

At all events, I have considered the circumstances of the localities that have contacted my office in response to my earlier request. I am told that time is of the essence with respect to several of these transactions. Accordingly, in an effort to respond expeditiously to this need, I am inserting into the RECORD language for a binding contract-type transition relief provision. This modification represents my best effort to draw an equitable line to distinguish between those projects that have progressed to a point where the bill should not cause a disruption, and those projects that should be subject to the bill if enacted. It is my intent that this language be included, as if introduced as part of the original bill, if and when the bill is adopted in committee or in floor action. Further, I will be certain to include this language when reintroducing this legislation in the 105th Congress.

Mr. President, I ask that this language be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to bonds issued on or after June 14, 1996.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR CONSTRUCTION, BINDING AGREEMENTS, OR APPROVED PROJECTS.—The amendments made by this section shall not apply to bonds—

(A) the proceeds of which are used for—

(i) the construction or rehabilitation of a facility—

(I) if such construction or rehabilitation began before June 14, 1996, and was completed on or after such date, or

(II) if a State or political subdivision thereof has entered into a binding contract before June 14, 1996, that requires the incurrence of significant expenditures for such construction or rehabilitation, and some of such expenditures are incurred on or after such date; or

(ii) the acquisition of a facility pursuant to a binding contract entered into by a State or political subdivision thereof before June 14, 1996, and

(B) which are the subject of an official action taken by relevant government officials before June 14, 1996—

(i) approving the issuance of such bonds, or

(ii) approving the submission of the approval of such issuance to a voter referendum.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR FINAL BOND RESOLUTIONS.—The amendments made by this section shall not apply to bonds the proceeds of which are used for the construction or rehabilitation of a facility if a State or political subdivision thereof has adopted a final bond resolution before June 14, 1996, authorizing the issuance of such bonds. For this purpose, a final bond resolution means that all necessary governmental approvals for the issuance of such bonds have been completed.

(4) SIGNIFICANT EXPENDITURES.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(A)(i)(II), the term "significant expenditures" means expenditures equal to or exceeding 10 percent of the reasonably anticipated cost of the construction or rehabilitation of the facility involved.●

Pelham, NH, as they celebrate their 250th birthday on July 5. The town residents have been busy planning a big birthday bash including a charter ceremony, birthday party, fireworks, the town's largest parade, a fireman's muster and many other enjoyable events for the July 4 weekend. The activities are certain to bring the town together for an historic 3-day celebration.

In 1721, the first settlers came to Pelham. John Butler led a group of families from Woburn, MA, who first came to the area. The Wymans, Jakes, Richardsons, and Hamblets were part of the first group. Butler's memory is now honored by a monument on the town common.

The town of Pelham was incorporated on July 5, 1746. Then Governor Benning Wentworth of the new royal province signed the town charter on that day and named the town of Pelham after Henry Pelham, who was the Prime Minister of England at the time. Pelham had been a member of the House of Commons since 1717, and had been made Secretary of War in 1724. He succeeded Lord Wilmington as First Lord of the Treasury in 1721 and became prime minister in 1743, serving 11 years.

One interesting note is that Pelham was once a part of Massachusetts. In 1741, when the boundary line was finally settled between New Hampshire and Massachusetts, Pelham became part of New Hampshire. Originally, the town was very agricultural and had many dairy farms. Since then most of the farms have disappeared and only a few active farms exist today.

One of Pelham's well-known residents was the Reverend Augustus Barry who was born in 1861. He was the minister of the First Congregational Church and was very active in the schools until his death in 1899. Today, the town has four major churches—St. Patrick Church, Pelham Baptist Church, the New England Pentecostal Ministries, and the First Congregational Church. Pelham's first library was built in 1896, and will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year.

Several of the events planned for the weekend birthday celebration will take place in the more historic areas of the town. Friday evening's charter ceremony and birthday party will be held on the grounds of the First Congregational Church, founded in 1751 just 5 years after the town was founded.

I congratulate the residents of Pelham on 250 years of history. I wish to extend my very best wishes for a festive weekend of activities and continued prosperity. Happy Birthday Pelham.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO PLUMCREEK TIMBER CO.

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate PlumCreek Timber Co., headquartered in Seattle, WA. Today, Secretary Babbitt will announce the administration's approval

of PlumCreek's Habitat Conservation Plan and Secretary Glickman will announce the administration's commitment to expedite the I-90 land exchange.

