

out, co-signers are often obliged to pay off the balance of private student loans in the instance of such tragedies, a requirement that is typically not included in federal loans. This bill would protect families like the Bryskis, including many of the families in my district, which contains three community colleges and five universities.

From 2007–08, 13 percent of students attending four-year public colleges or universities and 26.2 percent of those attending private four-year institutions had private student loans. The SLM Corporation, the major private loan provider commonly known as Sallie Mae, estimates that 84 percent of private student loans involve cosigners. These statistics make clear the need for private loan companies to thoroughly educate the students and families to whom they provide aid. This is the best way to ensure that American families are adequately equipped to manage their loans under any circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5458 and recognizing the immense burden that may befall millions of families across the nation if Congress does not act.

HONORING SEPTEMBER AS  
NATIONAL RICE MONTH

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the annual September celebration of the harvest of rice in the United States.

For centuries, rice has been the primary food staple for over half of the world's population. Today, the United States and countries around the world still enjoy rice as a dietary staple, but also as the foundation for many dishes and side dishes. Rice is enjoyed as part of cereal, flour, bran, cooking oil, rice cakes and many other snacks.

Rice production has and continues to be a significant source of revenue for the American economy. In fact, rice production in the United States dates back to 1685 and is one of the oldest agribusinesses in the United States. Rice continues to be produced in force by 10,500 rice farmers in the States of Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and in my home State of Texas. In fact, I am proud to have 45 active rice farmers working on 20,000 acres of rice fields in the district that I represent—the most of any Congressional district in Texas. In Texas alone, the rice industry has created 2,700 jobs and \$1.6 billion in total economic activity.

Rice farming is of critical importance to the economy of my district and to the southern United States. In 2009, rice farmers in the U.S. produced nearly 22 billion pounds of rice that had a farm gate value of more than \$3 billion. Subsequent sales of rice generated \$17.5 billion in total value added to the U.S. economy. This activity contributed 127,000 jobs to the U.S. labor force in 2009. Additionally, the U.S. is one of the largest exporters of rice and produces more than two percent of the world's rice supply, feeding millions around the world.

I am proud to represent the rice farmers of the second district of Texas, and to recognize

their achievements during National Rice Month.

And that's just the way it is.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TRI-COUNTY  
SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING FACILITY  
BROWN, OUTAGAMIE,  
AND WINNEBAGO COUNTIES, WIS-  
CONSIN

**HON. STEVE KAGEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to the Tri-County Single-Stream Recycling Facility, located in Little Chute Wisconsin, on the occasion of its winning the Solid Waste Association of North America's Gold Award for Excellence.

Each year, the Association recognizes the best recycling facility in North America. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tri-County, which serves Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties, in recognition of its accomplishment.

I was honored to have participated in the Recycling Center's grand opening in 2009. I am proud to report that since then, the facility has achieved its annual goal of collecting 48,000 tons of material, while also managing to come in under budget.

The operation allows three counties to process glass, aluminum, paper and plastic without requiring any pre-sorting. This convenience to consumers enhances public participation and expands the overall reach of the projects. The spirit of cooperation between the participating counties has spurred its success and fueled discussions of expansion.

Special commendation should be made to Outagamie director of solid waste Phillip Stecker, Brown County solid waste director Chuck Larscheid, and Winnebago Solid Waste Management board chairman Patrick O'Brien for their exemplary stewardship.

Madam Speaker, the Tri-County Recycling Center has greatly improved the energy efficiency and environmental health of Northeast Wisconsin, and the Gold Award for Recycling Excellence is very well-deserved. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Tri-County's contributions to our society and our environment.

HONORING TREE FRESNO

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Tree Fresno upon celebrating its 25th anniversary. The organization's anniversary was celebrated on Friday, September 24, 2010 in Fresno, California.

Since its inception in 1985, Tree Fresno has been involved in the planting of more than thirty-seven thousand trees on public land in and around the Fresno area. The organization has promoted youth environmental awareness and leadership by encouraging student participation in tree planting projects. Through the cre-

ation of the Junior Tree Fresno board of directors, the youth in the community have an opportunity to learn leadership and environmental stewardship skills. Tree Fresno provides tree education programs for citizens of all ages, creating an opportunity for volunteers to become actively involved with civic improvement projects.

By planting and maintaining trees, Tree Fresno is creating an improved urban forest in Fresno County where homes and parks are shaded, the air is cleaner and the beauty of the city is enhanced. Tree Fresno has planted trees along streets, trails, public parks and school campuses. Through the formation of community coalitions, Tree Fresno has been able to restore the natural oak forest along a major road by planting over fourteen hundred native oak seedlings. Through advocacy and beautification efforts, Tree Fresno has established itself as a leading organization in the community, dedicated to the improvement of the urban forest and overall quality of life for our community.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Tree Fresno upon 25 years of service to Fresno County and the surrounding communities. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Tree Fresno many years of continued success.

HONORING THE SCRANTON AREA  
FOUNDATION ON RECEIVING THE  
ATTORNEY ROBERT W. MUNLEY  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD  
FROM LACKAWANNA PRO BONO

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Scranton Area Foundation on receiving the Attorney Robert W. Munley Distinguished Service Award from Lackawanna Pro Bono.

Lackawanna Pro Bono is a non-profit organization established in 1997 to increase the availability of free legal representation for low-income individuals and families throughout Lackawanna County.

Over the past 13 years they have organized local attorneys to volunteer their time to provide representation in over 2,000 cases, and in the process have helped nearly 5,000 residents of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Lackawanna Pro Bono will host its second annual Fundraising Gala on October 21, 2010 in Scranton, Pennsylvania. For the second year, Lackawanna Pro Bono will honor a select number of individuals and organizations who have demonstrated excellent service to the community with its Attorney Robert W. Munley Distinguished Service Award.

This year's group of deserving recipients includes the Scranton Area Foundation.

The Scranton Area Foundation was initially formed in 1954 as a private foundation. In 1988, the Foundation qualified as a charitable non-profit organization and transitioned into a public community foundation.

The Scranton Area Foundation's mission is to "meet a wide variety of education, cultural, human service, and other charitable needs through Lackawanna County."