

For generations, southern and eastern Kentucky has relied upon the coal mining industry for good paying jobs; however, primarily in the last decade, we have witnessed a debilitating decline in our Appalachian coalfields. To help diversify our business portfolio, I have long relied upon the expertise of my dear friend Ray Moncrief. In fact, he helped form the cornerstones of one of the region's largest job creating organizations, the Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation (SKED).

Knowing the challenges of entrepreneurship in his own startup companies, Ray has dedicated countless hours to small business owners and local developers, providing technical and managerial training, guiding them through loan opportunities, development costs and contracts, and advocating for community partnerships and investments. He has taught numerous innovative individuals how to start, operate and expand successful companies and organizations in our region and across the country.

Ray's finite business sense has been sought out by countless businesses and non-profit organizations. His resume includes Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Mountain Ventures, Inc., and Fund Manager for both the Southern Appalachian Fund and Meritus Venture. He was previously a member of the NASBIC Board of Governors, and is currently a member of the Boards of Directors of the Community Development Financial Institution Coalition, the New Markets Tax Credit Coalition, the National Consumer Cooperative Bank, and NCB Capital Impact. He is also a founding director and the founding Chairman of Appalachian Community Capital, Inc. Topping off his long list of credibility, Ray is also a founding member of the Community Development Venture Capital Alliance (CDVCA) and is credited for designing the community development venture capital.

As noted in his biography, Ray is a nationally and internationally recognized speaker and writer on the use of equity as an economic development strategy, and has provided testimony to the U.S. Congress on various economic topics. President George W. Bush appointed Ray to the Community Development Advisory Fund in 2008. He has also received Lifetime Achievement Awards from CDVCA and the National Association of Seed and Venture Funds.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Ray Moncrief for manifesting the spirit of entrepreneurship that helps run America. His investment into the practices of small business owners across southern and eastern Kentucky will undoubtedly continue to create jobs for generations to follow. I wish Ray the very best in his retirement.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 3, which grants approval to build the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline. The

public has been misled by the pipeline's advocates, who have played down the pipeline's potentially devastating effects on our nation's environment and on the American people.

For starters, this bill allows a foreign company to take property from U.S. landowners through eminent domain. The taking of private land for public purposes has always been for local government or local interests. We cannot allow a foreign company to take our private property to feed its corporate profits.

In addition, the bill exempts TransCanada Corp. and any other company producing, shipping, or refining tar sands oil for this project, from paying into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, which helps to finance the federal government's response to spills. This exemption essentially reduces the companies' liability for spills from the pipeline and makes the U.S. taxpayers pay to clean up those spills. That's outrageous, especially when you consider the pipeline will go over the underground water supply for eight of our states.

The legislation also gives this project special regulatory treatment by exempting the pipeline from all federal permitting requirements. Our federal permitting process exists to ensure worker safety, and to provide health safeguards and environmental protections for the American people. It is irresponsible to give this project a blanket exemption from these critical safety measures.

This is particularly true given that the tar sands oil to be transported is more destructive than any other oil in the world. Converting a barrel of tar sands into synthetic crude oil emits three times more greenhouse gas emissions than are emitted by producing a barrel of conventional crude oil. If this pipeline leaks, the health of thousands of Americans will be at risk—and Americans, not the Canadian company, will be held responsible for the cost of the clean-up.

Considering this foreign-built pipeline takes private property and poses serious economic and safety risks, I stand in firm opposition to this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, because of flight cancellations due to inclement weather, I was unable to vote on Roll Call 2, Election of the Speaker. Had I been present, I would have voted for Representative NANCY PELOSI for Speaker of the House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 113TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join the nation in celebrating the 113th Anniversary of Korean American Day this January 13, 2015. The Korean American community has been an integral part of

our American fabric, and I am honored to recognize their vital role in shaping communities throughout our great Nation.

Since the first Koreans arrived on the shores of Honolulu, Hawaii, on this date in 1903, they have excelled and shown that the American Dream is alive. Whether in military, education, science, business, sports or the arts, Korean Americans proved that with hard work, dedication and zeal for education, they can thrive and help make America even greater.

My time fighting in the Korean War gave me an enduring personal connection to Korea and its people. Since returning home from my service over six decades ago, I have witnessed South Korea's rise from a war-torn nation to becoming the world's 13th-largest economy, a transformation which has been largely driven by the resilience and industriousness of the Korean people. Here in America, Koreans have inspired us with the same entrepreneurialism and perseverance toward building success and wealth for their communities.

As a native and longtime Congressman of New York City, I am proud of its Korean American community and the greatness they contribute to our City and State. I applaud the services provided by many Korean American organizations to the Greater New York region, including free legal and medical help, immigration workshops, scholarship opportunities, and various cultural events. Koreans raise strong families and build successful businesses, active civic associations, churches, and charities that enhance our local economy and culture.

I am proud to serve as Honorary Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, and join my Colleagues and Korean American friends in celebrating their many milestones and triumphs. The Korean people will always have a very special place in my heart. I look forward to the continued friendship I cherish so much.

COMMEMORATING MARIO CUOMO

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit the text of an op-ed in The Journal News I wrote commemorating former New York Governor Mario Cuomo.

[From The Journal News, Jan. 2, 2015]

REP. LOWEY: MARIO CUOMO WAS MY MENTOR AND INSPIRATION

(By Nita Lowey)

Mario and Matilda Cuomo and their five children were our neighbors in Holliswood, Queens. Mario's parents, Andrea and Immaculata, lived around the corner.

When Mario, an attorney and law professor who gained prominence by successfully mediating thorny housing disputes in Corona and Forest Hills, first ran for Lieutenant Governor of New York in 1974, Steve and I promptly jumped into his campaign. He lost. But Gov. Hugh Carey, recognizing Mario's extraordinary talents, appointed him as Secretary of State. (His parents famously asked: "Mario—you're a lawyer and a teacher. How come you took a job as a secretary?")

My first job in public service was in 1975 as an assistant to Mario Cuomo, working as a