

the down-side to voluntary agreements. In my district a cruise ship—breaking its voluntary agreement—illegally discharged into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in 2002. Simply put, voluntary agreements between cruise lines and states aren't enough to ensure protection of our oceans. The public deserves more than industry's claims of environmental performance. We need a Federal law and we need it now. It's time we strengthen the environmental regulations and in so doing, bring these floating cities in line with current pollution treatment standards. The Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2005 is the answer.

The legislation that I am introducing today, which has bipartisan support and is endorsed by over 30 local and national groups, plugs existing loopholes in Federal laws, requires ships to treat their wastewater wherever they operate, and authorizes broadened enforcement authority. Several states including California, Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, and Washington have enacted or are currently considering legislation to better regulate various cruise ship wastes—similar to the legislation I am introducing today. In fact, I am proud to report that California is leading the country in protecting its coastal waters from cruise ship pollution. Passage of the Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2005 is one of the ways to provide all states with the kinds of ocean and coastal protections that the people of California, Alaska and Maine benefit from. Enactment of this bill will protect the tourism industry by making sure that the beaches and oceans, two of the attractions that make California the most visited state in our country, will be protected from cruise ship pollution. Simply put, this legislation ensures two things: (1) a sustainable future for our oceans, and (2) a sustainable future for the cruise and tourism industry.

This legislation promotes the public interest for all Americans. The public deserves clean water—both in our inland waterways and in our oceans. The Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2005, through its discharge standards, will give the public what it deserves.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this critically important legislation.

INTRODUCING THE ELECTION
WEEKEND ACT OF 2005

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in 2001, the National Commission on Federal Election Reform released its report highlighting a variety of reforms that need to occur in our country's faltering election system. While I did not agree with all of the Commission's views, I did agree with the report's recommendation to establish a federal holiday on Election Day.

Today, my good friend from California, Representative Honda, and I are taking the Commission's recommendation one step further and introducing the Election Weekend Act of 2005. Our bill changes our nation's Election Day from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November to the first consecutive Saturday and Sunday in November. Furthermore, it expresses the sense of Congress that private sector employers provide their employees

with one day off during Election Weekend to allow them ample opportunity and time to cast their ballot without having to leave work.

Each Election Day, employees are faced with the difficult task of balancing their work schedules with their family responsibilities, while trying to find time to make it to the polls. Our bill recognizes the undue amount of pressure Americans face when trying to participate in the democratic process. It acknowledges the fact that a great deal of Americans are unable to leave their jobs in the middle of the day and vote because our elections occur on a Tuesday, a day when almost all Americans are working.

As more and more Americans enter the workforce, the choice they are forced to make between working or voting has resulted in decreased voter turnout. Turnout is even smaller in low and middle income communities where individuals do not enjoy the luxury of taking a three hour lunch to eat and vote. For many, the hour they lose in wages when they go to the polls may mean the difference between paying the bills or finding themselves out on the street.

It is irresponsible of us to continue forcing Americans to choose between a paycheck, family time, or democracy. It is the Constitutional privilege of every American to vote. In moving our nation's Election Day to the first full weekend in November and extending it from one day to two days, we recognize the responsibility that we have to our constituents and our democratic heritage. We should be doing everything we can to protect the integrity of our election system by not only encouraging Americans to vote, but making it more convenient for them to do so.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF BLACK AND WHITE
MEN TOGETHER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT), a gay, multiracial, multicultural organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized, on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary which it will celebrate this Friday evening, April 15th, with a reception in the Rayburn House Office Building Foyer.

NABWMT began in September, 1980 with an advertisement its founder, the late Michael G. Smith, placed in The Advocate. From this small advertisement NABWMT has grown into a national 501(c)(3) organization with headquarters in Pittsburgh, PA and local chapters in the major cities of the United States, including Washington, DC.

The national and the local chapter engage in educational, political, cultural and social activities as a means of dealing with racism, sexism, homophobia, HIV -AIDS discrimination, and other inequities. Among the more prominent of these activities are the Discrimination Response System, a model program which, I am proud to note, the DC Chapter

created, and the widely presented Multi-Racial, Multi-Cultural Workshop.

In the 1980's, local chapters initiated AIDS education and prevention programs that, in 1988, resulted in a million dollar grant from the Centers for Disease Control, which made the NABWMT the first openly gay organization to receive federal funds to conduct a nation-wide HIV education program. From this grant NABWMT created the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention. In 1992 the National Task Force became a separate entity which conducted trainings and workshops for every active chapter in NABWMT. The Task Force created HIV/AIDS educational models that community-based organizations, health departments, and activists used throughout the United States and in countries from New Zealand to South Africa.

I ask the House to join me in congratulating the National Association of Black and White Men Together on its silver anniversary.

THE UNITED STATES SHOULD
WITHDRAW FROM UNESCO

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Mr. Speaker, in 1984 President Ronald Reagan withdrew the United States from membership in UNESCO, citing egregious financial mis-management, blatant anti-Americanism, and UNESCO's general anti-freedom policies and programs. President Reagan was correct in identifying UNESCO as an organization that does not act in America's interest, and he was correct in questioning why the U.S. should fund 25 percent of UNESCO's budget for that privilege.

Since the United States decided to re-join UNESCO in 2003, Congress has appropriated funds to cover some 25 percent of the organization's entire budget. But what are we getting for this money?

UNESCO has joined the "International Network for Cultural Policy" in seeking a UN "global diversity initiative" by this year that would restrict US export of some \$70 billion worth of movies, television programs, music recordings, and other cultural products.

UNESCO sponsors the International Baccalaureate program, which seeks to indoctrinate US primary and secondary school students through its "universal curriculum" for teaching global citizenship, peace studies and equality of world cultures. This program, started in Europe, is infiltrating the American school system.

UNESCO has been fully supportive of the United Nations' Population Fund in its assistance to China's brutal coercive population control program.

UNESCO has designated 47 U.N. Biosphere Reserves in the United States covering more than 70 million acres, without Congressional consultation.

Continued membership in UNESCO is a blatant assault on our sovereignty and an inexcusable waste of U.S. taxpayer dollars.