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HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2022

**IN HONOR OF 2022 “FORCE OF NATURE”
AWARD WINNER CAROL BROWNER**

MRS. DINGELL: Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Carol Browner, on being awarded the “Force of Nature” award by global non-profit Pure Earth. Her lifetime of dedication to protecting the environment and fighting for vulnerable populations makes Ms. Browner a true force of nature. Her significant contributions to environmental progress and sustainability are worthy of commendation.

Born in Miami, Florida, she is a graduate of the University of Florida and the University of Florida College of Law. At home in South Miami, Ms. Browner grew up around nature and developed her love and appreciation for our environment and their natural resources early on by spending time visiting the nearby Everglades. Her first role was in the Florida House of Representatives as General Counsel, working to revise the Conservation and Recreational Lands Program. She later moved to Washington, DC to advocate for the environment and ended up working on Capitol Hill. She worked for Senator Lawton Chiles, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and as Legislative Director for Senator Al Gore. She then returned to her home state of Florida to serve as Secretary of Environmental Regulation.

After the election of President Bill Clinton, Ms. Browner was nominated for the position of Environmental Protection Agency Administrator. She was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on January 21, 1993. During this time, she notably helped strengthen the Clean Air Act and upped the United States position in the fight against global warming. After the end of the Clinton administration, she joined the Albright Group where she continued her works as an advocate for strengthening environmental regulations and fighting climate change. At the start of a new Democratic administration in 2009, President Barack Obama named her Director of the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy. She helped negotiate the new automobile emission standards in 2009 and was a leader during the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill of 2010. During the Obama administration, she secured a historic investment in clean energy and established the first ever greenhouse gas reduction standards. Ms. Browner now serves on the board of directors for environmental groups, including as Chair for the League of Conservation Voters.

Ms. Browner’s accomplishments are numerous and impactful, and in every place that she has served, she has done all in her power to create positive change and put beneficial climate policy in action. She has been on the frontlines of environmental policy for the past three decades and shows no sign of stopping anytime soon. She was named winner of the “Force of Nature Award” for this year because of her ongoing efforts to protect children from environmental hazards, and for her recent establishment of the Protecting Every Child’s Potential lead contamination prevention initiative.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Carol Browner as this year’s “Force of Nature” award winner. We are grateful for her continued work on behalf of our environment and congratulate her on this great honor.