

Brent's ability to get into the trenches has been a true motivating factor toward emphasizing a team atmosphere in our office.

Speaking of team efforts, included in the long list of Brent's accomplishments one of his greatest assets is his running ability and knowledge of the sport, which has helped Team Gordon successfully win the Capital Challenge six consecutive years.

He has been a staffer's advocate, too, and the House is a better place to work because of his tenure.

Brent was instrumental in establishing a fitness program for staffers. He helped begin a program of assisting new offices in setting up—thereby easing the transition to Congressional life for new staff. Every staffer and former staffer who worked with or under him praised his leadership, his calmness, and his ability.

I have heard Brent explain his long tenure in this way, "I came in, I put my head down, I did my work; when I looked up twenty-one years had passed." With well earned accolades and a long list of good memories in hand Brent will end his era of congressional service on November 15, 1998.

On that day the House of Representatives will lose a strong and capable resource and veteran, his colleagues, both past and present, will lose a friend and mentor and I will lose a Chief of Staff, the likes of which come along once in a lifetime—if one is as lucky as I.

It is with sincere thanks and gratitude that I say good bye and good luck to Brent Ayer.

REPUBLICAN EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to clarify what has been done in the 105th Congress regarding the many education issues facing our schools today. Work on education reform has now been completed, and I want to update my colleagues on the accomplishments of the Republican Congress, and the challenges of the future.

During this Congress, we approved 22 major education initiatives, including: the Reading Excellence Act (H.R. 2614), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (P.L. 105-17), a school nutrition bill (H.R. 3874), A+ Education Savings Accounts (H.R. 2646), a quality Head Start bill (S. 2206), a charter schools bill (H.R. 2616), and the Dollars to the Classroom grants (H.R. 3248). In addition, we are sending \$1.1 billion to the States to fill teaching needs. These Republican initiatives will send more Dollars to the classroom, honor State and local authority, promote quality in our Nation's schools, and increase parental involvement and responsibility. These common-sense reforms will foster excellence in our Nation's schools while limiting Washington's control of the classroom.

Unfortunately, President Clinton, despite his rhetoric, has politicized and hampered our attempts to improve schools. The President has threatened to veto the Dollars to Classroom Act, which would send \$2.7 billion directly to public schools, prepaid college tuition plans,

and bilingual education reform. In addition, the President has already vetoed safe schools legislation, a teacher testing bill, and our A+ Education Savings Accounts proposal. These actions clearly demonstrate Clinton's desire to thwart real reform and local decision-making.

I will continue to fight the President and his administration in their plans to complicate and stifle our efforts to lead this country in a new direction for the 21st Century. Although much still remains to be done, I remain optimistic for the future. With persistence, focus, and input from the people of this great country, we will empower our Nation's children, parents, and teachers to achieve their greatest potential.

KAREN THORNDIKE—FIRST AMERICAN WOMAN TO SAIL SINGLE-HANDEDLY AROUND THE WORLD

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday when I was home in my congressional district, I had the great pleasure of meeting a Washington State native who recently became the first American woman to sail singlehandedly around the world. In a heroic voyage that took her just over 2 years, Karen Thorndike fought off serious illness and the relentless elements of nature in circumnavigating the globe unassisted on her 33,000-mile journey. She set a remarkable example of perseverance and determination as she piloted her 36-foot yacht "Amelia" around the five great capes of the world: Cape Horn, Cape of Good Hope, Cape Leeuwin, South East Cape of Tasmania, and South West Cape of New Zealand. I was proud to be in Port Angeles, WA, yesterday as the Mayor and City Council proclaimed October 19, 1998, as Karen Thorndike Day in honor of this courageous woman. It was a great day for Port Angeles, and I wanted to share with my colleagues in the House of Representatives the text of the proclamation that Mayor Gary Braun presented on behalf of the City Council, so that Karen Thorndike can serve as an example of courage, determination, and perseverance.

PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF KAREN THORNDIKE DAY

Whereas, Karen Thorndike, the first American woman to solo circumnavigate the world, is a native of Washington State; and

Whereas, This American pioneer in her 36-foot yacht "Amelia", survived winds and waves of terror south of the five Great Capes of the world: Cape Horn, Cape of Good Hope, Cape Leeuwin, South East Cape of Tasmania, and South West Cape of New Zealand; and

Whereas, Karen Thorndike is only the seventh woman in the world to sail alone in open ocean around the globe; and

Whereas, Karen Thorndike overcame serious illness off the Falkland Islands, and completed her historic journey of more than 33,000 nautical miles by returning to San Diego, California on August 18, 1998, two years and two weeks after departing San Diego; and

Whereas, Karen Thorndike became a role model for youth and adults all over the world by her inspirational example of perseverance against the relentless elements of nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GARY BRAUN, Mayor, on behalf of the City Council of Port Angeles, do hereby proclaim October 19, 1998,

to be "Karen Thorndike Day" in Port Angeles in recognition of her extraordinary journey in which she became the first American woman to solo circumnavigate the globe.

