to complete the task at hand. My bill will address these deficiencies and spur revitalization at many sites.

The second bill (S. 2334), which I am introducing with Senator JEFFORDS addresses two key deficiencies in current law. It would expand the definition of a targeted area to include any brownfield site located within a metropolitan statistical area making the current tax incentives more useful; and extending it for an additional six years.

Under current law, parties that remediate brownfields sites in targeted areas are eligible to expense, or deduct, the costs of environmental restoration in the year the costs are incurred. A targeted area is any population census tract with a poverty rate of more than 20 percent, any empowerment zone or enterprise community, or any site deemed to an EPA pilot project before February 1, 1997. This tax incentive is scheduled to expire at the end of 2001.

The vast underutilization of the existing tax incentive highlights the need for a re-examination of the goals we are pursuing. As chairman of the Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Control, and Risk Assessment, I have heard complaints that parties eager to utilize the existing federal tax incentive have not done so for one of two reasons. The first reason is the limitation on the areas covered by the incentive. Unless the project constitutes an early EPA pilot project or lies within an impoverished community, the tax incentive does not apply. In addition, the tax incentive expires frequently, which creates uncertainty.

Let me provide an example. Let us assume that a party is willing to purchase contaminated land and clean it up in order to redevelop the property. However, a party may be unable to make the acquisition and complete the remediation within one calendar year. Uncertain as to whether the tax incentive will be reinstated in the next year may discourage the party from taking on the risk. To address this issue, the bill extends the tax incentive until the end of calendar year 2007. I believe that this will provide certainty to those who see the wisdom in redeveloping these untapped properties of value.

In addition, I am pleased to add my name as co-sponsor to the Small Business Brownfield Redevelopment Act of 1999 (S. 1408) offered by Senators JEFFORDS, MOYNIHAN, SCHUMER, LAUTENBERG, LIEBERMAN, and LEAHY. This bill is an important component of my vision for brownfields redevelopment throughout the nation. S. 1408 provides $50 million to the Small Business Administration to finance projects that assist qualified small businesses, or prospective small business owners, in carrying out site assessment and cleanup activities at brownfields sites. I believe that this bill will assist small businesses in Rhode Island and the country cleanup brownfield sites.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that brownfields are a critical national issue, because abandoned or underused properties dot every community, large and small. The bills I have introduced and co-sponsored today are critical components of the bigger picture, but we can do more. To complement these initiatives, I am announcing today that I intend to work on legislation to provide funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for assessment and cleanup of brownfields, and clarify liability to encourage the transfer of property. I would also like to provide assurances that while we work to facilitate state cleanup programs, EPA will take action at a brownfields site when necessary to protect human health and the environment.

As I have studied CERCLA and Rhode Island's Superfund sites, I have heard from many people of all political stripes that brownfields legislation can be achieved on a bipartisan basis. They have urged us to address the issues as soon as possible. I have visited brownfields sites in Rhode Island and have seen the potential that exists to revitalize our communities if we can provide sufficient funding, clarify liability issues, and remove other barriers to redevelopment. I am hopeful that if we work in a bipartisan manner, we will be successful in passing brownfields legislation that the President can sign this year.●

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2336. A bill to authorize funding for networking and information technology research and development at the Department of Energy for fiscal years 2001 through 2005, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY MISSIONS ACT

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the ''Networking and Information Technology Research and Development for Department of Energy Missions Act,'' which is cosponsored by Senators CRAIG, SCHUMER, and MURRAY.

This bipartisan bill is in recognition of the critical contributions and future potential of computing programs within the Department of Energy's Office of Science. These programs have played a key role in the development of high performance computing, networking, and information technology. Some of their notable accomplishments have included: the establishment of the first national supercomputer center, the development of mathematical algorithm libraries for high performance computing, the development of a critical interface and other software packages to support high speed parallel interconnection of supercomputers, and the development of a fundamental component of how information is routed on the internet. Recent recognition of the scientists supported by this program have included: the 1998 Fernbach award; the 1998 Gordon Bell prize; awards for the best overall paper as well and the best of show award at the Supercomputing 1998 conference; the best paper and a number of special awards at the Supercomputing 1999 conference, the Maxwell prize in applied mathematics, and the 2000 Norbert Wiener Prize in applied mathematics.

