

Cong. BOB CLEMENT—Cong. CLEMENT, elected in 1988 and currently Ranking Member of the Railroads Subcommittee, has worked on a bipartisan basis with his counterpart, Subcommittee Chairman JACK QUINN, to rebuild our Nation's railroad infrastructure. They have worked together to move the Shortline Railroad Infrastructure bill, the Amtrak Reauthorization bill, and RIDE 21. Although movement on those bills has stalled, BOB CLEMENT hasn't given up and continues to work to improve our Nation's rail infrastructure. In addition, Cong. CLEMENT and Chairman QUINN have had numerous meetings with the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Transportation regarding the Administration's failure to approve any rail loans or loan guarantees under the Railroad Rehabilitation and Infrastructure Financing (RRIF) program.

Cong. CLEMENT has also aggressively worked on behalf of the Tennessee Valley Authority and commuter rail. His bill (TRAIN 21) would help resolve a growing problem in Nashville and throughout the Nation—the ability of commuter railroads to get access to freight railroad rights-of-way.

He leaves us to seek a seat in the Other Body, and I pass onto him the advice I received many years ago when I myself heard the Sirens' call to that body: There are more bleached bones scattered along the path between the House and Senate Office Buildings than there are on the Old Chisholm Trail.

Cong. BOB BORSKI—BOB BORSKI has spent two decades serving this Committee. From 1995 to 2001, Cong. BORSKI served as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. BOB BORSKI was raised in the great bipartisan tradition of this Committee and he brought that willingness to work together to the Clean Water, Brownfields, and Superfund issues of the Subcommittee—the issues that are often the most difficult for our Committee to bridge the partisan divide. He spent countless hours working with then-Subcommittee Chairman BOEHLERT, then-Chairman SHUSTER, EPA Administrator Browner, and me to bridge the divide on the Superfund bill. In the end, this Committee passed a Superfund bill (H.R. 1300) that reauthorized the program; provided for the redevelopment of brownfields; provided exemptions and limitations on Superfund liability for small businesses, innocent landowners, and recyclers; and called for funding the program with a reauthorization of the Superfund Trust Fund taxes. Our committee approved the bill on a vote of 69 to 2—a tribute to Cong. BORSKI's perseverance, patience, and willingness to find common ground.

In this Congress, Cong. BORSKI has served as Ranking Member of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee. He and Subcommittee Chairman PETRI have held more than a dozen hearings on TEA 21 reauthorization and Cong. BORSKI has aggressively worked to ensure that we have a balanced transportation system. Earlier this week, Cong. BORSKI attended the American Public Transportation Association's annual conference where he received its distinguished person of the year award. How often does an association, with a major reauthorization bill just around the corner, honor a retiring Member of Congress? It is a tribute to Cong. BORSKI that APTA rightly recognized the role that he has played in ensuring that our communities have transportation choices,

like transit rail systems, pedestrian walkways, Amtrak, and bike paths.

I will miss him, not only for his policy expertise but also for his friendship. I have always considered BOB a close friend and a kindred spirit. I know his heart and home are in Philadelphia but I hope he will often come back to see us here.

And that sentiment is true for each of our departing colleagues. On behalf of all Democrats on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I thank them for their distinguished public service and wish them well in their new careers.

RECENT RAIDS ON SINN FEIN
OFFICES IN STORMONT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in spirit with several of my constituents and hundreds of other Irish Americans in the New York Metropolitan area, as they stage a protest outside the New York City consulate of Great Britain. I wish I could be there in person to join in their fight.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the PSNI, formerly the RUC, raided the government offices of Sinn Fein in the Northern Ireland Assembly at Stormont. This unprofessional and haphazard raid appears to be politically motivated—with those involved hoping to unravel the power-sharing government established under the Good Friday Agreements.

The raid of these offices and several homes of Sinn Fein party workers once again show that the PSNI/RUC remains nothing more than a political tool of unionists hoping to undermine a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland. These raids were obviously done to publicly embarrass Sinn Fein, with the hope that this will be the final straw that will force the demise of the Good Friday Accords.

Soon after these raids, both Ian Paisley of the DUP and David Trimble of the UUP called for Sinn Fein to be excluded from the power sharing government. Also, Mr. Paisley, withdrew his party's support from the government. These actions show the unionists true feelings—they hope that by excluding Sinn Fein the Accords will collapse and force the Crown to retake complete control of the North.

It is quite obvious to me that the only way a lasting peace can occur in Northern Ireland is by protecting the power sharing institutions and fully implementing the Patten Commission's recommendations. The actions of the PSNI last Friday shows that the police as a whole are still quite loyal to the crown and quite often use their influence and authority for political purposes. Northern Ireland is in dire need of a police service that is more representative of the community and is responsive to the needs of all the citizen of Northern Ireland.

These raids are just another example of how the PSNI has not moved away from the tactics of the RUC in the '60s, '70s and '80s. The PSNI is anti-Catholic, anti-Sinn Fein and anti-Good Friday Agreement. PSNI must be forced to stop its sectarian efforts and truly protect all parties.

I hope that Mr. Trimble, Prime Minister Blair and all the other parties involved continue their commitment to peace in Northern Ireland by standing by the original Good Friday Accords and most importantly fully implementing the Patten Commission's recommendations. Patten and the Accords are our only true hope that peace can survive in Northern Ireland.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT OF
2002

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Environmental Justice Act of 2002. I am proud that my colleague Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS is joining me as an original cosponsor of this bill.

Representative SOLIS and I long have been concerned about the fact that past federal actions have had disproportionately adverse effects on the health, environment and quality of life of Americans in minority and lower-income communities. Too often these communities—because of their low income or lack of political visibility—are exposed to greater risks from toxins and dangerous substances. It's a regrettable commentary on our society that too often it has been possible and convenient to locate waste dumps, industrial facilities, and chemical storage warehouses in these communities with less care than would be taken in other locations.

Too often these communities are thought of as expendable—without full appreciation that human beings, who deserve to be treated with respect and dignity are living, working, and raising families there. Instead, by providing clean, healthy and quality environments within and around these communities, we provide hope for the future and enhance the opportunities that these citizens have to improve their condition.

Our bill would help do just that. The bill essentially codifies an Executive Order that was issued by President Clinton in 1994. That order required all federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice considerations in their missions, develop strategies to address disproportionate impacts to minority and low-income people from their activities, and coordinate the development of data and research on these topics.

Although federal agencies have been working to implement this order and have developed strategies, there is clearly much more to do. We simply cannot solve these issues overnight or even over a couple of years. We need to "institutionalize" the consideration of these issues in a more long-term fashion—which this bill would do.

In addition, as this issue was addressed through an administrative order, that federal policy could be swept away with a stroke of a pen by new administrations. Thus, we need to make these considerations more permanent—which is also what this bill would do.

It would do this by requiring all federal agencies to: make addressing environmental justice concerns part of their missions; develop environmental justice strategies; evaluate the effects of proposed actions on the health and environment of minority, low-income, and Native American communities;