GARY BRAUN,
October 19, 1998.

MINNESOTA'S FAIR FARM PRICES NOW PETITION

HON. DAVID MINGE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to commend all the Minnesotans who have signed the "Fair Farm Prices Now" Petition. I have received petitions which were signed by thousands of farmers and citizens of rural Minnesota communities. These people have come to Congress with a simple request: that they be given a fair price for their hard work. They have asked that their elected representatives answer their petition by uncapping and raising the marketing loan rate, by extending the terms of the marketing loan, and by making crop insurance coverage more effective.

Unfortunately, this outpouring has not been adequately heard by Congress. Although the Omnibus Appropriations Conference Report, which will be voted on this evening, does provide a substantial agricultural disaster package, it does not make the changes which these farmers have requested. Uncapping the marketing loan rates would have given producers more flexibility in handling the fiscal roller-coaster that these families have faced and will continue to face in the coming years. Providing more effective crop insurance would give farmers another important tool in their tool box with which to combat the inherent and uncontrollable risk of their business. Regardless of the long-term benefits to farmers of these requests, the crop insurance program and the marketing loan program remain the same.

Again, I commend the citizens of rural Minnesota who have spoken out about their need to have fair prices for the commodities which they produce. I agree with their request and regret that our leaders in Congress have not heard their plea.

H.R. 4679: THE ANTIMICROBIAL REGULATION TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 1998

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide additional background information on Congress' intent and understanding regarding H.R. 4679, the "Antimicrobial Regulation Technical Corrections Act of 1998."

With the enactment of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996, changes were made in the definition of "pesticide chemical" and "food additive" under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). In addition, FQPA added a definition of "pesticide chemical residue." These new definitions had a significant and unintended impact on the regulatory responsibility for approving the use of

certain antimicrobial substances in food contact applications. Historically, such substances were regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as food additives and were approved by that agency under Section 409 of the (FFDCA). With the FQPA definitional changes, such substances now fall within the term "pesticide chemical" and are subject to regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 408 of the FFDCA.

Since the passage of the FQPA in August 1996, these shifts in regulatory jurisdiction have led to delays in the processing of petitions for clearance of certain antimicrobials under the FFDCA. In the interim, in addition to the losses to the companies with pending petitions, the American public is losing the economic and environmental advantages that these products may offer. An amendment similar to the proposed technical correction was considered in October 1997, late in the conference on the FDA Modernization Act (FDAMA) but was deferred for later consideration. In the FDAMA Conference Report, however, the conferees urged the interested parties to pursue a new vehicle to achieve resolution of this jurisdictional issue.

The technical correction made by H.R. 4679 does not remove any use of a substance from regulation as a pesticide under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Thus, any use of an antimicrobial in the manufacture of packaging for both food and non-food applications that is a pesticidal use under FIFRA would, in addition to FDA review as a food additive, continue to be subject to pesticide registration under FIFRA. Moreover, the proposed legislative language does not affect FDA's existing jurisdiction over antimicrobial substances (with the exception of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide) used in or on processed food, which are not "pesticide chemicals" under the FFDCA.

H.R. 4679 would achieve the following:

1. Consistent with its traditional broad regulatory authority over food products and processing, FDA would have authority under FFDCA Section 409 to regulate as food additives—

Those antimicrobial substances used in or on food, or water that comes into contact with food, if such substances are used where food is prepared, packed or held for commercial purposes.

Most antimicrobials used as food contact substances, such as those used in the manufacture of food contact packaging.

2. Consistent with EPA's traditional role in reviewing uses of antimicrobials in agricultural applications, EPA would retain authority under FFDCA Section 408 to regulate—

Antimicrobials used on raw agricultural commodities, or on water used on such commodities in the field; in a facility where raw agricultural commodities are the only food treated, and the treatment is in a manner that does not change the status of the food as a raw agricultural commodity (e.g., washing, waxing, fumigating, and packing such commodities in such a manner); or during transportation of raw agricultural commodities between the field and such a treatment facility.

