

ANNIVERSARY OF IRAN'S
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, June 12th will mark the one-year anniversary of the fraudulent presidential elections in Iran. In the wake of street protests that followed, human rights in Iran have gravely deteriorated.

On this day, we must remember the dozens of courageous individuals murdered by this brutal regime and the hundreds of others detained without legal recourse. We must remember Neda Agha Soltan, the innocent young woman slain by the Basij militia.

The post-election crackdown fully exposed the Iranian regime's continuing oppression of political dissidents as well as religious and ethnic minorities.

In the spring of 2008, seven leaders of the Baha'i community were arrested and detained in Tehran's notorious Evin prison on charges of "spreading corruption on earth," among other outrageous falsehoods. They have been incarcerated for 20 months before a show trial can even commence. Moreover, according to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, as many as 45 members of the Baha'i community are currently imprisoned in Iran solely on the basis of their religious identity.

The fourth court appearance of the Baha'i leaders is scheduled for June 12 to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the stolen election.

The cynicism of the Iranian regime knows no bounds.

It is time that the United States and the international community hold Iran accountable for denying the fundamental freedoms to its people.

Yesterday, in commenting on the passed UN Security Council resolution on the Iranian nuclear program, the President stated that "whether it is threatening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, or the human rights of its own citizens, or the stability of its own neighbors by supporting terrorism, the Iranian government continues to demonstrate that its own unjust actions are a threat to justice everywhere."

I agree with the President. His words should now be followed with action. We must raise the stakes for the Iranian leadership to cease its human rights abuses and abide by the rules of the international community.

This Administration needs to prioritize human rights as a focal point of its Iran policy. American diplomats should continually raise the issue of human rights in Iran. We must urge our international allies to use their bilateral relationships and diplomatic missions in Tehran to call for the release of Iranian dissidents, religious minorities, and other prisoners of conscience.

Most importantly, the President should speak publicly and directly to the Iranian people that the United States will never abandon them in their struggle for freedom and fundamental human rights.

INTRODUCING THE CHESAPEAKE
BAY PROGRAM REAUTHORIZA-
TION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague Rep. HOLDEN in introducing the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization and Improvement Act.

The Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the U.S., is an incredibly complex ecosystem that includes important habitats and is a cherished part of our American heritage. The Bay Watershed includes all types of land uses, from intensely urban areas, spread out suburban development and diverse agricultural practices. But unquestionably the Bay is in need and worthy of our attention and concern and I believe everyone has a role to play in restoring it.

I have long worked with my colleagues here in Congress to find ways to protect and restore the Bay. In fact, Mr. HOLDEN and I worked very hard with the other members of the Agriculture Committee to establish a mechanism and a funding source in the 2008 farm bill for addressing issues related to protecting the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The farm bill provided unprecedented incentive-based funding to help farmers and ranchers improve management practices, which would directly result in improving water quality in the Bay. We must now continue in our efforts to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay by reauthorizing the Chesapeake Bay Program.

There are other proposals to reauthorize the Bay Program. The goal of all involved is the same, the continued health and vitality of the Bay, but the map to that health and vitality is being strongly debated. Unfortunately, proposals like the Presidential Executive Order, and legislation that would codify this order, would force more mandates and overzealous regulations on all of those who live, work, and farm in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This strategy will limit economic growth and unfairly overregulate our local economies. My colleagues and I recognized that we must form a proposal that does not pit the health of the bay against the strength and vitality of our local communities and that is why we rise today to introduce the Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization and Improvement Act.

Instead of overregulation and intrusion into the lives and livelihoods of those who choose to make the Bay Watershed their home, our legislation allows States and communities more flexibility in meeting water quality goals so that we can help restore and protect our natural resources. Our bill sets up new programs to give farmers, homebuilders, and localities new ways to meet their water quality goals. This includes preserving current intrastate nutrient trading programs that many Bay states already have in place, while also creating a voluntary interstate nutrient trading program. Additionally, this bill creates a voluntary assurance program for farmers. The program will deem farmers to be fully in compliance with their water quality requirements as long as they have undertaken appropriate conservation activities to comply with State and federal water quality standards.

Also, our bill makes sure that the agencies are using common sense when regulating

water quality goals for localities. Our legislation requires the regulators to take into account the availability, cost, effectiveness, and appropriateness of practices, techniques, or methods in meeting water quality goals. This will ensure that localities are not being mandated to achieve a reduction in nutrient levels by a prescribed date, when no technology exists to achieve that reduction within that timeline.

While our bill does a lot to improve water quality, we also call for more oversight over the Chesapeake Bay Program. For over 3 decades Congress has been working to preserve and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Despite the efforts of the federal, State, and local governments, the health of the Bay is still in peril. The participants in restoring the Bay include 10 federal agencies, six states and the District of Columbia, over one thousand localities and multiple nongovernmental organizations. This legislation would fully implement two cutting-edge management techniques, crosscut budgeting and adaptive management, to enhance coordination, flexibility and efficiency of restoration efforts. Neither technique is currently required or fully utilized in the Bay restoration efforts, where results have lagged far behind the billions of dollars spent. Further, this bill calls for a review of the EPA's Bay model. We often hear complaints from those who make good faith efforts to restore the Bay that their efforts are not being recognized by EPA's Bay model. EPA's model does not account for any voluntary measures being undertaken on farms to control nitrogen and phosphorous nor does it even account for some of the nitrogen and phosphorous reductions that are being achieved through government programs like USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Effectively, EPA is ignoring nutrient reductions that have already been achieved. Our legislation requires that an independent evaluator assess and make recommendations to alter EPA's Bay model, so that we can develop a model that will capture all of the nutrient reductions that are happening in the Bay.

Madam Speaker, the people who call the Bay Watershed home are the ones who are the most concerned about protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, too often these hardworking individuals are cast as villains and placed in a position where restoring the Bay is pitted against the economic livelihoods of their communities. We can restore the Bay while also maintaining the economic livelihood of these communities. The Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization and Improvement Act is the way we can do both. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Congress, so that we can pass this important legislation and work to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTY-THIRD
NATIONAL PUERTO RICAN DAY
PARADE**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Fifty-Third National Puerto Rican Day