

the end of this Congress will be greatly appreciated.●

NAHRO AWARDS OF MERIT

● Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, each year the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) honors low-income housing and community development agencies nationwide through the NAHRO Agency Awards of Merit in Housing and Community Development. This awards program recognizes the efforts of agencies that have demonstrated a clear commitment and ability to address the unique and special needs of their communities. I would like to take a moment to recognize the three recipients of this award from the State of Oregon for their dedicated efforts.

The first Oregon recipient is the Housing Authority of Washington County for their Claire Court project. Recently purchased and renovated by the Authority, Claire Court is an apartment residence that was built in 1945 with a substantial amount of war surplus materials. While the housing complex had an excellent framework, the extensive use of lead-base paint, asbestos insulation, and outdated plumbing and wiring had created a significant hazard for residents. The renovation of Claire Court not only removed and replaced hazardous materials with safe, energy-efficient products, but also maintained neighborhood architecture and adapted two of the eight units to ADA and UFAS accessible living standards.

The Housing Authority of Portland, for the Fairview Oaks and Woods Interpretive Nature Trail, is the second Oregon recipient of the NAHRO Award of Merit. This 3,000-foot trail was created as a part of the new 328-unit Fairview Oaks and Fairview Woods housing complex, and utilized the cooperative efforts of high school students, apartment residents, and other local agencies. The interpretive nature trail, which features detailed markings and is handicapped accessible, serves as an excellent example of an innovative solution to balancing the growing need for affordable housing, while also preserving natural wildlife areas.

The final award recipient from Oregon is the Housing Authority of the City of Salem for their Family Stabilization Program. While many agencies of this kind are successful in helping individuals in the community, the Salem Housing Authority devised this program in an attempt to bring community providers together and transfer their success with individuals into success for their families as well. The Family Stabilization Program has helped coordinate the efforts of programs dealing in drug prevention, family self-sufficiency, and parenting—among others—and has resulted in increased participation by families in all areas.

The State of Oregon is truly fortunate to have such dedicated and inno-

vative housing and community development agencies working in our communities. I am honored to recognize these groups for their efforts, and to congratulate them on receiving the NAHRO Award of Merit.●

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE EPA LONG ISLAND SOUND OFFICE

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to note the critical importance of this legislation, the Water Resources Development Act, to the future of Connecticut's most valuable natural resource, Long Island Sound.

Included in the bill is a provision reauthorizing the EPA's Long Island Sound Office [LISO], which was established by legislation I was proud to sponsor 6 years ago, and which is now responsible for coordinating the massive clean-up effort ongoing in the Sound. Quite simply, the LISO is the glue holding this project together, and I want to express my deep appreciation to the chairman and ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee—Senators CHAFEE and BAUCUS—for their help in making sure this Office stays open for business.

Mr. President, the Long Island Sound Office has been given a daunting task—orchestrating a multibillion dollar, decade-long initiative that requires the cooperation of nearly 150 different Federal, State, and municipal agents and offices. Despite the odds, and the limited resources it has had to work with, the LISO is succeeding. Over the last few years, the EPA office has developed strong working relationships with the State environmental protection agencies in Connecticut and New York, local government officials along the Sound coastline and a number of proactive citizen groups. Together, these many partners have made tremendous progress toward meeting the six key goals we identified in the Sound's long-term conservation and management plan.

The plan's top priority is fighting hypoxia, which is caused by the release of nutrients into the Sound's 1,300 square miles of water. Thanks in part to the LISO's efforts, nitrogen loads have dropped 5,000 pounds per day from the baseline levels of 1990, exceeding all expectations. In addition, all sewage treatment plants in Connecticut and in New York's Westchester, Suffolk and Nassau counties are now in compliance with the "no net increase" agreement brokered by the LISO, while the four New York City plants that discharge into the East River are expected to be in compliance by the end of this year. And the LISO is coordinating 15 different projects to retrofit treatment plants with new equipment that will help them reduce the amount of nitrogen reaching the Sound.