Under this legislation, Congress intends that EPA will continue to regulate fumigants applied to stored raw agricultural commodities in the above locations.

3. EPA would have regulatory authority under FFDCA, over residues of the fumigants

ethylene oxide and propylene oxide on both raw agricultural commodities and processed food, including ground spices. Additionally, use of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide on foods, including processed foods, will be a pesticidal use under FIFRA.

4. EPA would have regulatory authority over residues of antimicrobials used on semi-permanent or permanent food contact surfaces other than food packaging. Similarly, EPA would have regulatory authority over antimicrobial substances impregnated in semi-permanent or permanent food contact surfaces other than food packaging if the substance is intended to serve the same purpose as application of an antimicrobial to the exterior of such surface.

5. A "grandfather/transitional" provision would ensure that any regulation authorizing the use of an antimicrobial substance that, under this legislation is not a pesticide chemical use and thus is subject to FDA's regulatory authority under section 409, would be considered a regulation issued under Section 409. Thus, after the passage of the amendment, all antimicrobial products under FDA's food additive authority would be regulated under the same statutory authority.

Except as noted for ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, this amendment would affect the regulation of antimicrobial pesticides only under the FFDCA. EPA would continue to regulate antimicrobial pesticides under FIFRA, and EPA's authorities under that statute would not be changed. Companies selling or distributing antimicrobial pesticides must apply to EPA for registration of their products. EPA will review the applications under FIFRA sec. 3, which requires among other things that the products not cause "unreasonable adverse effects on the environment." That term is defined in FIFRA sec. 2(bb) to mean: "(1) any unreasonable adverse effects on the environment taking into account the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of the use of any pesticide, and (2) a human dietary risk from residues that result from a use of a pesticide in or on any food inconsistent with the standard under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act . . ."

Thus, it is Congress' intent that EPA, in deciding under FIFRA whether to grant, amend, or cancel a registration for an antimicrobial pesticide that poses a human dietary risk, shall take such action only if EPA determines that the risks from such residues are not inconsistent with the safety standard in FFDCA sec. 408. Additionally, Congress intends that in granting, modifying, or canceling a tolerance for a pesticide chemical residue under section 408, EPA consider exposures to substances regulated under section 409 where applicable.

Overall, the technical correction made by H.R. 4679 presents an opportunity to reverse a change that Congress did not intend to make and allow companies to bring these beneficial antimicrobial products to market without further unnecessary delay. Importantly, shifting regulatory jurisdiction over certain antimicrobial uses of FDA will continue to ensure public health protection provided by the FFDCA.

REGARDING LINDA BUSHELL

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about and to congratulate a great teacher in my Congressional District, Linda Bushell. Linda Bushell, now an assistant principal at Martin Middle School in Corpus Christi, Texas, is being recognized for her work with students when she taught history at Baker Middle School from 1990–May 1998. She is being named to the All-USA Teacher Team, a representative of all outstanding teachers who daily work to open kids' minds and advance their knowledge. Nineteen individuals and one team of four, were selected from 649 nominees.

These exceptional teachers are being honored for making a difference. They inspire us not only as working professionals but also as citizens. Their extraordinary talent to connect with students and their ability to make learning fun enables them to reach out to kids and help them expand their horizons with special programs. Linda Bushell is one of four teachers who began the Community Connection program in Corpus Christi, Texas, a program to give at risk students an up-close look at why academics are relevant to real-world success. In this program Baker Middle School students volunteer at museums, hospitals, or other community sites, and observe professionals as well as hear them speak about what they do on a daily basis. These volunteer opportunities help inspire kids to be more than they believe they can be or do. For example, one young woman after volunteering at an office in the Nueces County courthouse stated happily, "I can really be a lawyer. Women can be lawyers." The program gives students self-confidence and gives them a view of the real world outside of what they daily experience in school.

Once again, I congratulate Linda Bushell for the superb job she does in the education arena for students in South Texas. We are fortunate to have teachers like you teaching our children. You deserve this recognition for you have given your heart and much hard worked hours for our students. Keep up the work.

THE BEST OF STAFF

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my staff, both past and present, for their fine work, dedication, and loyalty.

Mr. Speaker, today, I likely cast my last vote as a Member of this august body. For fourteen years, I have served proudly my constituents of the 7th Congressional District of New York. I hope that I have served them well. I would be remiss, however, if I did not acknowledge and praise the hard-working men and woman who have served with me.

Congressional staff are all too often overlooked in their daily duties and under-appreciated for their efforts. But, as my colleagues well know, this great democratic institution