

working cattle ranches; for tourism, for wildlife habitat, and to preserve our rural way of life and our rural economies.

Every citizen knows the American West is a destination for those seeking wide-open spaces—a “home on the range,” as they say, a way of life that is focused on working the land and the wise stewardship of our natural resources. We also know that as we have grown as a country, there has been increasing development pressure on this way of life and on the landscape. That pressure is exactly why the farm bill’s conservation title is so vital to people in the West.

I serve as chairman of the Conservation Subcommittee of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and through the dozens—literally dozens—of farm bill listening sessions I have held over the last 18 months, farmers and ranchers were always talking about the importance of conservation; conservation of their way of life and conservation of their land, particularly the use of conservation easements which help landowners voluntarily conserve the farming and ranching heritage of their land, a heritage that is so important to our State and to the entire West.

So I wished to spend a few minutes sharing some of the stories Coloradans have shared with me and, maybe more important than that, showing our colleagues what this looks like. Of course, we live in the most beautiful State of all 50 States, in Colorado. This photo is from the Music Meadows Ranch outside Westcliffe, CO, elevation 9,000 feet. On these beautiful 4,000 acres, Elin Ganschow raises some of the finest grass-fed beef in the country. Thanks to the Grassland Reserve Program, Elin’s ranch now has a permanent conservation easement. So this beautiful land will likely always have someone running cattle on it.

This photo I have in the Chamber is from the San Luis Valley, where my predecessor, Ken Salazar, is from. Fifteen different conservation easements—finalized by the Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust—protect nearly all of the private land over a 20-mile stretch in the valley.

The great work of the Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust, aided by the programs in the farm bill conservation title before us, is protecting our western way of life in Colorado.

This beautiful picture is also from the valley. This is not a movie set, by the way. This is how we live our lives in the great State of Colorado and why these programs have been so important.

Finally, I want to share one more Colorado story about preserving our State’s fruit orchards. Most people do not know this, as I have traveled the country—and I imagine Senators ISAACSON and CHAMBLISS from Georgia might even be surprised to hear—Colorado is

a national leader in the production of peaches. This picture is of a peach orchard in Palisade.

My friends from California might also be interested to know that Colorado has a burgeoning wine industry as well. In Colorado’s Grand Valley, pictured here, conservation programs have been efficiently employed to protect 14 family farms growing peaches and wine grapes among other things.

The Federal investments made available to protect these lands have not only ensured they will stay in agricultural production, but the resources provided from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, NRCS, help these family farms acquire new land to plant and new equipment to plant it.

Mr. President, as you can see—and as you already know—conservation is an integral part of what we are all about in the West. It helps define who we are. Sometimes people only focus on conserving public land in its undeveloped state, and that is an important endeavor in Colorado and across the West. But private land conservation—the type aided by the farm bill—is critical for so many reasons: to protect the agricultural heritage of the land, and for wildlife habitat: elk, bighorn sheep, pheasant, Colorado cutthroat trout—the list goes on and on—so many of the prized species that are important to our Nation’s sportsmen and nature lovers.

Finding open landscapes and the species that inhabit them are a fundamental part of what it is to be in the West. We need to preserve these open spaces. That is what this title does. I strongly support this new conservation title as reported out of the committee on a bipartisan vote.

I know some would look to amend this bipartisan consensus, to cut conservation resources in the name of deficit reduction or to apply it to some other purpose. I am the first to say we need to cut our deficit. We need to put the entire budget under a microscope—including agriculture—to cut waste and eliminate redundancies. And, by the way, we have.

This committee—the Senate Agriculture Committee—under the leadership of the chairwoman and the ranking member, is the only committee I am aware of in this entire Congress—the House or the Senate—that has actually come up with a bipartisan consensus on deficit reduction. I thank the ranking member and the chairwoman for their leadership, for setting a model, an example for the other committees that are working—or should be working—to get our deficit under control.

I might say, \$6.4 billion of those cuts do come from conservation, not all of which I like. But we made difficult compromises at the committee level. We have a more efficient conservation title that won support from both sides of the aisle, and we ought to move this bill forward.

