I want to congratulate ten-year-old Kate Schneider of Arlington Heights for being honored today at the White House by President Bush with the President's Environmental Youth Award. After Kate took an environmental class and viewed “An Inconvenient Truth,” she decided she wanted to take action to improve our environment. She realized that her school, Riley Elementary, lacked a recycling program. So Kate organized an International Fair and helped purchase recycling bins for the entire school. Arlington Heights does not yet have a city-wide recycling program, so Kate has organized volunteers to take the waste from her school to a recycling center each week. She is also working with city officials to establish a municipal program. Kate plans to host an International Fair each year to raise money for different environmental causes.

Kate was one of just 44 students across the country to win this prestigious presidential award. I am honored to represent such a bright and talented young lady, and I encourage other students from across the district to follow Kate’s example and become a leader in the community on such an important issue.

Kate Schneider and her family with Congressman Kirk