

At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa the United States and 185 other countries agreed to the goal of cutting in half the percentage of people without access to safe water and basic sanitation by 2015. I responded by working with Reps. Tom Lantos and Henry Hyde and Sens. Bill Frist and HARRY REID to enact the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, which established water and sanitation as a cornerstone of United States foreign assistance efforts.

We are now halfway to the 2015 date, and we must redouble our efforts. By 2030, 4 billion people—almost half the world's projected population—will live in water-stressed areas. Three days ago the U.N. Secretary General convened a High Level Event on the Millennium Development Goals in New York, urging governments to translate their commitments into actions and aggressively work to meet these goals.

This legislation answers the call to act. The Water for the Poor Enhancement Act is a bipartisan, non-ideological approach to making our government more responsive to this crisis. This legislation would increase U.S. Government capacity to coordinate and streamline clean water and sanitation development activities and foster strategic investments in on-the-ground expertise and low cost, high impact technologies.

Through this legislation we will help U.S. Government pull together the pieces to implement a smart and efficient global water strategy and to meet our commitment to extend safe drinking water and sanitation to over a billion people in need.

HONORING THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners, specifically the Morris, Essex, Somerset, Sussex, and Passaic County Chapters, of which I am proud to represent. On November 8, 2008, members of the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners will celebrate this influential organization's 30th Anniversary.

New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners [NJAWBO] was established in 1978 by Adele Kaplan and Bette Benedict. The women started the New Jersey Association Women Business Owners, while planning the organization's first Business Expo in 1978. The organization began as a small group of ten women who held monthly breakfast meetings. Through hard work, networking, the organization has grown exponentially. In the past 30 years (1978–2008), the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners has expanded to represent 1,000 women, making it the largest Women Owned Business organization in New Jersey.

The New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners supports and encourages business ownership by women, through networking, education and political advocacy. NJAWBO has provided women business own-

ers with the tools necessary for success. It is well respected and regarded as one of New Jersey's most influential organizations.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners, on the celebration of 30 years serving Morris, Essex, Somerset, Sussex, and Passaic Counties, as well as the rest of New Jersey.

UNITED STATES-INDIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION APPROVAL AND NONPROLIFERATION ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, given the enormous pressures this Congress is facing to solve urgent financial problems which threaten the stability and health of our economy, I must express my deep reservations about expediting approval of the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Agreement at this time.

While I fully favor strengthening economic, social, cultural, and political ties with our Indian friends, why this most desirable pursuit hinges upon the sale of sensitive nuclear technology—remains a mystery to me.

The U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Agreement sets a groundbreaking precedent that could open a floodgate for worldwide nuclear commerce that, absent rigorous conditions, safeguards, and oversight, could significantly damage the stability and integrity of U.S. and international nuclear nonproliferation efforts. Just this week, the Russian Prime Minister announced that Russia "was ready to consider the possibility of cooperation in nuclear energy" with Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez.

As you know, in 2006 Congress passed the Hyde Act, which waives key provisions of the Atomic Energy Act to enable our consideration of the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Agreement. Absent the Hyde Act, the agreement would violate the Atomic Energy Act, which has regulated U.S. nuclear commerce since 1954 to prevent the dangerous proliferation of nuclear technology and materials.

Upon a preliminary review, the agreement does not address the Hyde Act's prohibition on nuclear cooperation in the event of nuclear testing. Also, I understand that the terms of this agreement and India's safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency would permit the removal of tritium from heavy water in safeguarded reactors, possibly enhancing nuclear weapons yields, in contravention of U.S. law and the NPT.

Moreover, I am deeply concerned that international guidelines recently eased to pave the way for this agreement and exempt India from longstanding rules of nuclear commerce that have applied equally to all nations are insufficiently rigorous to prevent the potential erosion of decades of global nonproliferation gains.

Let us remember that the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the NPT, which India has not signed, is the nonproliferation mainstream.

This bill also waives the 30-day period provided in the Hyde Act for congressional con-

sideration of the underlying agreement. As co-chair of the Nuclear Security Caucus and the author of a Hyde Act amendment that seeks to prevent potential diversion of fissile material for military purposes, I oppose waiving the 30-day requirement to permit thoughtful consideration of whether this agreement in fact complies with the law we passed to condition its implementation.

Mr. Chairman, we should not rush this. We are accountable to the American people for conducting rigorous oversight on matters of nuclear security, and I am concerned that short-circuiting the review process for this agreement is not consistent with that obligation. The Hyde Act was the result of precise and painstaking negotiations. I urge my colleagues to allow for adequate, due diligence of this complex matter.

HONORING CARLOS MARIN, UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my profound sadness at the loss of Carlos Marin, the United States Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission, IBWC. Commissioner Marin recently lost his life in a plane crash while touring flood damage on the Mexican border. His loss along with those of Mexican Commissioner Arturo Herrera-Solis, Rio Grande County of Governments Executive Director Jake Brisbin, and pilot Matt Juneau has taken from our community devoted public servants who worked for the well-being of people on both sides of the border.

A graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso with a degree in engineering, the Commissioner began his career at the IBWC in 1979 after working for the United States Bureau of Reclamation's in El Paso. He served in many engineering and management positions at the IBWC before rising to the rank of Deputy Commissioner and Principal Engineer, and in 2006 he was designated the Commissioner by President George W. Bush.

Commissioner Carlos Marin was a model public servant who dedicated his life to the International Boundary and Water Commission and to serving the needs of border communities. I met regularly with Carlos and always appreciated his cheerful attitude and his thorough understanding of complex border issues. He was quietly resourceful and effective, lending his expertise and professionalism in restoring large stretches of the Rio Grande after the devastating floods 2 years ago. His service greatly benefited both the U.S. and Mexico sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission.

Today, I also rise to wish to extend a special "thank you" to the employees of the International Water and Boundary Commission in both the United States and Mexico for their cooperation and their perseverance in working on behalf of border residents threatened by recent floods. Even as they dealt with the loss of their leader, they tirelessly worked to respond to flooding and to continue their efforts