I know there has been a little bit of the usual back-and-forth about amendments that are not necessarily related to the topic at hand, and we have a habit of doing that in the Senate. I hope there can be an agreement reached by the leadership so we can move this critically important bill forward.

Again, at a time when so much partisan bickering is going on around this place, to have seen the fine work that was done by this committee—Republicans and Democrats working together—to strengthen this commodity title, create real deficit reduction, and actually end direct payments to producers—one of the most significant reforms in agricultural policy that we have had around this place in decades—it would be a shame—worse than a shame; it would be terrible—to let that work go to waste.

With that, Mr. President, the hour is late. I am going to stop so we can close. I thank the Presiding Officer very much and say again what a privilege it was to be able to talk about our home with him in the chair.

So with that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DELFORD MCKNIGHT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Mr. Delford McKnight of Laurel County, KY, for his lifetime of contributions in business as well as his many years of public service to the State of Kentucky. Delford McKnight is the founder of McKnight & Associates, a successful industrial construction company that built and renovated numerous structures in Laurel and surrounding counties.

Born in 1946, Mr. McKnight grew up on a small family farm 6 miles from London, KY. He attended Bush Elementary School and Bush High School, where he gained an interest in agriculture and construction. Taking classes in agriculture and woodworking, as well as other college prep classes, he earned the title “Boy Most Likely to Succeed” from his senior class.

After graduating high school, Delford went on to attend the University of Kentucky for 1 year before leaving to pursue a career in construction. In 1964, he married his first wife, Helen Owens McKnight. The couple moved to Lexington, where they ran a local Laundromat and managed an apartment complex. On the side, Delford also worked for a construction company. In 1965, the two moved back to their hometown, where Mr. McKnight took a job with the Hacker Brothers construction firm.

Three years later, Delford opened his first construction business, McKnight Construction and Blueprint Company, in London, KY, today known as McKnight & Associates. This construction firm is responsible for building and renovating many of the buildings in the community, including the Clay County Vocational School, the Board of Education building in Manchester, and the first building of the Laurel Campus of Somerset Community College. Along with these, Mr. McKnight also built North Laurel Middle School, as well as Hunter Hills Elementary School and the new Bush Elementary School. In the early 1970s, McKnight & Associates got the contract for the Kentucky Fried Chicken building in London, and later renovated Sanders Cafe and the Corbin KFC.

Aside from his construction work, Mr. McKnight also became involved with several other business ventures. He was the first to bring the idea of self-storage units to southeastern Kentucky, opening the first self-storage facility there in 1976. He also founded Lee-Mart Rent-to-Own Stores, which later sold to Aaron's, Inc., and he co-founded Cumberland Valley Office Suppliers, Inc., a retail office supply store. After becoming involved with the London-Laurel County Tourist Commission, Delford developed the idea of the "World Chicken Festival" in 1989 to highlight Colonel Sanders's cooking worldwide, a festival that is still joyously celebrated to this day.

Mr. McKnight has held many leadership positions throughout Kentucky. He is a past secretary of the Laurel County Chamber of Commerce, the first president of the Southeastern Kentucky Home Builders Association—from which he received the Time Award, and the current director of First National Bank & Trust in London, Kentucky. He also served as a member of the Cumberland Private Industry Council, the Cumberland Valley ADD Board, and the London-Laurel County Tourist Commission. Mr. McKnight serves as a member and chairman of the 13th Regional Vocational Advisory Council and was a 25-year member on the Corbin Tri-County Joint Industrial Development Authority. He was also honored by the Laurel County Homecoming Festival for his service to the community in 2007.

In 1989, Delford completed construction on his "dream executive home" in London, Kentucky, and he recently completed the construction and landscaping on his second home in Venice, Florida. He has recently quietly retired, although he still helps with management decisions regarding his investments and business interest. Delford has been married to Lottie Gail since January 2001 after his first wife, Helen, died of cancer. Delford and Lottie Gail have a combined family of 5 children and 12 grandchildren.

