

grateful that students and residents from western Wisconsin remain committed to improving the local environment for the benefit of this generation and the many generations to follow. It is my sincere hope that we can here in Congress take this example back to our own communities to strengthen our own constituents' efforts to raise awareness regarding local environmental issues.

Obviously, the teaching going on at Longfellow Middle School is near and dear to my heart. Growing up, I spent a lot of time along the Mississippi River. Now I live right on the Mississippi, and take my two sons down to the River to fish, or just explore, whenever possible. The important role the Mississippi River plays in the lives of my constituents is, in fact, why I helped form the bipartisan Mississippi River Caucus as one of the first things I did when joining Congress. I also continually support initiatives to benefit the river such as the EMP program and the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge. And this year, I will reintroduce my Upper Mississippi River Basin Conservation Act.

On behalf of the residents of western Wisconsin, I proudly commend Debra Buswell on her recognition as an Outstanding Environmental Educator. I also commend the School on the River for being recognized for its efforts to improve the local environment in western Wisconsin. The La Crosse School District and local community are better places to live thanks to the efforts of these middle-school students and their dedicated teacher.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD
KWASNESKI, MAYOR OF LEMONT,
IL

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Kwasneski, who in just a few weeks will be retiring as Mayor of Lemont, Illinois, which is located in my congressional district.

Our local governments could not work if it were not for people like Rick—they serve their hometowns for no other reason than because they love where they live.

Rick Kwasneski surely loves Lemont. For the past 16 years, Rick has served the people of Lemont with dedication and honor, first as a Village Trustee for eight years and then as Mayor for the past eight.

As Mayor, Rick led the economic and physical revitalization of Lemont's historic downtown area, created a Historic District in the downtown area to promote and preserve the rich history of Lemont, and reconstructed the town's aging infrastructure and roadways. He also lowered the Village's property tax rate to its lowest level in 25 years.

Rick is a tireless champion for Lemont, always working to improve the Village wherever there is a need. The residents of Lemont were lucky to have him as Mayor and I know he will be missed.

I am going to miss Rick as well. Since I came to Congress a little over two years ago, Rick has been a valuable partner on issues important to Lemont, such as the southern extension of I-355 and extra train service on the Heritage Corridor rail line that serves Lemont.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by saying that we need more excellent individuals like Rick Kwasneski to go into public service. His selfless hard work and advocacy for Lemont are a model for all of us.

And even though he will no longer serve as Mayor of Lemont, I know that he will continue to have a strong presence in the community, lending a hand whenever and wherever it is needed.

FEBRUARY 22 FOREST ROUNDTABLE IN MISSOULA

HON. DENNIS REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, on February 22 I sponsored a roundtable discussion in Missoula, Montana on forest health issues. This discussion included presentations from a wide array of interests.

Representing the conservation community were Tom France of the National Wildlife Federation, Cesar Hernandez of the Montana Wilderness Association and Steve Thompson of the Montana Conservation Voters. Forest products industry witnesses were Kim Liles of the Pulp and Paperworkers Resource Council, Jim Hurst of Owens and Hurst Lumber, Sherm Anderson of the Montana Logging Association and Roger Johnson of Pyramid Mountain Lumber. County governments were represented by Commissioners Barbara Evans of Missoula County, Alan Thompson of Ravalli County, Dale Williams of Flathead County and Rita Windham of Lincoln County. Providing creative ideas practiced on non-federal lands were Garry Orr of the Salish-Kootenai Tribes and Tom Schultz with the Montana Department of State Lands. Finally, the scientific and academic communities were represented by Drs. Chuck Keegan and Carl Fiedler of the University of Montana and U.S. Forest Service fire ecologist Steve Arno.

This roundtable, and one scheduled for April 18 in Hamilton, will provide me with firsthand accounts of what is working and not working regarding management of Montana's forests. As a member of both the House Committees on Agriculture and Resources, that have jurisdiction over forest management, I am seeking "made in Montana" solutions to our current challenges in forest management.

I encourage my colleagues to read the following article by Sherry Devlin on the Missoula roundtable that appeared in the February 23 Missoulian. I also highly recommend reading the testimony of Kim Liles who is a papermaker for Smurfit-Stone Container in Frenchtown, Montana and a member of Hellgate Local 8-0885 PACE International Union.

[From the Missoulian (MT), Feb. 23, 2001]

REHBERG GETS EARFUL ON FORESTS
INDUSTRY OFFICIALS SAY CONTROL SHOULD
STAY WITH LOCAL EXPERTS

(By Sherry Devlin)

The rest of the country should just "butt out" and let Montanans manage the national forests in their back yards, a Eureka sawmill owner told U.S. Rep. Dennis Rehberg's forest-management roundtable Thursday.

"I'm not going to tell the people of New York City how to manage Central Park,"

said Jim Hurst, owner of Owens and Hurst Lumber Co. "So why should they be telling us how to manage the Kootenai National Forest? I say they should butt out."

