

CYCLING ACROSS AMERICA—
ADVENTURES FOR THE CURE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, according to the American Diabetes Association, there are 20.8 million children and adults in the United States, roughly equivalent to 7 percent of the population, who are living with diabetes.

I would like to recognize three young athletes as they ride across America to raise awareness for Diabetes. Adam Driscoll, Jesse Stump, and Patrick Blair, riding exclusively fixed gear bicycles, left from Washington State on Sunday, May 14, 2006. They are hoping to arrive at their destination in Maryland sometime in early September. They are also riding to raise awareness for "Kupenda for Children," an organization that provides support for children with disabilities in Africa.

Driscoll, Stump, and Blair will be accompanied on portions of the ride, by African born Emmanuel Yeboah. Yeboah, the subject of the feature length documentary, "Emmanuel's Gift," overcame disability—he is missing one of his legs—to ride 600km across Ghana, Africa.

During their ride the athletes plan to make public appearances in communities to get the word out about what they are doing. They welcome opportunities to schedule additional visits along the way.

To read more about this exciting and unique endeavor in honor of people with disabilities everywhere, and to follow the adventures of the athletes, please visit their web site (<http://www.adventuresforthecure.com>).

HONORING THE COMMUNITY
SERVICE OF MARSHALL SLOANE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Marshall Sloane who is being honored by the Anti-Defamation League's New England Region with their Distinguished Community Service Award. As the former Mayor of Somerville, MA where Mr. Sloane founded the Century Bank Trust and Company, I have witnessed firsthand the commitment that he has to improving the community around him. This honor is well deserved.

A World War II Navy veteran, Mr. Sloane attended Somerville High School and Boston University. He founded the Century Bank and Trust Company in 1969. Today, there are 23 branches in the Greater Boston area.

Mr. Sloane's civic involvement includes membership on the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, Co-Chair of the Dimock Community Health Center's Board of Visitors, Board of Trustees of the Somerville Museum and a Member of the Corporation of the Perkins School for the Blind.

He has been honored by many organizations for his dedication to community service. Some of these include the American Cancer Society, Boston University's School of Management, the City of Somerville and the Boy Scouts of America.

Marshall Sloane has received the Israel Peace Medal for his support of the State of Israel. The Knighthood of St. Gregory the Great was conferred on him on behalf of his Holiness Pope John Paul II. He has also received the Boy Scouts of America's three highest honors: the Silver Beaver, the Silver Antelope and the Silver Buffalo.

As Marshall Sloane's business grew, he never forgot the importance of giving something back to the community. Marshall Sloane has lived by this conviction his entire life, as evidenced by his volunteer work and numerous awards. He inherited this dedication to others from his parents, shared it with his wife Barbara, who joined him in many community efforts, and passed it on to his children. It is fitting that the Anti-Defamation League honors him for his unwavering commitment to improving the world around him. Marshall Sloane's belief that one must give something back to the community serves as a shining example for all of us.

WORLDWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL
RANKINGS: A USEFUL TOOL FOR
POLICYMAKERS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD, information about the new Environmental Performance Index (EPI) ranking that was researched by experts at Yale and Columbia Earth Institute, and revealed in the World Economic forum in Davos, Switzerland in early 2006. "The index draws on available data to measure 133 countries on 16 indicators in six established policy categories: environmental health, air quality, water resources, and sustainable energy." EPI is the brainchild of Daniel Esty, director of the Yale Center for Environment Law and Policy and Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy, who has high hopes for the project. An overarching score and ranking such as the EPI can be instrumental in drafting environmental policies. For example Haiti has an EPI of 114 whereas the Dominican Republic, a country of similar geography and natural resources, has a ranking of 54. A comparative analysis of these two countries would be extremely helpful to policymakers who are trying to improve the environmental standards of Haiti. EPI also provides an evaluation of the performances of the current governments in terms of their environmental standards. EPI is an excellent resource that encourages discourse and is a potentially useful tool for preparing environmental legislation.

I would like to draw the attention of the Congress to this resource.

WORLDWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL RANKINGS: WILL
NATIONS COMPETE TO BE GREEN?

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in early 2006, a new global survey was unveiled that assigns a numerical ranking to individual nations based on their environmental practices and outcomes.

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI), which has prompted both praise and controversy in the international environmental community, draws on available data to measure 133 countries on 16 indicators in six established policy categories: environ-

mental health, air quality, water resources, biodiversity and habitat, productive natural resources, and sustainable energy. A team of experts at Yale and Columbia University's Earth Institute analyzed the data to produce the rankings.

The EPI is the brainchild of Daniel C. Esty, director of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy. Esty, a member of RFF's Board of Directors, believes that it will be a critical tool in bolstering successful pollution control and natural resource management worldwide. (Full text of the report and a summary for policymakers are available at www.yale.edu/epi.)

Resources asked Esty to explore the policy aims and outcomes of the EPI with Senior Fellow Jim Boyd. Their conversation follows.

Boyd: Give me the big picture as a place to start. What was your primary motivation for doing this? And how does your ranking system relate to other performance measures, such as national welfare accounting?

Esty: Our goal is to shift environmental decisionmaking onto firmer analytic foundations. We're trying to make policymaking—across the full spectrum of pollution control and natural resource management issues—more empirical, more fact based, and more durable.

One of our motivations was to provide a counterbalance to the emphasis on GDP growth, which is taken so seriously, not only by economists, but also by decisionmakers in government. We believe the index provides a fairly clean and clear look at current government performance across a spectrum of core environmental challenges.

Boyd: One of the things that will immediately jump out at people is the fact that the United States ranks 28, not far from Cyprus. That's a little surprising to me personally, but how do you view that?

Esty: When I present the EPI in the United States, people are often surprised—even shocked—that the United States ranks as low as 28. When I present the EPI in Europe, people are often surprised—even shocked—that the United States ranks as high as 28. The United States does very well on some issues, like provision of drinking water—it really is unsurpassed in the world in terms of the percentage of the population that has access to safe water. But it does much worse, if not quite poorly, on a range of other issues, like greenhouse gas emissions. So, if you are sitting in America, where the air looks pretty clear and the drinking water looks pretty clean, you might say, gee, why aren't we closer to the top? But in Europe, where people are very much focused on the U.S. failure to step up to the climate change challenge, people think the United States should rank about 130 out of 133 countries.

Boyd: Certain things that you are measuring are more amenable to control by government or society, while others seem more like a country's natural resource inheritance, such as its geography or climate. Are areas for improvement things that all countries can act on—or are some countries stuck with their bad environmental luck?

Esty: All six of the core policy areas that we are looking at represent important challenges that governments can be held accountable for: the quality of their air, water, land-use, and biodiversity, how they manage productive natural resources, habitat protection, and energy and climate change.

Clearly, some governments are better positioned to hit the established targets because of their underlying natural resource endowments or, for example, because of their relatively low population density so they don't strain the resources of their land—a good example would be Sweden. But are these things