Delford is still an active member of the Laurel community today, serving as a deacon and Sunday school teacher at United Baptist Church, a member of the Laurel County Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Laurel County Vocational Advisory Council, and a member of the London-Laurel County Tourist Commission.

At this time I ask my U.S. Senate colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Delford McKnight for his many contributions to the Laurel County community and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. An article from the Laurel County-area publication the Sentinel-Echo recently highlighted Mr. McKnight's success and accomplishments. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Sentinel-Echo, Apr. 30, 2012]

TAKING CHANCES PAID OFF FOR MCKNIGHT

(By Nita Johnson)

Variety and challenges could well describe the life of Laurel native Delford McKnight.

"I always like a challenge," McKnight said, "and I like variety."

While his office is testimony to a variety of collectibles and what-nots, so is his life's work.

With his roots in carpentry and farming, McKnight graduated from Bush High School and attended the University of Kentucky.

"I went for a year, quit, and got married," he said.

He and his wife, Helen Owens McKnight, who died from cancer in 2000, ran a Laundromat and managed a rental apartment in Lexington while Delford also worked for a commercial construction company.

In 1965, the McKnights returned to their hometown, where Delford landed a job with Hacker Brothers construction firm. Four years later, McKnight and partner Harold McPhetridge launched McKnight and Associates, which has constructed and/or renovated many of the buildings in the county.

His first "big" job came with the construction of the Clay County Vocational School, then getting the contract to build the Board of Education building in Manchester. He has since overseen the renovation of the first building of the Laurel campus of Somerset Community College, the former Interstate Coal offices on the property now known as College Park. His company built the former administration building, now known as the McDaniel Learning Center. He built North Laurel Middle School, Hunter Hills and the new Bush elementary schools as well as having his hand in school construction in Clay and Perry counties. McKnight and Associ-

ates landed the contract for the Eastern Kentucky University site in Clay County and the University of Kentucky site in Harlan.

Though he credits his family background of carpentry and farming for sparking his interest in the construction business, he said the shop and vocational agriculture classes in high school solidified his choice of careers.

"I was raised on a farm and I think I could have been a farmer just as easily as I could do construction," he said. "But I knew more about commercial construction than about building houses, so that's what I pursued. I took college prep classes in high school but I've utilized the skills in agriculture and shop classes more than any college prep class I had."

A big believer in education, McKnight encourages students to pursue a field they enjoy and to bask in the opportunities they receive through their education and training courses.

"Get as much education as you possibly can, whether it's job training or vocational training or whatever you're interested in," he continued. "You always need to continue to learn. Find something you like to do and pursue it."

McKnight's career choice also led to his involvement with community activities. In the early 1970s, his firm landed the contract for the Kentucky Fried Chicken building in London. Later on, he was involved in the renovation of Harland Sanders's first restaurant—Sanders Cafe and the Corbin KFC. He also built the London-Laurel County Tourism office and became familiar with board members for that organization. When he kept hearing about increasing tourism in Kentucky through festivals, it was he who approached then-tourism director Ken Harvey and long-time board member Caner Cornett with the idea of the World Chicken Festival that highlighted Sanders's achievements worldwide.

But being one of the "firsts" involved in the highly ranked fall festival is just one more of McKnight's "firsts."

While a student at UK in 1963, McKnight was one of those freshmen who challenged the football team to a snowball fight that has now become a tradition. Though he does not to this day recommend anyone challenge a UK football player in any form of physical challenge, he still laughs about the experience.

He was the sole sixth-grade student at the one-room Langnau School before having to attend Bush Elementary the following year as one of 20 other seventh-grade students.

He was the first to bring the idea of storage buildings to London—a challenge for both his crews as well as a business venture.

"I kept seeing these storage buildings in bigger towns and wondered if there would be a need for that in London," he explained. "Self-storage actually began in California. The ones I built were used as an experiment here, mostly to keep my men working. We had a lull after building the (McKnight) apartments and I mainly just wanted to keep the men working so we built the storage units. It was one of the first ones east of the Mississippi and was unheard of in small towns, but now look around and see how many storage buildings there are around here."