The future potential of these programs is immense and not limited to the computation, networking, and information sciences. There is also great potential for helping not only the mission needs of the Department of Energy but also the broader scientific community and the public through increased understanding of biological systems, energy and environmental systems, chemical, physical, and plasma systems, and high energy and nuclear systems. This understanding is key to our more efficient and environmentally friendly production and utilization of energy and material goods.

The notable features of the bill include: an authorization for increased funding similar in scope to what is proposed in the House of Representatives for the National Science Foundation computational efforts; an open competition for funding; a collaborative program between DOE program offices; building partnerships between laboratories, universities, and industry; a focus on solutions to networking and information technology problems that are critical to the achieving DOE missions; and management of funding provided to NNSA laboratories administered by the sponsoring program of the Department. This last provision is consistent with the legislation which created the NNSA in that it maintains accountability for new money authorized by this bill in DOE civilian programs so that such funding will remain within the purview of civilian programs under the oversight of the authorizing committee for this legislation, while maintaining the principle that funding at laboratories under the purview of the NNSA be consistent with their general programmatic missions.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2336

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as ''Networking and Information Technology Research and Development for Department of Energy Missions Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Department of Energy, especially in its Office of Science research programs, has played a key role in the development of high performance computing, networking and information technology. Important contributions by the Department include pioneering the concept of remote, interactive

access to supercomputers; developing the first interactive operating system for supercomputers; establishing the first national supercomputer center; laying the mathematical foundations for high performance computing with numerical linear algebra libraries now used by thousands of researchers worldwide; leading the transition to massively parallel supercomputing by developing software for parallel virtual machines; and contributing to the development of the Internet with software that is now used in the TCP/IP system responsible for routing information packages to their correct destinations.

(2) The Department of Energy's contributions to networking and information technology have played a key role in the Department's ability to accomplish its statutory missions in the past, in particular through the development of remote access to its facilities. Continued accomplishments in these areas will be needed to continue to carry out these missions in the future.

(3) The Department of Energy, through its portfolio of unique facilities for scientific research including high energy and nuclear physics laboratories, neutron source and synchrotron facilities, and computing and communications facilities such as the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center and Energy Sciences Network, has a unique and vital role in advancing the scientific research, networking and information technology infrastructure for the nation.

(4) The challenge of remote creation of, access to, visualization of, and simulation with petabyte-scale (1,000,000 gigabyte) data sets generated by experiments at DOE scientific facilities is common to a number of different scientific disciplines. Effective treatment of these problems will likely require collaborative efforts between the university, national laboratory and industrial sectors and involve close interactions of the broader scientific community with computational, networking and information scientists.

(5) The solution of contemporary challenges facing the Department of Energy in developing and using high-performance computing, networking, communications, and information technologies will be of immense value to the entire nation. Potential benefits include: effective earth, climate, and energy systems modeling; understanding aging and fatigue effects in materials crucial to energy systems; promoting energy-efficient chemical production through rational catalyst design; predicting the structure and functions of the proteins coded by DNA and their response to chemical and radiation damage; designing more efficient combustion systems; and understanding turbulent flow in plasmas in energy and advanced materials applications.

SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PROGRAMS.

(a) HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING ACT PROGRAM.—Section 203(a) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5523(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and'';

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) conduct an integrated program of research, development, and provision of facilities to develop and deploy to scientific and technical users the high-performance computing and collaboration tools needed to fulfill the statutory missions of the Department of Energy.''.

(b) COMPUTATION, NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM.—Within the funds authorized under this Act, the Secretary shall provide up to $25,000,000 in each fiscal year for a program of collaborative projects involving remote access to high-performance computing assets or remote experimentation over network facilities. The program shall give priority to cross-disciplinary projects that involve more than one office within the Office of Science of the Department of Energy or that couple the Office of Science with Departmental energy technology offices.

