Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 658, supporting the goals and ideals of World Water Day, which I introduced with Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, the Ranking Member on our Water Resources and the Environment Subcommittee.

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation is critical to promoting good health, fighting poverty, protecting the environment, empowering women and promoting economic growth around the world. These were the goals of the ``Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act,'' which I introduced last year. This legislation, which was signed into law on December 1st, establishes water and sanitation as a cornerstone of United States foreign assistance efforts.

I look forward to working with my colleagues, concerned organizations, and the administration to help ensure that the United States is a leader on global water issues and works hard to make the goals and ideals of World Water Day a reality for over a billion people around the world in need.