This HCP is the largest to be approved to date. It covers 170,000 acres of land owned by PlumCreek in Washington's central Cascade Mountains. Under the HCP, PlumCreek has agreed to provide unprecedented habitat protections on an ecosystem wide basis. The plan will protect wildlife habitat in 23 watersheds covering over 418,000 acres of mixed public and private lands.

Designed to complement the President's forest plan, the HCP will maintain current levels of old growth and ensure that all species will find adequate habitat within the planning area. It also emphasizes protection for streamside habitat and other special areas, such as wetland and caves. The plan will benefit all species, not just those currently listed under the Endangered Species Act. In exchange, PlumCreek will receive a long-term permit that will provide the company with regulatory certainty.

Mr. President, one of the primary reasons Secretary Babbitt has taken a special interest in this plan—and why I support it—is that it demonstrates how the Endangered Species Act can and does work on a large scale both to protect species and allow companies to manage actively their forests. It simply take a commitment by the government and by a private entity to work together toward common, realistic goals and respect private rights.

I want also to acknowledge that some of the environmental groups who have reviewed this HCP find it unsatisfactory. I agree that this is not a perfect document. But the process has worked and approval of this HCP demonstrates that we need not dismantle the ESA in order to have reasonable management of private timber lands.

I want to emphasize that I believe it is time to turn over a new leaf in resource conservation. We must acknowledge that private landowners should be held to a more flexible standard than public resource managers. We must start to trust each other a little more and believe that Federal land managers and our private landowners can be, and generally are, good stewards of the land. This HCP establishes a long-term relationship that we should foster.

Mr. President, PlumCreek and the administration are also celebrating their commitment to enter into serious large-scale land exchange negotiations. Under the land exchange agreement acknowledged today, PlumCreek will refrain from entering or harvesting timber for the next 2 years in some roadless areas on its land in order to encourage the Forest Service to expedite land exchange negotiations. The lands at issue are those enmeshed in a checkerboard ownership pattern around Interstate 90 and the central Cascade Mountains.

The I-90 corridor is among the most sensitive areas in the region for the

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF PELHAM, NH, ON THEIR 250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the town of

northern spotted owl, the marbled murrelet, and the gray wolf, and may be a recovery area for other species. Despite the area's biological importance, the checkboard pattern of ownership is not conducive to coordinated environmental protection.

Forrest and timber management of these lands has also been difficult. Public and private landowners are often in conflict because of their differing roles and objectives. A large-scale land exchange would reduce, if not eliminate, these conflicts. It would place valuable wildlife habitat under public management and block-up lands identified by President Clinton as essential to the recovery of spotted owls.

The PlumCreek lands to be traded also provide outstanding recreational opportunities for the growing Puget Sound metropolitan community. The lands poised for exchange are located just south of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. The space these lands provide will relieve pressure on Alpine Lakes where overuse might limit future access. And buffers obtained in the exchange will protect the wilderness and pressure scenic vistas.

I pledge to work with PlumCreek and the Forest Service as they try to find lands to exchange. This will be a difficult and controversial process. And I must admit to having concerns about one part of the State gaining superb lands, while others are asked to sacrifice their nearby public lands. I am also sensitive to the concerns of National Forest dependent timber producers who fear that they will lose their dwindling land base to PlumCreek, while not receiving lands suitable for timber harvest. Finally, I acknowledge the fear that Kittitas County officials have about losing private, taxable lands in exchange for more Federal lands.

Nevertheless, I strongly support this joint Federal-private effort. I look forward to working both with PlumCreek and the Forest Service to facilitate this exchange based on a principal of equity of all interested parties.

Again, Mr. President, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to PlumCreek Timber Co. and the Clinton administration for the great strides they have made for environmental protection and economic stability.

I ask to include this June 25 editorial from the Seattle Times in the RECORD. The editorial follows:

[From the Seattle Times, June 25, 1996]

A SENSIBLE FOREST PLAN FOR SNOQUALMIE PASS

For most of a century, Snoqualmie Pass has been both a spectacular gateway to Puget Sound and an environmental battleground. Its proud stands of Douglas fir, cedar and pine have been scattered in a checkerboard pattern of ownership, crisscrossed by railroads and highways, battered by ski areas and some of the ugliest clear-cuts the region has seen.

Now, Plum Creek Timber and the federal government, who own most of the land in the pass, have crafted a landmark land-use plan that promises to integrate environmental and economic common sense.

