

March 7, 2008

REPRESENTATIVE ED PERLMUTTER CO-SPONSORS TEACHING GEOGRAPHY IS FUNDAMENTAL

We are pleased to see Rep. Ed Perlmutter (7th District) co-sponsor House Bill 1228 and join Senator Ken Salazar as our first lawmakers to stand up for the importance of geography education.

As of March 7, 2008, there are 22 bipartisan Senators and 63 bipartisan Representatives co-sponsoring the bill. Please take a moment to thank our Congressman Perlmutter.

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter

United States House of Representatives

415 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

March 5, 2008

Senator Ken Salazar Stands Up for Geography Education!

Geographers in the US have been asking Congress to support The Teaching Geography is Fundamental Act, originally introduced in the Senate (S. 1376) and the House (H.R. 5519) during the 109th Congress. Its bipartisan group of 20 Senate co-sponsors now includes Senators Thad Cochran, Chris Dodd, Ted Stevens, John Warner, and Daniel Akaka. It was sponsored in the House by Rep. Wicker of Mississippi and is now co-sponsored by 49 bipartisan Representatives. The bill will authorize dedicated federal funding, \$15 million per year for 5 years, for geography education: to improve student achievement, increase teacher training, encourage education research, and develop effective instructional materials and strategies. Although designated as one of nine core academic subjects in the No Child Left Behind legislation, geography is the *only* subject lacking dedicated federal funding.



Federal support for geography education is crucial to give American students the resources to develop skills to analyze critical contemporary problems. Our young citizens need awareness of the geographic distribution of resources, cultures, and demographic trends to comprehend issues such as economic globalization, energy independence, terrorism, and international migration. Geography should be essential in the education of 21st-

century Americans, but State resources in Colorado and elsewhere are inadequate to support the effective professional development for teachers and dissemination of proven instructional strategies needed to raise student achievement.

At the end of February, 2008, co-coordinator Jimmy Dunn flew to Washington DC and met with legislators working for Senators Salazar and Allard, and Representatives Musgrave and Udall. On March 4th, Dunn was informed that Senator Salazar co-sponsored what is now called S.727. Salazar is the first federal lawmaker to endorse the bill.

Geography educators in Colorado can express their reactions to the Senator's support by sending letters to:

*The Honorable Ken Salazar
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510*

FEBRUARY 25, 2008

COGA Mourns Loss of Founding COGA Member

Sally Roscoe, a valued veteran in geography education and founding member of COGA, has died after a lengthy illness. Sally earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master of Arts in Geography from the University of Colorado, Boulder. We are saddened by our loss, but we are richer for the many contributions Sally made to improve geography education in Colorado.

Founding Alliance Coordinator David Hill writes: "She was especially involved in the Colorado Geographic Alliance (COGA) in its formative years, the late 1980s and early 1990s. Her contributions were significant, as evidenced by the list below."

Spring 1988, presented a Lesson in Place Geography at the Rocky Mountain Regional Social Studies Conference.

Summer 1988, participant in COGA's Summer Institute as member of Mesa County team.

1989-1990, COGA Staff Member and Director of Cadre Workshops for inservices for more than 50 teachers across the state.

1990-1992 Staff member, COGA Summer Institutes.

Fall 1990, Member of COGA Steering Committee.

Fall 1990, Elected to the Women in Geography Committee of the National Council for Geographic Education.

Spring 1991, led workshop on curricula at COGA Spring Conference.

1991-93, Curriculum developer for Geographic Inquiry into Global Geography (GIGI) project.

1992, COGA representative to Workshop on Water in Reno, NV and Mammoth Lakes, CA.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Sally Roscoe will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at the Dillon Community Church. Memorial donations in Sally's name may be sent to the Oley Foundation – *for Home Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition*: 214 Hun Memorial, MC-28, Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY 12208 (www.oley.org) or The Colorado Foundation for Water Education: 1580 Logan St., Suite 410, Denver, CO 80203 (www.cfwe.org).

COGA Sponsors 30 Teachers To Attend the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting (AAG) New Ideas for Teaching Geography!

Presentations: Interactive Notebooks(David Palmer, Eaglecrest HS)Geography Alive! Making Geography Dynamic (Lisa Sutterer, TCI), Atlas Activities for Teaching World Geography (Phil Klein, UNC/COGA), and Demonstration of Next Generation mapping: Interactive maps with Where (John Corbett)

Thanks to Michael Keables & Karen Escobar from DU for setting up the conference and Ken Foote of CU-Boulder for organizing the special registration arrangement for COGA teachers.