McKnight's love of variety also earned him a spot in the March/April 1991 edition of Kentucky Builder for his uniquely styled home in London. He has carried that variable interest into the design of his home in Florida that he shares with wife of more than 11 years, Lottie Gail.

"I've had a good life but I've always been lucky to have great employees, most of whom have worked all their lives in this business. It's the people who keep you in business—not just the customers, but the people who work with you."

AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to inform all Senators that on Friday, May 25, 2012, the Committee on Rules and Administration adopted amendments to the following regulations:

Senate Office Building Regulations; and
Smoking Policy—Rules X, Rules for Regulation of Senate Wing.

These regulations as amended are effective immediately.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the regulations as amended be printed in the RECORD.

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

RULE X

Smoking is prohibited in all public places and unassigned space within the Senate Wing of the Capitol, the Senate Office Buildings, and within twenty five feet from the entrances thereto. Smoking is also prohibited under the carriage entrance and the East Portico connected to the Senate Wing of the Capitol. Each Senator, Chairman of a Committee (after consultation with the Ranking Member), the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms, the Architect of the Capitol, the Chaplain, and heads of support organizations assigned space in the Senate Wing of the Capitol or the Senate Office Buildings may establish individual smoking policies for office space assigned to them.

SENATE OFFICE BUILDING REGULATIONS

The members of the Committee on Rules and Administration hereby issue the following regulations:

ARTICLE I—DEFINITIONS

Sec. 101. As used in these regulations, the term—

(1) "Senate Office Buildings" means the Richard Brevard Russell Office Building, the Everett McKinley Dirksen Office Building, the Philip A. Hart Office Building, the garages used in connection with such Buildings, all buildings and other structures (other than the Capitol Building or any part thereof) under the jurisdiction and control of the United States Senate, and all subways and enclosed passages connecting two or more such buildings or structures and the United States Capitol Building;

(2) "Authorized person" means—

a. Any Member of Congress; or
b. Any officer or employee of the Senate or of any Member thereof, any officer or employee of the Congress, or any officer or employee of any committee or subcommittee of the Senate or of the Congress;

(3) "Credentialed Member of the Press or Media of News Dissemination" means any reporter for a newspaper or periodical, reporter of news or press association requiring telegraph service to his/her membership, or a reporter for news dissemination through radio, wire, wireless, and similar media of transmission, who is authorized to use the reporter's galleries in the House of Representatives or the Senate, or any other adjoining rooms

or facilities made available for the use of the media of news dissemination.

(4) "Auxiliary Personnel" means any employee of a daily newspaper or periodical, news or press association, or of any radio, wire, wireless or similar media, whose services are necessary in connection with any "Credentialed Member of the Press or Media of News Dissemination" carrying out his duties as such.

(5) "Contract Employee" means any individual who is an officer or employee of any corporation or other entity, pursuant to any contract or other agreement entered into between such corporation or entity and an officer or employee of the United States Senate, or the Congress, or any committee or subcommittee thereof.

ARTICLE II—CLOSING TIME FOR THE SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS

Sec. 201. On and after the effective date of these regulations, the Senate Office Buildings shall be closed to any individual other than an Authorized person, Credentialed Member of the Press or Media of News Dissemination, or Contract Employee or an individual within the purview of section 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 401, 402, 403, or 404 of these regulations as follows:

(1) The Senate Office Buildings shall be closed Monday through Friday from 8:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. on the next business day, except during published recess hours when such buildings are closed at 7:00 p.m.