The "habitat conservation plan," which will be formally endorsed by the Clinton administration this week, is the result of two years of work by scientists and land managers who studied 418,000 acres of public and private forest and 285 species of wildlife ranging from salamanders to grizzly bear.

Their long-term plan moves beyond species-by-species devices such as "owl circles," which obstruct private landowners while producing dubious public benefits. Instead, scientists have crafted a plan that would protect wildlife habitat in some areas while allowing sensible timber harvests in others.

Already, that plan has been a target for criticism from environmentalists, who point out that logging will be allowed in certain spotted owl habitat. Critics prefer major land exchanges, assembling large parcels of critical forest under public ownership, then shutting them down.

Plum Creek and the government may negotiate such exchanges, but that could take years. Snoqualmie Pass is home to some of the most valuable timber in the nation, making exchanges difficult and costly.

The status quo hasn't worked. Since the turn of the century, timber managers have followed the same strategy—sustained yield, which calls for cutting trees at the same pace that they grow back. That strategy ignored wildlife habitat and led to overcutting of both private and public forest lands.

Nobody knows for sure what will work better. Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas wants to experiment with a variety of strategies, monitoring the effects over decades to come.

The opportunity to try something new explains why the Snoqualmie Pass plan has earned support from key forestry experts and selected environmentalists as well as Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and the timber industry itself. They see a potential model for resolving resource conflicts without turning biological questions over to federal judges. The breadth of their coalition does not prove the habitat strategy will work, only that it's well worth a try.●

IN APPRECIATION OF KITTY ST. GEORGE

● Mr. COATS. Mr. President, ours is too often a cynical age. When we hear the phrase "public servant" we have come to think of cartoon characters, much like those depicted 100 years ago: Overblown figures in dark suits wearing top hats, spats, and smoking cigars. These were people on the take and on the make; serving the public was far from their minds.

While the scourge of widespread cynicism is unfortunately alive and well in our Nation, so too is countervailing spirit of truly tireless public service. That is good news, very good news, indeed.

As U.S. Senators, our first duty is to the people: To represent their interests, to listen to their opinions, to do what is in the best interest of our country and our States by taking into consideration what our constituents believe. Service, truly dedicated public service, is our mission and our call.

To meet that goal, we must have around us people of like mind, people who are unapologetically committed to high ideals, people who are principled, and who have a sense of moral imagination.

For more than half my time in public life, and from my first day as a Member of the House of Representatives, I have been privileged and deeply honored to have work for me in my Fort Wayne regional office a woman named Kitty St. George.

Kitty is the beau ideal of public service. She is committed. She is dedicated. She has worked many 7-day weeks. She is cheerful. She is unfailingly kind.

We have shared many laughs. We have shared a few tears. And through it all, Kitty has been the Webster's Dictionary definition of a gentelady. Would it were there were more public servants of Kitty's caliber.

As Senators, we are often placed on a pedestal as opinion-makers and opinion-leaders. It can be a heady place to spend part of your life.

But what makes it so meaningful, at least in large measure, is to be able to take away from your constituents, your colleagues, and your staff some glimpse of joy and contentment.

From Kitty, I take away a deeper sense of dedication, a renewed sense of hope, and perhaps most importantly, the ability to find the winsome in everyday life.

As Kitty prepares to move from Indiana to the warmer climes of the South, I wish her much love and Godspeed.●

RETIREMENT OF VIVIAN E. CHURCH

● Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Ms. Vivian E. Church upon her retirement as director of the Joyner Child Parent Center. In her 38 years working in the public school system she taught generations of children about learning and life. For 1 of those 38 years, she taught me. I am here today to thank and honor her for that and for all she has done.

Ms. Church is a native Chicagoan. She attended Chicago public schools, received her bachelors degree in Elementary Education at Roosevelt College, and her masters in education degree in inner-city studies from Northwestern Illinois University.

Her work in the public school system spanned many years and many positions. She has been a teacher, master teacher, assistant principal, title I consultant, parent resource teacher, and since 1988 the head teacher and director at the Joyner Child Parent Center.

Vivian Church touched the lives of the children that she has taught and guided in her schools. She touched the lives of many other children through her book, "Colors Around Me," which she wrote for kindergarten and first-grade children. This book helps minority children to develop a positive self-image, to develop reading as a personal experience.

She is clearly an impressive woman and she should be honored for taking on the most important and, in many ways, the hardest job there is, being a