(c) PROGRAM LINE AUTHORITY.—To the extent consistent with their national security mission, laboratories administered by the National Nuclear Security Administration may compete for funding authorized in this Act to the same extent and on the same terms as other Department of Energy offices and laboratories. Such funding at laboratories administered by the National Nuclear Security Administration shall be under the direct programmatic control of the sponsoring program for the funding in the Department of Energy.

(d) MERIT REVIEW.—All grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or other financial assistance awarded under programs authorized in this Act shall be made only after being subject to independent merit review by the Department of Energy.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy for the purposes of carrying out section 203 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5523) and this Act $190,000,000 for fiscal year 2001; $250,000,000 for fiscal year 2002; $285,000,000 for fiscal year 2003; $300,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and $300,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.●

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. KYL):

S. 2337. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a refundable credit against income tax for the purchase of private health insurance, and to establish State health insurance safety-net programs; to the Committee on Finance.

THE FAIR CARE FOR THE UNINSURED ACT

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise to join my friend and colleague, Senator JON KYL of Arizona, in introducing the Fair Care for the Uninsured Act of 2000, legislation aimed at ensuring that all Americans, regardless of income, have a basic level of resources to purchase health insurance.

As we all know, the growing ranks of uninsured Americans—currently 44 million and increasing at a rate of 100,000 per month—remains a major national problem that must be addressed as Congress considers improvements to our healthcare delivery system. The uninsured are three times as likely not to receive needed medical care, at least twice as more likely to need hospitalization for avoidable conditions like pneumonia and diabetes, and four times more likely to rely on an emergency room or have no regular source of care than Americans who are privately insured.

The Fair Care for the Uninsured Act represents a major step toward helping the uninsured obtain health coverage through the creation of a new tax credit for the purchase of private health insurance, a concept which enjoys bipartisan support.

This legislation directly addresses one of the main barriers which now inhibits access to health insurance for millions of Americans: discrimination in the tax code. Most Americans obtain health insurance through their place of work, and for good reason: workers receive their employer's contribution toward health insurance completely free from federal taxation (including payroll taxes). This is effectively a $120 billion per year federal subsidy for employer-provided health insurance. By contrast, individuals who purchase their own health insurance get virtually no tax relief. They must buy insurance with after-tax dollars, forcing many to earn twice as much income before taxes in order to purchase the same insurance. This hidden health tax penalty effectively punishes people who try to buy their insurance outside the workplace.

The Fair Care for the Uninsured Act would remedy this situation by creating a parallel system for working families who do not have access to health insurance through the workplace. Specifically, this legislation creates a refundable tax credit of $1,000 per adult and up to $3,000 per family (indexed for inflation), for the purchase of private health insurance; would be available to individuals and families who don't have access to coverage through the workplace or a federal government program; enables individuals to use their credit to shop for a basic plan that best suits their needs which would be portable from job to job; and allows individuals to buy more generous coverage with after-tax dollars. And of course the states could supplement the credit.

This legislation complements a bipartisan consensus which is emerging around this means for addressing the serious problem of uninsured Americans: Instead of creating new government entitlements to medical services, tax credits provide public financing to help uninsured Americans buy private health insurance. Representative DICK ARMEY has been a leader in this field for some time now, having introduced last year similar legislation in the House of Representatives. And just recently, Senators JEFFORDS and BREAUX introduced their own version of health insurance tax credit proposal here in the Senate. I applaud their efforts for advancing this important public policy initiative.

A tax credit for the purchase of insurance would make it possible for many more people to obtain insurance, thereby helping to lower the total cost of insurance. In reducing the amount of uncompensated care that is offset through cost shifting to private insurance plans, and in substantially increasing the insurance base, a health insurance tax credit will help relieve some of the spiraling costs of our health care delivery system. It would also encourage insurance companies to write policies geared to the size of the credit, thus offering more options and making it possible for low income families to obtain coverage without paying much more than the available credits.