(2) The Senate Office Buildings shall be closed for all National holidays from 8:00 p.m. on the day preceding such holiday until 7:00 a.m. on the next business day following such holiday unless such buildings are otherwise closed in accordance with clause (1) of this section.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (1), and (2), of this section, the Senate Office Buildings shall be open to the public all times during which the Senate is in session, except that the Senate Office Buildings shall be closed to the public after the expiration of the thirty minute period following the termination of such session unless such session is terminated during the period that such Buildings are not otherwise closed to the general public in accordance with paragraphs (1), or (2), of this section.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this section, the Rules Committee may alter these hours for any purpose in consultation with the U.S. Capitol Police and the Sergeant at Arms.

ARTICLE III—INDIVIDUALS ENTITLED TO ADMISSION TO THE SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS

Sec. 301. Any individual shall be permitted to enter or remain in the Senate Office Buildings during any period that such Buildings are closed, if such individual is accompanied by a Member of Congress or other authorized person.

Sec. 302. Any individual shall be permitted to enter or remain in the Senate Office Buildings during any period that such Buildings are closed, if such individual has a prior appointment to meet with any Senator or authorized person. In no case shall such individual be permitted by reason of this section to remain in the Senate Office Buildings following the termination of appointment.

Sec. 303. Any individual shall be permitted to enter or remain in the Senate Office Buildings during any period that such Buildings are closed, for the purpose of attending any hearing before, or any deliberations of, any committee or subcommittee of the Senate or the Congress, or special event authorized by the Senate which is open to the pub-

lic. In no case shall such individual be authorized by reason of this section to remain in any part of the Senate Office Buildings other than such part within which such hearing or deliberations or special event authorized by the Senate are being conducted or carried out, or to remain in the Senate Office Buildings following the adjournment or recess of such hearing or deliberations.

Sec. 304. (a) Any individual shall be permitted to enter or remain in the Senate Office Buildings during any period that such buildings are closed, for the purpose of attending any hearing before, or any deliberations of, any committee or subcommittee of the Senate or of the Congress, which is being conducted within such Buildings, and which is not open to the public, if the presence of such individual at such hearing or deliberations is authorized or required by the Chairman of such committee or subcommittee. In no case shall such individual be authorized by reason of this section to enter or remain in any part of the Senate Office Buildings other than such part within which such hearing or deliberations are being conducted or carried out, or to remain in the Senate Office Buildings following the adjournment or recess of such hearing or deliberations.

(b) Nothing in these regulations shall be construed as prohibiting any Credentialed Member of the Press or Media of News Dissemination or Auxiliary Personnel approved by the Superintendent of the House or Senate Press Gallery, Press Photographers Gallery, Radio-Television Gallery, or Periodical Press Gallery, from entering or remaining in the Senate Office Buildings within which such hearings or deliberations are being conducted, but such member or personnel shall not be authorized, by reason of this subsection to attend any such hearing or deliberation which is not open to the public.

Sec. 305. Nothing in these regulations shall be construed as prohibiting any Credentialed Member of the Press or Media of News Dissemination or Auxiliary Personnel approved by the Superintendent of the House or Senate Press Gallery, Press Photographers Gallery, Radio-Television Gallery, or Periodical Press Gallery, from entering or remaining in the Senate Office Buildings during any period that such Buildings are closed, for the purpose of carrying out his duties as such, or utilizing any rooms or facilities set aside for the use of such member.

Sec. 306. Nothing in these regulations shall be construed as prohibiting any employee of a Member of the House of Representatives, or any officer or employee of the House of Representatives, or of any committee or subcommittee of the House of Representatives, or any individual in the company of any such officer or employee, from entering the Senate Office Buildings during periods that such Buildings are closed, solely for the purpose of utilizing such Buildings as a passageway, except that such officer or employee and individual shall be required to comply with the provisions of section 404 (a).

Sec. 307. A Contract Employee who is authorized to perform services or other duties within the Senate Office Buildings, shall be permitted to enter or remain within the Senate Office Buildings, during any period that such Buildings are closed, if such individual's entry or remaining therein is necessary in connection with the performance of such services or the discharge of such duties as provided for under the aforementioned contract or agreement. All Contract Employees are required to obtain and display a valid Congressional Identification Badge. No Contract Employees shall be authorized by reason of this section to enter or remain in any