The LISO and its many partners have made great strides in other areas, such as cracking down on the pathogens, toxic substances, and litter that have been finding their way into the Sound

watershed and onto area beaches. A major source of toxic substances are industrial plants, and over the last few years the LISO has helped arrange more than 30 "pollution prevention" assessments at manufacturing facilities in Connecticut that enable companies to reduce emissions and cut their costs. Also, New York City has recently reduced the amount of floatable debris it produces by 70%, thanks to the use of booms on many tributaries and efforts to improve the capture of combined sewer overflows.

With Congress's help, the LISO will soon be able to build on that progress and significantly broaden its efforts to bring the Sound back to life. This week the House and Senate approved an appropriation of the \$700,000 for the Long Island Sound Office, doubling our commitment from the current fiscal year. These additional funds will be used in part to launch an ambitious habitat restoration project. The States of New York and Connecticut have been working with the LISO and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a long-term strategy in this area, and they have already identified 150 key sites. The next step is to provide grants to local partnerships with local towns and private groups such as the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, which would focus on restoring tidal and freshwater wetlands, submerged aquatic vegetation, and areas supporting anadromous fish populations.

The funding will also be used for site-specific surveys to identify and correct local sources of non-point source pollution. This effort will focus on malfunctioning septic systems, stormwater management and illegal stormwater connections, improper vessel waste disposal, and riparian protection. All of these sources contribute in some way to the release of pathogens and toxic compounds into the Sound, a problem that is restricting the use of area beaches and shellfish beds and hurting our regional economy.

Finally, the LISO will continue to build on the successful public education and outreach campaign it initiated last year. In New York, the LISO has already been in contact with public leaders in 50 local communities, held follow-up meetings with officials in 15 key areas, and scheduled on-the-water workshops for this fall. The LISO is planning to conduct a similar effort to reach out to Connecticut communities in 1997.

All of this could have been put in jeopardy, however, if we had not acted to extend the LISO's authorization, which is set to expire next week. The clean-up project is a team effort, with many important contributors, but it would be extremely difficult for those many partners to work in concert and keep moving forward without the leadership and coordination that the LISO has supplied. So I want to thank my colleagues, especially my friends from Rhode Island and from Montana, for

passing this provision before the LISO's authorization lapsed.

The people of Connecticut care deeply about the fate of the Sound, not only because of its environmental importance but also because of its importance as one of our region's most valuable economic assets. With the steps we've taken this week, we have reassured them that we remained committed to preserving this great natural resource, and that we are not about to sell Long Island Sound short.

Mr. President, I ask that my statement be included in the RECORD along with the conference report on the Water Resources Development Act.●

THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY

● Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, today marks the 35th anniversary of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency—the only Federal agency devoted solely to arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament. This unique Agency has played a critical role in ensuring that arms control considerations are taken into account in formulating our Nation's national security policy.

Since the creation of ACDA, we have seen the realization of more than 10 major arms control treaties and significant progress on many others including the recently signed Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Before ACDA was created, only one major arms control treaty was ratified in the period between 1945 and 1961.

Some of the major arms control accomplishments we have seen in the last 35 years include:

The elimination by the United States and Russia of two-thirds of their strategic nuclear forces, including more than 14,000 of their strategic nuclear warheads.

The ratification and permanent extension of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty by more than 181 countries, making it the most widely accepted arms control agreement in history.

The elimination of above ground nuclear tests through the Limited Test Ban Treaty, and the establishment of an international norm against underground testing through the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty signed earlier this week by the United States and the other declared nuclear weapons states.

We have accomplished much over the last 35 years. However, our work is not done. The United States must ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention to stop the production and use of these dangerous weapons. We must ensure that the Russian's ratify the START II Treaty and continue their commitment to reducing their nuclear arsenal. We must continue to pressure India to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty so the treaty will enter into force.

