

exhibition of patriotic spirit. He is truly an inspiration to me to continue on our important work advancing the freedom and liberty of our beloved Republic.

NATIONAL MONUMENT NEPA
COMPLIANCE ACT

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced 'The National Monument NEPA Compliance Act.' This Act would enhance public participation in the creation of national monuments.

Two and a half years ago President Clinton created the 1.8 million acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in the State of Utah. This national monument was created in the dark of night. No one from Utah knew about it until just before it happened. The public was completely excluded from the process.

This is not the way that public land decisions should be made. The public should be allowed to participate in public land decisions.

This bill would do just that, it would allow the public to participate in the national monument designation process. It would require the President, through the Secretary of the Interior, to follow the National Environmental Policy Act when formulating a national monument proposal. Since the preparation of an environmental impact statement takes some time, it

would call for a 2-year emergency withdrawal of the lands in question during deliberations on the monument proposal to ensure protection of the resources.

This bill would not affect the power of the President to create national monuments. It would just require him to involve the public in the decision process. It would eliminate the clandestine creation of national monuments in smoke-filled back rooms. I believe this is a very good bill and I hope it will garner bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support "The National Monument NEPA Compliance Act." We need to return public participation to public lands management.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT M. "BOB"
MCLAUGHLIN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Robert M. McLaughlin, an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to education. He will be celebrating his retirement from Saint David's School, where he has taught English and Latin, as well as 4th and 8th grade, since 1963. He will be honored on May 5 by parents, family, friends, and professionals for his outstanding contributions to the community.

Born in the Bronx in 1936, Mr. McLaughlin, known as Bob to his friends, attended Cardinal Hayes High School and Fordham University where he earned a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in Latin and Roman History.

As Rose Marie Gionta Alfieri eloquently reported in Saint David's Magazine: "A bibliophile is one of the terms most often used by McLaughlin's colleagues and friends at Saint David's to describe him. Others include 'loyal,' 'funny,' 'supportive,' 'argumentative,' and 'good sport.' But perhaps the most on-the-nose quality that captures the essence of this master teacher can be summed up in one word: passion."

Mr. Speaker, I think that quote speaks volumes about Mr. McLaughlin's character.

Mr. McLaughlin will retire in May of this year after a fruitful career in public service. He will leave us with many lessons learned about leadership in education and about wisdom. A talented leader and educator, Mr. McLaughlin will continue sharing his knowledge and views with his family and friends.

Mr. McLaughlin is married to Mary McAndrews and they are the proud parents of five children, Robert, Matthew, Andrew—all three attended Saint David's School—Mary Joyce, and Kristin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Robert M. "Bob" McLaughlin for his outstanding achievements in education and his enduring commitment to the community.