Montanans, Hurst said, can work their way through even the thorniest forest-management issues. It's the national dictates—of presidents, congressmen and bureaucrats—that make people dig in their heels.

So went the conversation during a four-hour, four-panel series of roundtable discussions at the University of Montana, called by Rehberg—he said—to learn more about forest-management issues and to look for common ground. "Is there anything that we can all agree on?" he asked.

"Yes," said paper maker Kim Liles. "I share everyone's concern for the health, conservation and beauty of this great state. I most certainly do not want to destroy the environment."

"Yes," said environmental lawyer Tom France. "If it's not just a rush to get timber off the hill, but a rush to do right by the land."

"Good," said Rehberg, the Republican elected in November to Montana's single seat in the House of Representatives. "People have this preconceived notion that I have a preconceived notion about forest management. And I don't. I am serious about the consensus process."

Collaboration can work; it can yield timber cutting and endangered-species recovery, said France, an attorney for the National Wildlife Federation in Missoula.

Loggers and environmentalists have been able to look at specific pieces of land and agree upon "appropriate timber harvest" that "lays lightly on the land," he said. "It works best when we are discussing specific tracts of land in our own, local area."

"Let's start talking about salvage logging in burned areas and restoration projects in the urban-wildland interface," said Anne Dahl of the Swan Ecosystem Center. "We are very capable of making good decisions as a community."

"We need to start over and practice sustainable forestry on the millions and millions of acres of forest land that we already roaded and developed," said Steve Thompson, a Whitefish consultant, writer and environmental activist.

Don't get distracted, Thompson advised, by focusing your energy on a repeal of President Clinton's roadless initiative—the last administration's controversial ban on road building and logging on 58 million acres of undeveloped national forest land.

"Many of the forest issues that we face are very polarized, very difficult," France said. "They are not easily resolved by even powerful congressmen in Washington, D.C. I encourage you to focus on the places where we can actually make progress on the ground."

Loggers—who sat with Rehberg on another of the roundtable panels—emphasized that there will be no consensus unless the discussion and decisions are local.

"To manage our national forests from an office back East is unacceptable," said Liles, who works at Smurfit-Stone Container Corp.'s Frenchtown linerboard plant. "The national folks don't have to experience the economic devastation their policies cause. They don't know us or our geography. We have very good people right here in Missoula, Montana, in the Forest Service. We need to allow them to do their jobs."

Hurst told Rehberg that federal land management policies have bankrupted his community and broken its spirit. "Eureka, Montana, is going broke," he said. Earlier this month, he laid off 40 percent of his employees.

Local management works, Hurst said. "Look at Alberta, the most prosperous piece

of real estate in North America. Why is that? Why is Alberta so prosperous when Montana is the Appalachian West? The key there is the province has all the control over the natural resources. The local people have control."

Sherm Anderson, who owns Sun Mountain Logging Co., told Rehberg he could help by educating people back East about forests and how they live and grow and die. "If I were king and could change one thing, it would be the perception that our forests—if we don't touch them—will stay the same forever," he said.

"You can't legislate perception," Rehberg said.

"But if people could understand how a forest operates," Anderson said, "maybe we could get some intelligence back into our national forest management."

Forest Service officials were not invited to participate in any of the day's roundtable talks, but several sat in the audience of more than 100 people who crowded around Rehberg and the panelists to listen. And Maggie Pittman, a spokeswoman for the agency's Northern Region office in Missoula, asked Rehberg to include agency officials next time around.

"We are thrilled that Denny Rehberg is holding this forum," Pittman said later. "It's a wonderful way for Denny and his staff to get up to speed fairly quickly. We would have enjoyed a place at that table today. There are some misperceptions that we would like to talk about, but also we consider ourselves a key part of the conversation."

"Public land managers need to be part of the discussion about public land management."

TESTIMONY OF KIM LILES

Representative Rehberg, ladies and gentlemen. I am happy to be here with you today, to have an opportunity to express my concerns and that of my co-workers regarding our ability to continue to earn a living in the natural resource based industries.

I am a member of The Pulp and Paperworkers' Resource Council, a grassroots organization representing over 350,000 workers in the pulp and paper, solid wood manufacturing and related industries. I am also employed by Smurfit-Stone Container and I am a member of Hellgate Local 8-0885 PACE International Union.

First of all let me say that I am an environmentalist like I hope everyone in this room is. I share everyone's concern for the health and conservation of our natural resources, our environment and the beauty of our state. I hope that just because I am employed in the timber industry, people don't assume I want to destroy the environment, or degrade our environmental controls. I most certainly do not and neither do those I work with and for. We all enjoy this great state and most of us are outdoorsmen, Hunters, campers, mountain bikers, snowmobilers and fishermen. We have a vested interest in being good stewards of the land as much as anyone else.

