefore, I join the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in congratulating Ellen Lazar for her outstanding tenure as Executive Director of Neighborhood Reinvestment.

A SOUND DECISION ON THE
ANTIQUITIES ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the Antiquities Act of 1906 is an old law, but it remains a vital tool for protection of special parts of the lands that belong to all Americans. So, I join with the Daily Sentinel of Grand Junction, Colorado, in applauding the decision of the Supreme Court to refuse to second-guess Presidential actions under its authority.

The newspaper, in an editorial published today, correctly points out that the Supreme Court's action "not only preserved an important presidential executive prerogative but allowed critical protections to remain in place for important areas of the West."

The editorial goes on to point out that Congress has acted to change the status of some of the National Monuments that Presidents have established under the Antiquities Act. As that makes clear, Congress retains the ultimate authority to revise or even revoke a President's action under the Act. For the information of our colleagues, here is the full text of the Daily Sentinel editorial

[From the Daily Sentinel]

EDITORIAL: ANTIQUITIES ACT MERITED
SUPREME COURT'S APPROVAL

When President Bill Clinton set about protecting large chunks of the American West in the final days of his administration by designating six new national monuments in five states, the outgoing president ignited a firestorm of criticism throughout the regions most directly affected by the new designations. While the areas generally were deserving of special protection, Clinton and his team routinely acted without developing substantial support from local citizens.

But the law that Clinton used to designate those monuments—the Antiquities Act—remains a critical tool of the U.S. presidency. There would be no Colorado National Monument today were it not for the Antiquities Act, which grants presidents the authority to make such designations without seeking congressional approval. The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park would not have been protected originally as a national monument without the act, nor would the Arches National Park near Moab. Both areas were national monuments before Congress made them national parks. President Theodore Roosevelt, the Republican Party's greatest conservationist president, was the first to use the authority.

Conservative and industry groups, including the Denver-based Mountain States Legal Foundation, argued that Clinton exceeded his constitutional authority in using the Antiquities Act to designate the monuments.

But it wasn't Clinton who was listed as the defendant. It was current President George

W. Bush. And it was Bush's conservative attorney, Theodore Olson, who defended Clinton's authority and the Antiquities Act.

By refusing Monday to hear the case, the Supreme Court upheld a decision by an appeals court in Washington, D.C. that not only preserved an important presidential executive prerogative but allowed critical protections to remain in place for important areas of the West.

HELPING ENHANCE THE LIVELIHOOD
OF PEOPLE (HELP)
AROUND THE GLOBE COMMISSION
ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, women and children—the most innocent segment of our global community—comprise the majority of the poorest people in the our world.

During my time in Congress, I have witnessed much of this suffering first hand in many of the world's poorest nations.

While the names of the suffering and the causes of their pain differ from place to place, they all share common experiences of horror and human tragedy. Genocide, murder, slavery, famine, HIV/AIDS and corruption. Limbless children bearing the scars of endless civil wars. Child soldiers forced to fight. Babies so malnourished that they cannot even cry out in hunger. Refugee camps crowded by young orphans, robbed of their parents and all alone. A continuing cycle of hunger, homelessness, poverty and pain.

America has been blessed with abundance. The Book of Luke in the Bible says, "To whom much is given, much is required." When the American people—who I believe are the most generous people in the world—see suffering, see hunger, see homelessness and poverty and pain—they want to help. When they see people who are hurting, they want to help. The American people will open their wallets and they will support giving their tax dollars to reach out to those in need.

That generosity has been the guiding principle of foreign assistance and humanitarian aid throughout our nation's history. I have no doubt whatsoever that generosity will continue.

That principle also has guided the mission of the dedicated employees of the U.S. Agency for International Development, now under the bold leadership of Administrator Andrew Natsios, and the dozens of non-governmental organizations and their volunteers, who reach out daily around the globe—from the deserts of Africa to the jungles of Central America to the rice fields of the Far East—to bring help to the poorest of the poor. I have seen the good work they do.

There is an expectation, however, that the assistance sent abroad is reaching those who truly need the help, that it is having a long-term impact on improving lives, and that it is being wisely spent.

I believe it is time to look at this issue with fresh eyes, assess our development and humanitarian assistance programs, both short- and long-term, evaluate who is receiving the assistance and how that assistance is provided, and determine if changes need to be made to allow the generosity of the American people to be felt throughout the world.

That is why I am introducing legislation—"Helping Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP) Around the Globe Commission Act"—with the goal to help our Nation do a better job of helping those who need it most. My bill will create a 21-member HELP Commission designed to bring the best foreign assistance minds together to focus on one primary question:

How can the United States improve its ability to quickly and effectively provide foreign assistance which is meeting not only short-term, immediate needs, but also has the long-term effect of making a difference in people's lives?

I want to be clear in stating my motivation for this commission. From my work and travels on humanitarian issues, I have the deepest respect for and admiration of the thousands of U.S. aid workers, both government employees and non-governmental organizations, who, often at personal risk, are reaching out to try and help improve the lives of suffering people in every corner of this world. That is why I am also asking the commission to look at how we can better secure our aid workers.

I believe this commission can help them do their jobs even better. Struggling nations face enormous obstacles to lasting development and political stability. It is critical that the international community continue to support and encourage struggling countries in their greatest hour of need. And we must find ways to improve our ability to do so.

The United States has a vital national interest—and I believe a moral obligation—to help poor nations so that they can provide their people with freedom, economic opportunity, functioning governments and most importantly—healthy and productive lives.

The HELP Commission also can find answers to other questions, such as:

Do we need a new vision to guide our foreign aid efforts?

Should we change the ratio between providing immediate humanitarian assistance and long-term assistance?

As those questions are pondered, we must be open enough to admit if and how previous policies have failed, and smart enough to expand upon our prior successes.

This panel must absorb the essence of our foreign assistance efforts and contemplate every aspect of our development, humanitarian and food aid programs, from the moment they are created to the moment the aid arrives on the ground.

The commissioners also must identify the root causes of a country's decline, or barriers to another country's accession, and recommend long-term strategies for ways our Nation's aid can make the most successful impact.

Over the past 50 years, according to information provided by the Congressional Research Service, the United States has given a total of \$152.5 billion in development assistance and food aid to countries and their people all over the world. Reports indicate that many aid recipients may be no better off today than they were decades ago.

I am asking this commission to also answer other questions:

Can we say with honesty that our efforts have left the majority of intended recipients better off?

While there are many success stories, are there better ways to do the job?