

should know that both the Colville Tribe and the Spokane Tribe contribute significant funds of their own and secure matching funds from various sources to keep these patrols running. Given the critical importance of this program to both border security and homeland security, and given the relatively modest request, I very much hope the chairman can support this request in conference, with an eye toward inclusion in the conference report.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I regret that I cannot vote for this appropriations bill.

Colorado has a special stake in the bill because it provides funds for Federal agencies that are particularly important for our State, including most of the Interior Department, the Forest Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

And of course the bill is important for the entire country, because it provides much of the funding necessary for the Federal Government to meet its responsibilities regarding protection of the environment and the conservation of our natural, historic, and cultural resources.

If the bill dealt adequately with those matters, I would gladly support it. Unfortunately, however, it falls so far short of the mark that I do not think it should be approved.

Responsibility for the bill's shortcomings lies with the Republican leadership and the misguided budget resolution that they forced through the House in the very early hours of this morning. Their budget plan provides \$9.4 billion less for domestic programs than the amount necessary just to maintain current service levels.

That is why the funds available for this bill are \$145 million below this year's level and about \$800 million below what would be required to maintain current services. That is why the bill includes only about 70 percent of increases mandated by law for Federal pay and for other fixed costs for the Federal agencies covered by the bill. And that is why despite maintenance backlogs of some \$12 billion in our parks, refuges and forests, funding for construction projects throughout the bill are cut by \$216 million below last year and there is no funding at all for new schools on Indian reservations.

And that is why there are similar cuts in the Clean Water Revolving Fund, wildlife grants, and the North American Wetlands program while funding for Federal land acquisitions—already reduced by more than 80 percent over the last 4 years—is cut by \$98 million.

These cuts are particularly bad for Colorado because our growing population puts increasing pressure on our open spaces and wildlife as well as the water-related infrastructure of our rural communities.

If the bill now before the House were to be enacted as it stands, the result would be dirtier water and air, reduced care for our natural landscapes and historic structures, and declining levels of services for the visitors to the national parks, wildlife refuges, and national forests in Colorado and across the country. I cannot support such results and cannot support the bill.

Of course, today's vote is not the end of the story for this legislation. Once the Senate has acted on the bill, differences between its version and the House-passed bill will have to be resolved and a final version considered. I hope that the result of that process will be a

version that deserves to be supported and enacted into law.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to express my support for H.R. 5386, the fiscal year 2007 Interior-Environment appropriations bill and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

I would like to begin by commending the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR), the chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, and the distinguished gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS), the ranking member of the subcommittee, for their outstanding work in bringing this bill to the Floor.

I recognize that extremely tight budgetary constraints this year made the job of the subcommittee much more difficult. Therefore, I believe the subcommittee should be commended for its diligence in creating this fiscally responsible measure.

In light of these fiscal constraints, I am very pleased that the bill includes \$1 million for a sanitary sewer crossing between Nebraska and Iowa. This new crossing is a very immediate need for the community of South Sioux City, NE. The existing crossing is more than 40 years old and 3 years ago, the pipe carrying sewage between South Sioux City to the treatment plant in Sioux City, IA, broke. For several weeks, about 1.6 million gallons of raw sewage each day was dumped into the Missouri River. The pipe was eventually replaced, but the incident highlighted the need for a second crossing. The new crossing that is proposed, to be located south of the city, would provide a more direct link to the regional treatment plant in Sioux City.

Since the original sewer pipe was installed in the early 1960s, South Sioux City's population has increased more than 60 percent. Also, the community's economic base continues to grow, which places an additional burden on the sewer system. In an effort to meet the growing needs for an improved sewer system, the city's residents have seen significant rate increases over the past several years. However, it is now clear that Federal assistance is necessary.

Again Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the subcommittee's inclusion of \$1 million for the South Sioux City sanitary sewer crossing project. I support passage of H.R. 5386 and urge my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the Department of Interior and related agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007. Today we are considering a bill that funds the majority of our Nation's environmental programs. However, the funding levels that this bill allows are inadequate to meet the needs of our country. By passing this bill today we are turning our back on programs that conserve our public lands, protect our wildlife, and protect our environment.

I am disappointed with a variety of programs that are losing funding in this appropriations bill but I want to talk specifically about the cuts to the Land and Water Conservation Fund LWCF. As many of my colleagues know, for the last 40 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund program has helped State and local government preserve open space and develop recreational facilities. By providing Federal matching grants, LWCF has helped create a national legacy of public parks and outdoor leisure areas.

This bill would provide for LWCF a mere \$60.3 million in funding, the lowest in more

than 30 years. This funding level is more than \$80 million below last year's funding level. LWCF's State and local matching grant program that helps States acquire open space and recreational land has been completely eliminated in this bill.

My good friend and colleague, Representative JIM MCGOVERN, the gentleman from Massachusetts, and I have worked together to try to restore "State side" funding for LWCF. I was pleased that over 150 of my colleagues joined a letter that Representative MCGOVERN, Representative PETER KING and I sent to the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to restore state side LWCF funding. Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KING and I all represent densely populated States that are combating overdevelopment, and programs like the matching grant program help our local communities establish the recreational and open space areas that are so vitally important to our children's health, appreciation for the environment and community development. In the past 40 years, roughly 40,000 grants to States and local governments have been funded through the LWCF State side program.

According to the National Park Service "Today, there is clear evidence that the grant program has been successful in encouraging States to take greater responsibility for the protection and development of recreation resources at every level." Now is not the time to cut funding for conservation programs that help our local communities.

Protecting open space is not an abstract environmental matter—it is a quality of life issue. I urge my colleagues to vote against this rule and the underlying bill and demand real attention to our Nation's environmental needs.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I wish to take time to highlight a watershed-related project at Storm Lake, IA, in my district. As background, Storm Lake's depth and water quality have been deteriorating since the last dredging in the early 1960s. Storm Lake is among 156 water bodies to make the U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies list of "impaired" streams and lakes because of siltation. Removing silt and radically improving water quality will prevent massive fish kills. Storm Lake is well known for being a conducive environment to Walleye breeding. The Department of Natural Resources has come to depend on this Walleye population to assist in feeding other lakes and tributaries within the State of Iowa.

The Storm Lake community has implemented practices by both business and residents in an effort to ensure that the current dredging of Storm Lake will last for several generations to come. Finally, local agricultural land owners on or near the Storm Lake watershed have incorporated farming practices that help curb or reduce the amount of runoff into the Storm Lake Watershed. I believe this comprehensive approach to water resource management by the Storm Lake community is to be commended.

Funds will be used to dredge 700,000 cubic yards of spoil from the lake. Through decades of ground erosion and silt freely entering Storm Lake the lake levels have diminished. In order to remove the silt and prevent the continued inflow of silt, a Lake Restoration Program was needed to dredge a large portion of the lake and to develop watershed protection practices. Therefore the Iowa Department of Natural Resources believes this dredging and