In the words of the current Director of ACDA, John Holum:

[W]e have demonstrated in one hard-won agreement after another that when we control arms we control our fate . . . buttress our freedom . . . enhance our security and our prosperity.

I applaud ACDA and join in celebrating its 35 years of success. I hope we can continue this success for another 35 years for the hopes and lives of future generations of Americans depend on our ability to control the spread of weapons of mass destruction.●

ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, today marks the 35th anniversary of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Established in 1961, ACDA remains the only Government agency devoted entirely to arms control, disarmament and nonproliferation. In this Congress, ACDA was on the chopping block and threatened with elimination as an obsolete agency. Fortunately, ACDA survived. The historic signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty this week shows the worth of ACDA, and offers an example of the importance of maintaining an independent and robust ACDA.

ACDA was founded on a bipartisan basis to serve as the lead agency for U.S. disarmament and arms control activities, with its director as the principal advisor to the President on these matters. It was created not only to provide increased focus on arms control, but also to elevate these issues so that they wouldn't get lost in the bureaucracies of the State and Defense Departments.

The list of arms control agreements during the three and a half decades of ACDA is staggering: the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty, the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty, the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the 1987 Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties and the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as many others. These successes have immeasurably improved the security of the United States. During the cold war, we faced the persistent and ominous threat of nuclear warfare, and today we see the dangers of nuclear, chemical and biological terrorism. Would we be safer today without these treaties? Of course we wouldn't. Will we be safer tomorrow with continued pursuit of arms control? Yes, and this compels the continued existence of a strong and independent ACDA.

Considering the billions that have been saved through reductions in nuclear arsenals, the ending of the testing program and other arms control measures, ACDA's annual budget of around \$40 million and its staff of 250 proves to be a real bargain. In the coming years ACDA responsibilities will include monitoring the START II nuclear arms reductions, verifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and implementing the Chemical Weapons Con-

vention, provided these last two treaties are ratified in the next Congress, and I strongly believe that they should be.

I cannot comment on the importance of ACDA without mentioning my colleague, Senator CLAIBORNE PELL of Rhode Island, who has throughout his career been a tireless champion of ACDA, from its creation in 1961 to the revitalization legislation passed in 1994. His leadership on arms control and as an advocate for multilateral solutions to security problems will be sorely missed by the Senate and the Nation.

Arms control is not obsolete, and we need ACDA to make it happen. I commend Director John Holum and the rest of the staff of ACDA on the agency's 35th anniversary, and wish them the best of success in the future.●

UNITED STATES-JAPAN INSURANCE AGREEMENT

● Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I rise today to express, once again, my profound concerns over the Japanese Ministry of Finance's [MOF] behavior regarding the United States-Japan Insurance Agreement. I have written several times to the Finance Minister of Japan and the President of the United States and spoken directly with the negotiators involved in this matter, yet Japan continues to fail to fulfill its obligations under the agreement to increase access to its insurance market for foreign competitors.

And now, according to reliable reports, MOF intends to take steps that would actually violate the agreement. On or soon after October 1, MOF apparently will allow Japanese companies to enter the third sector of Japan's insurance market, the only sector in which foreign companies have any consequential presence. If MOF takes this action, I believe Japan will have clearly violated the agreement.

I have particularly great concerns with the Ministry of Finance's behavior on this issue because it calls into question the entire Government of Japan's willingness to fulfill its written commitments. That is why I consider this the most serious trade matter facing our two countries.

Mr. President, our patience has been tested by the continuing refusal of Japan to honor its commitments. If MOF now chooses to violate the agreement, the United States will have no choice but to take appropriate actions in response. I want the Ministry of Finance and the Government of Japan to be under no illusions about how strongly I would view such a violation. I will be working closely with Chairman ARCHER of the House Ways and Means Committee in urging the White House, the USTR, the Treasury Department and the Department of State to take appropriate actions in response to any violation of the agreement.●