Today, America has 630 wilderness areas encompassing 102 million acres of land under federal control. The National Forest System with 155 national forests, encompassing 200 million acres of land, has in the past been guided by the concept of multiple use for sustained yield—a policy of wise conservation. These uses have always included managed timber harvesting, recreation of all sorts, including skiing, fishing, hunting, camping, snowmobiling and others. These forests have also at the same time been managed for wildlife and the environment.

I as well as my co-workers and others involved in natural resource based industries are deeply concerned with the management

of our public lands. To manage our National Forests and public lands from an office back east, by the stroke of a pen is unacceptable. These people do not have to live with outcome of their actions. We can be better served by people here locally and on the State level. They are in touch with the needs of the area and have the know how, ability and a vested interest in being good Stewards of the land as well.

Whether we want to admit it or not this is about jobs, it's about economies, families and communities. How many school closures, plant shutdowns, and economically devastated families and communities are we going to have to endure before we come to the realization that in order to sustain an economy, you have to produce a value added product somewhere in the equation. You cannot sustain an economy with service-based jobs, tourism nor education, it doesn't work. You cannot support a family on a \$6.00 an hour job either.

Montana used to be about 7th in the nation in average per capita income. Today we are now 50th in that category. We are however #1 in one area, that being heads of households holding two jobs to support their families, a very sad commentary.

In Montana since 1989, over 17 mills have been shut down, over 2,000 jobs have been eliminated. That is jobs in the timber industry alone, that is not including mining jobs and support industry jobs that have also been eliminated. The cumulative effect of extreme environmental regulations, regulatory rules and a smothering bureaucracy are having and have had a negative impact on our States economy.

I submit to you that we can have both, a vibrant economy utilizing our natural resources, supplying good paying jobs and a healthy and stable environment. We need to find that balance. There is middle ground to be had here. Let common sense be a part of any and all decisions we might make regarding these issues.

I am proud to say I'm a native Montanan and have lived here all of my life. I can only hope my four children can also have that opportunity. I see so many young people leaving our state today to earn a living elsewhere simply because there are no jobs that pay a living wage suitable for raising or sustaining a family. What a sad truth that is.

Again, we need to find the middle ground here. It seems the pendulum has swung too far in one direction, believe me, I do not want to see it go all the way in the other direction. We need to stop it (the pendulum), in the middle. We can do that, and we must do that.

FORTY-THREE BRAVE AMERICAN SOLDIERS

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, history almost forgot forty-three American soldiers who were involved in one of the hottest firefights of the Cold War. The morning after Thanksgiving in 1984, the soldiers monitoring the demilitarized zone on the North Korean border saw their North Korean counterparts race across the border towards them, in hot pursuit after a fleeing Soviet defector. What followed for almost an hour was a gunfight between the forty three American soldiers, their South Korean allies, and dozens of attacking North Koreans. In the exchange of fire, an American soldier

was injured, one South Korean was killed, and at least two North Koreans were killed and another two wounded.

The forty-three American soldiers faced the danger of combat, protecting our liberty and our commitment to democracy. But for years, they were never recognized with the Combat Infantryman's Badge—a mark of honor and distinction reserved for those American soldiers who faced enemy fire and survived.

Finally, after seventeen years, these brave men will receive the recognition they deserve. The reasons for the delay—bureaucratic politics and inconsistent regulations—might just as well be forgotten by history. But we must never let these men, their courage, their sacrifice, and their honor, be relegated to the status of a footnote in the history books.

Our nation has always had its heroes. From the great revolutionaries like Patrick Henry and George Washington to the pioneers like Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett, we have always looked to those who risked themselves for a greater purpose. Some of our heroes left their mark with a flourish, and some carried out their role with only silent dignity, yet we have always respected them with out gratitude and our honor.

The Combat Infantryman's Badge is a simple piece of cloth; a musket bordered by a wreath on a pale blue background. But the risk, sacrifice, and indeed, heroism that it represents is real.

To these forty-three brave American soldiers, we owe a great debt. Decades may have passed since that November morning they stood tall and protected us, but the memory shall not fade. History will never forget their courage.

GETTING OUR GIRLS READY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (GO GIRL!)

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, what's wrong with this picture? Females make up slightly more than 50 percent of this country's population, yet, less than 30 percent of America's scientists are women. Even fewer engineers are women—less than 10 percent!

In 1994 there were 209 tenured faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology—and 15 of them were women!

Of course, these figures aren't surprising when you learn that in 1985 women earned less than thirty percent of the bachelor degrees in the physical sciences, and, less than ten percent of the bachelor degrees in engineering.

You don't even want to hear the percentage of PhD's in science and math-based fields that are earned by women. Just to give you an example, about eight percent of the PhDs in physics in 1988 were awarded to women.

My colleagues may be asking themselves, "So what . . . is this some national problem?"

Yes—this is a big problem. A big problem for employers; a big problem for women as future wage earners; and a big problem for our nation as we compete in the global marketplace.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that between 1994 and 2005, the number of