

almost always have ways to obtain competitive transportation. And because of this competition, rail customers exert meaningful power in negotiating railroad rates and services.

In those relatively few cases wherein shippers do not have effective transportation options, existing maximum rate regulation protects shippers from egregious railroad rates. In two recent cases, for example, two utilities were awarded millions of dollars in reparations by the STB because they were deemed to have been charged unreasonably high rates by the railroads that served them. In response to criticisms by Dr. Kahn and others that rate reasonableness case procedures were cumbersome, lengthy and expensive, expedited procedures for small shipper cases were recently implemented by the STB, though shippers have not taken advantage of them to date.

Dr. Kahn is wrong in dismissing the likelihood of reduced investment in rail infrastructure if mandated access forces rates too low. Under forced access, railroads would be unable to recoup the full costs of their investment in their infrastructure.

Without the ability to cover total costs, railroads would be unable to maintain or increase their investment commitment. This would lead to deterioration and/or shrinkage of the national rail system and reduced service levels. Given the vital importance of transportation to the national and global economies, this is the last thing the national transportation system needs.

Dr. Kahn is wrong in claiming that "structural remedies" such as mandated competitive access would assure rail-to-rail competition and permit market forces to determine rate and service levels. In fact, under a system of forced access, government bureaucrats would have to regulate anew an incredible variety of price and operational decisions, creating a system of economic regulation that would be far more costly and pervasive—and far less effective—than the current system.

Proponents of mandated access, like Dr. Kahn, essentially advocate that freight railroads should be regulated on the basis of how many railroads serve an individual shipper, rather than on the presence or absence of competition. They propose that access to a railroad's privately owned and maintained infrastructure by its competitors should be mandated, and that the fees for access should be set by regulation, not by competitive market forces. This uneconomical reregulation of freight railroads is an attempt to gain short-term rate reductions for some shippers, at the expense of other rail customers, railroad investors and society in general.

Deregulation of the U.S. railroad industry has led to tens of billions of dollars in savings since 1980 to shippers and, ultimately, to all of us. It would be a tragedy of enormous proportions to jettison these gains in favor of cleverly disguised regulation that has failed in the past and would fail again.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MAYOR,
ANTHONY E. O'BLOCK

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Anthony O'Block, the

distinguished and memorable first Mayor of Plum Borough. In his thirty years of service, Mayor O'Block, through his extraordinary commitment and diligence, placed the needs of his community front and center. He immigrated as a small child to the United States from Slovenia and settled in Plum.

His early life in Plum was extremely modest, yet in the spirit of the American dream, he established his own construction company, presided over the successful People's Bank of Unity, and was one of the most respected figures in Pennsylvania Democratic politics. Despite his successes, he never forgot his roots, his family, or his neighbors throughout the borough. His love for his community led him to tirelessly focus on the needs of others and of the entire borough. During his tenure, Plum Borough gained recognition as a prosperous community, both for businesses and for families.

Through his contributions to the growth and the development of the Plum community, he expanded social and community services, attracted business investment, and made the Borough a truly exceptional place in which to live. All this was accomplished while keeping taxes at an all time low, a truly remarkable task.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to rise in tribute to Mayor Anthony E. O'Block. Mayor O'Block honored his family, his friends, and his community. He will forever be remembered as a friend and mentor to so many people. He will truly be missed.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANTHONY S.
LENZO

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise before you to congratulate one of Northwest Indiana's most noble, selfless, and dedicated individuals: Dr. Anthony S. Lenzo, of Crown Point, Indiana. On October 11, 1998, Dr. Lenzo will be honored by the Cesare Battisti Lodge #27, as this year's Member of the Year. In addition to his many years of service to the Lodge, he is being honored for his tireless efforts as a community leader.

The Cesare Battisti Lodge #27 has been honoring its most dedicated members since 1966. A lifelong member of the organization, Dr. Lenzo serves as an excellent role model for both members of the Cesare Battisti Lodge, and for the people of Indiana's First Congressional District. Not only has he maintained a lifelong membership with Lodge #27, Dr. Lenzo has been a lifelong leader of the Lodge. He is currently the financial secretary and the editor of the Lodge newspaper. As Walter Lippman said, "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on." Dr. Lenzo's efforts in the community, in addition to his nationwide efforts for peace, have certainly inaugurated an enduring legacy. For many years, he has worked to have the United Nations designate a "Weekend of Prayer, Meditation, and Thought on the Futility of War and the Desperate Need for Peace in the World." In his own words, "It will be a thankful day

when we can once again live in peace . . . peace in the world, peace within our nations, peace in our neighborhoods, peace in our streets."

Since he began his campaign for peace, Dr. Lenzo has met with great success. He has received positive responses from former Secretary-General of the United Nations Boutros-Boutros Ghali, Pope John Paul II, and Elizabeth Taylor. Nearly all who hear Dr. Lenzo's plea for peace commend him on his campaign. I also commend Dr. Lenzo for his activism, leadership, and ardent dedication to a noble cause. This campaign is as poignant now as it was in January 1991 when I first called your attention to it. As members of NATO stand poised to initiate air strikes in Kosovo and Serbia, Dr. Lenzo's works remind us of the gravity of the actions they contemplate. As options are considered, his message to these nations is to keep the goal of peace in sight. Dr. Lenzo's suggestion that we step back and remember to whom we are accountable is as important now as it was then.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Tony Lenzo is an inspiration to us all. I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in commending Dr. Lenzo for not only his award as Cesare Battisti Lodge #27's Member of the Year, but also for his extraordinary campaign for world peace. His superhuman efforts and selfless dedication are an example for every citizen of the United States to emulate. Northwest Indiana is lucky indeed to have such a resident.

IN HONOR OF THE ATHENIANS
FEDERATION OF ATHENS CELEBRATION OF THE LIBERATION
OF ATHENS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Athenian Federation of the United States of America and Canada. The Association is organizing the twentieth Archieratical Tedeum to commemorate the Liberation of Athens from the Nazis 54 years ago.

The official Archieratical Tedeum will be held at the Greek Orthodox Church Cathedral in New York City on Sunday, October 11, in the presence of the Consul, officials of the Greek community, Greek organizations and members of the Greek community.

The Tedeum commemorates the Liberation of Athens from Nazi occupation by the Allied Forces on October 12, 1944.

On April 27, 1943, Nazi tanks entered Athens as the remnants of the British forces evacuated Greece. The citizens of Athens lived under the siege of Nazi terror and occupation for three and a half years until liberation when the Allied Forces hoisted a Greek flag on the holy rock of Acropolis, signaling the end of the occupation. The Greek flag replaced the flag of the Nazi regime which hung over the Acropolis of Athens throughout the occupation.

The anniversary of the liberation is celebrated annually in Athens and amongst Greek communities here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention this important anniversary in the history of Greece, Greek citizens, and Greek-