my diploma, so I went to get it for her,'' said Hornbeck.

Meanwhile, Hornbeck was working at a large insurance firm in San Francisco, but it was ''not what I was cut out to do,'' and on the side he had started a group of nature enthusiasts called the Contra Costa Park Council.

BRUSH WITH DEATH

In 1965, a doctor's visit revealed melanoma tumor. The doctor gave him five years to live and encouraged him to start pursuing his dreams.

''I went to Bill Mott of the East Bay Regional Park District, and said, I want to work for you,'' Hornbeck said. ''Timing is so significant.''

According to the East Bay Regional Parks District's history section of its Web site, ''In 1962, William Penn Mott, Jr. became the District's next General Manager. Mott's first order of business at the Park District was to reorganize and plan for the future. He brought new life to every aspect of the District's operation by restructuring, and bringing in talented professionals like Richard Trudeau, Chief of Public Information and Hulet Hornbeck, Chief of Land Acquisition who both would serve as leaders in the park and trail movement during the next 40-years. Mott's enthusiastic vision of a grand system of hilltop and shoreline parks would require additional stable funding, and he moved quickly to increase District revenues. The Forward 1964–1969 Plan was developed by Mott and his staff in 1963 to identify the Park projects that were needed to serve all East Bay residents, even those outside of the District's boundary. In 1962, residents in Contra Costa County had turned down a funding measure for county parks; so park supporters began pushing for annexation to the Regional Park District. In 1964, voters in West and Central Contra Costa County approved annexation to the District, and Kennedy Grove and Briones were soon developed and opened as the first Regional Parks entirely within Contra Costa County.''

Hornbeck said the District didn't have a single square acre of parkland when he started, but by the time he retired in 1985, 64,000 acres were purchased and incorporated into the park system, including much of Briones and the Franklin Hills.

''Now it's over 100,000 acres, and thanks to the recent passage of Measure WW, it will keep growing. As a special district, we had the power of eminent domain, but we never used it as a threat, and we always paid fair market value,'' said Hornbeck. ''We had the support of all the key developers in the area, who knew the value of balancing people with open space, and we always worked with justice and integrity. The public supported us.''

Hornbeck said Senator John Nejedly was instrumental in securing legislation that expanded the District's ability to create a trail system.

The Hulet Hornbeck trail in the Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline was dedicated in 2005.

''Hulet is credited with overseeing the acquisition of 49,000 acres of parkland, expanding the District's land holdings from eight parks (13,000 acres) to 46 parks (62,000 acres) thus securing the unique position that the East Bay Regional Park District still enjoys today as being the largest regional park agency in the nation,'' according to the nonprofit American Trails organization.

IMPROVING FEDERAL FINANCING FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE TERRITORIES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced two bills to increase the percentage of clean water state revolving loan funds and drinking water state revolving loan funds annually reserved for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam, and the Virgin Islands under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act respectively. The effect of these bills would be, if enacted, to increase by approximately 50% the amounts of federal funding awarded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) annually under these state revolving loan funds to each of the governments of these territories to help them finance critical water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

I am joined by my colleagues from the territories, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN of the Virgin Islands, and Mr. SABLAN of the Northern Mariana Islands, in introducing these two bills. H.R. 1889 would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and H.R. 1890 would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act with respect to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. These bills help ensure that all Americans, including our constituents, enjoy access to clean and safe drinking water.

Specifically, H.R. 1889 and H.R. 1890 would require the reservation of one half of a percent of amounts made available each fiscal year for grants to the states and territories under both revolving funds. Currently, the four territories are limited by statute to a third of a percent of total funding, meaning that they actually receive less on a per capita basis than a number of states. This inequity persists in spite of the fact that the territories have some of the most severe needs for federal assistance for clean water and drinking water infrastructure projects. With respect to the Pacific territories, the USEPA generally estimates that over 25% of the population lacks access to sanitary drinking water. That figure is a mere 0.6% nationwide. Furthermore, federal courts have ruled that the territories' water and wastewater systems are in non-compliance with federal laws and regulations and have ordered a wide range of improvements and upgrades. However, the territorial governments are currently challenged in financing these court-ordered projects as a result of budget shortfalls and declining revenues associated with the economic downturn. As a result, the territorial governments remain, in certain cases, unable to comply with the court mandates without risking bankruptcy. In sum, the very regions of the United States that have the direst need for assistance in financing water and wastewater infrastructure are limited by federal law to a diminutive fraction of a percent of total funding. In contrast, each state is guaranteed under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act to receive each fiscal year no less than a full one percent of total funding irrespective of need or population.

Madam Speaker, raising the cap on funding made available to assist the territories from a third of a percent to one-half a percent would be a significant step toward fulfilling critical needs for new infrastructure in the territories. A one-half of a percent funding level is consistent with funding set-asides for the territories under other laws enacted by Congress governing formula grant programs. Finally, because the states are each guaranteed a minimum level of funding as opposed to the ceiling set on the territories, these bills will not significantly impact funding made available to help finance projects in the rest of the United States.

In effect, raising the cap from a third of a percent to a half a percent involves less than five one-thousandths of one percent of the federal budget. It would, however, have a tangible and measurable impact on the health and quality of life for hundreds of thousands of American citizens and nationals residing in the territories. Madam Speaker, I urge a thorough review of this issue and these bills by the committees of jurisdiction.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PAKISTAN ENDURING ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to talk about the Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Enhancement Act—or PEACE Act—a bill I introduced today with a distinguished group of original cosponsors, including Mr. KIRK, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. WEXLER. The fundamental purpose of this legislation is to strengthen the U.S. relationship with Pakistan—a country that is central to our national security and to-global stability,

The timing of this bill could not be more crucial. We stand at a pivotal moment in our relations with Pakistan and in our campaign to bring stability and security to Afghanistan. Several days ago, the Obama Administration unveiled its new strategy for those countries, the main focus of which is to enhance our ability to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda in its safe havens in Pakistan. The PEACE Act is written with that critical goal in mind. But it also reflects our deep appreciation of the fact that it is in our national interest to create a long-term strategic partnership with Pakistan; one that speaks to the needs of the average citizens of Pakistan—those who live in rural areas, without access to adequate education or healthcare, and who have suffered at the hands of a frequently dysfunctional and corrupt judicial system and police force.

By tripling U.S. assistance for democratic, economic and social development, our bill lays the foundation for a creating a stronger, more stable Pakistan. It places a particular emphasis on strengthening Pakistan's fragile democratic institutions—including the parliament and judicial system—enhancing economic development by increasing local capacity, and improving Pakistan's education system and vocational training.