

It's more than just a moral problem that billions of people around the world are struggling to survive. It is also in our security interest as a nation. Populations that struggle in extreme poverty are more likely to become mired in destabilizing conflicts, or worse, become havens or recruiting grounds for terrorist organizations. Taking action to help lift people out of poverty and addressing the critical issues that go hand-in-hand with poverty will help prevent threats to U.S. security, and will also help create goodwill toward the U.S. in places where it is desperately needed.

The United States sits near the bottom of government aid donations by country wealth, donating just 0.18% of our national income. Now is the time to bolster our funding and development efforts to developing countries. The current economic climate is seriously impacting developing countries and they are in dire need of our assistance. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, world trade is in the largest decline since 1929, and commodity prices, particularly for exports from developing countries, are falling.

I am pleased to see that this legislation contains \$13.4 billion for national security, counterterrorism and counternarcotics programs, including significant funding for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq. Yet, the funding focus in recent years on defense, while vital in our fight against extremism, has left behind the other D's—diplomacy and development. This bill helps remedy that by reforming and rebuilding America's diplomatic and development capacity. While it does not meet the full request by the President, the bill provides funding to hire 1,000 new State Department personnel and 300 new USAID personnel.

Unfortunately, U.S. efforts remain insufficient to counter violent extremist narratives around the world. Terrorist groups aggressively push their narrative through new and traditional media. I was pleased to see increased funding for public diplomacy programs in the FY2010 bill. The increase would support at least 20 new public diplomacy positions. Importantly, the funding also continues imperative programs which include the counterterrorism communication center, and the digital outreach team focused on engaging Arabic language websites to impart accurate information and counter misinformation about the United States. Strategic communication and public diplomacy should be at the front-and-center as we work to roll back al-Qaeda's and other violent extremists' influence among disaffected populations.

I would be remiss not to mention funding for the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) which was increased over the current level. I am disappointed, however, that the allocation was less than the President's request. As the bill progresses I would urge continued support for global poverty reduction by funding the MCA at no less than the \$1.4 billion allocated in this legislation. The Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC's) model of combating global poverty through initiatives that remove barriers to economic growth has not only been hailed as innovative, it has provided an effective complement to existing development aid streams.

The bill also provides \$156 million for health and development assistance in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and prioritizes peacekeeping operations funding for the coun-

try. I witnessed the urgent need for this funding first hand when I visited the DRC earlier this spring. This bill includes funding for addressing gender-based violence and I would hope that priority is given to the areas in conflict and post-conflict such as the DRC which are afflicted most by these dehumanizing acts. Too often in these areas acts of rape and sexual abuse are, unfortunately, common events. Gender-based violence is a major public health and human rights problem throughout the world and it is most apparent in the DRC. There, a devastatingly high percentage of girls are reported to have been raped. Yet, this is only a fraction of the actual number as most cases are unreported.

Again, I thank Chairwoman LOWEY and Ranking Member GRANGER for their work on this legislation and urge my colleagues to support its passage. This bill would advance our ability to combat global poverty and is critical to our country's ability to address today's threats.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL SULLIVAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the distinguished career of Michael Sullivan on the occasion of his retirement as executive director of the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center after 11 years of service.

Mike served as a consultant for the Gulf Coast Exploreum for eight years before becoming its executive director in 1998. He and his wife, Eleanor Kulin, worked together planning and marketing the museum's major events.

In 1998, Mike oversaw the museum's relocation to its high-tech home at Government and Water Streets. Throughout his career, Mike brought 28 traveling exhibitions and 46 large-format films to the J.L. Bedsole IMAX Theater. The Exploreum was also named Alabama's Attraction of the Year in 2008 during the Governor's Conference on Tourism. The Exploreum was the most visited attraction in south Alabama and the seventh most visited in the state.

Under Mike's leadership, the Exploreum has brought one "blockbuster" exhibit after another to Mobile—bringing hundreds of thousands of visitors and millions of dollars to the local economy. In 2005, "The Dead Sea Scrolls" attracted 205,661 visitors to Mobile and an estimated \$13.4 million to the local economy—in just 109 days.

In recognition of his many remarkable accomplishments, Mobile Mayor Sam Jones declared "W. Michael Sullivan Day" earlier this year. The J.L. Bedsole IMAX Dome Theater lobby was named in Mike's honor by the Exploreum board of trustees.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many throughout the Gulf Coast. On behalf of all those who have benefited from the Gulf Coast Exploreum, permit me to extend thanks for enriching the lives of so many.

On behalf of a grateful community, I wish Mike and Eleanor the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

THE CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, as the chairman of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee and someone who shares the concern of many in this House about the need to protect and restore threatened and endangered species, I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues a report recently released by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service on the effects of the long-term operation of California's Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

The Central Valley Project is a Federal Bureau of Reclamation water project which supplies irrigation and municipal water to inland California from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The Sacramento River, along with the American River, was once among the top salmon spawning rivers on the West Coast, behind only the Columbia and Snake Rivers. The Sacramento was the only river in the West with four salmon runs, with returning fish numbered in the millions. Now one run is gone, and two are endangered, and the fourth could be listed soon. The scientists concluded in this most recent biological opinion that without wild salmon from the Sacramento and American Rivers, the killer whales known so well throughout the Puget Sound would likely face extinction.

These findings only stress the interconnectedness of our biosphere and the need to find a balance between the demands of irrigation and agriculture with those required by the species that once thrived in these rivers. In Washington State, we have worked very hard to find compromises between agriculture, power generation, and salmon restoration. While there is still work to be done, we have made great strides in implementing a mark selective fishery, one of the best tools for restoring wild salmon runs.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in California, Oregon, and Washington, in establishing a comprehensive plan to ensure the recovery and survival of our legendary wild salmon and killer whales.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I am submitting for the record an article recently published by McClatchy Newspapers, which provides an excellent overview of the biological opinion, the history of wild salmon in California, and the recent decline of the killer whales.

[From McClatchy Newspapers, July 5, 2009]

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN AIMS TO SAVE

PUGET SOUND ORCAS

(By Les Blumenthal)

WASHINGTON.—A plan to restore salmon runs on California's Sacramento River also could help revive killer whale populations 700 miles to the north in Puget Sound, as federal scientists struggle to protect endangered species in a complex ecosystem that stretches along the Pacific coast from California to Alaska.

Without wild salmon from the Sacramento and American rivers as part of their diet, the killer whales might face extinction, scientists concluded in a biological opinion that could result in even more severe water restrictions for farmers in the drought-stricken, 400-mile-long Central Valley of California. The valley is the nation's most productive farm region.