

our Nation's most economically challenged areas is testament to the dedication and commitment of these organizations to our inner cities and impoverished rural areas. There is a visionary and comprehensive plan to leverage renewal—this unprecedented investment not only will create nearly 200,000 affordable homes but also rebuild entire communities once left to waste.

As the ranking Democrat on the Housing Subcommittee, I am often privy to some of the most distressing cases of deprivation experienced by some of our fellow citizens. Joblessness, homelessness, lack of medical care, crumbling schools, rising cases of AIDS and other infectious diseases, and crime-riddled streets—those are too often the touchstones in the mosaic of urban America. However, today, the news is quite different as this pledge will stimulate tens of billions of dollars in additional private investment which in turn will create tens of thousands of jobs and new businesses in nearly 2,500 communities across the Nation.

And, Mr. President, some of those communities are located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This investment will further strengthen the efforts of the Urban Edge Community Development Corp. in Jamaica Plain and the Codman Square Community Development Corp., to name just two of the many renewal success stories in Massachusetts. Mr. President, my home State enjoys a well-deserved reputation as the incubator of the Nation's most sophisticated, mature and comprehensive approaches to development in which housing is the cornerstone but the provision of goods and services and jobs forms the foundation. For many years, local community-based development groups and affordable housing advocates have worked with corporations and philanthropies like Bank Boston, Polaroid, the Boston Foundation, and the Hyams Foundation to generate and dedicate millions of dollars to urban renewal.

Mr. President, I salute the commitment embodied in this pledge and I recognize that the challenge to match this dedication is ours. In these tough budgetary times, we must not allow important programs which stimulate economic and community renewal to wither in the sometimes blinding devotional light of the year 2002. I have stood in this Chamber on many occasions and discussed the importance of YouthBuild, CDBG's, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, the Housing Preservation Program, and the Community Reinvestment Act. And today I stand resolute to bolster the Federal role in community-based development. Clearly, our national democracy is strengthened through this type of public-private partnership and I will redouble my efforts to assist community and local organizations which are making a vital and needed difference in towns and cities throughout our Nation.

This is a day of good news, hope, and promise, Mr. President. Let us respond

to the challenge with commensurate dedication to our Nation's communities.●

#### THE MEDICARE CANCER CLINICAL TRIAL ACT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the Medicare Cancer Clinical Trial Act of 1997. This bill will provide important assistance to the national battle against cancer.

In so many ways, this disease brutally impacts the lives of millions of Americans and their families. In my State of Michigan, for example, over 50,000 residents were diagnosed with cancer last year alone. Half of all those diagnosed with cancer are Medicare beneficiaries, who also account for 60 percent of all cancer deaths.

One of the most effective weapons available in this war on cancer is research. Each year, scientists and medical clinicians provide valuable insights about the causes of various cancers as well as new therapies to treat them. The legislation I endorse today will provide cancer patients with greater access to clinical trials. One of the most important benefits of these particular trials is determining the effects of treatments on persons over the age of 65. Should these experimental therapies prove successful, this legislation will offer Federal agencies information to help them determine whether or not these treatments should be expanded to include all Medicare beneficiaries.

In my opinion, Michigan and the rest of the Nation can wait no longer to determine the applicability of these potentially groundbreaking treatments. I believe that America's elderly population should be given every means available to wage a war on cancer in which they can be the victors. In addition, this Nation should have the opportunity to utilize those treatments that are cost-effective and successful in treating the millions of Americans affected by cancer every year.

For these reasons, I am very proud to cosponsor this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CRUZ OLAGUE

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Nevada's leaders and activists, Cruz Olague. On March 15, 1997, the Los Amigos de Cruz Olague will honor former Mayor Cruz Olague—a fine Arizonan and Nevadan—at their first testimonial dinner. I have known Cruz for many years, and he is truly deserving of this honor.

Born February 26, 1934, in Winslow, AZ, Cruz later moved to Henderson, NV after serving 4 years in the U.S. Navy. Afterward, he worked as an office manager in a supermarket while completing his accounting studies at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

In 1971, Cruz was persuaded to run for the Henderson City Council. After receiving 53 percent of the popular vote

in the primary, a general election was deemed unnecessary and Cruz was declared the winner. This was the first and only time such an event has occurred in the history of Nevada local politics. Moreover, Cruz won this seat on the City Council with a campaign budget of a mere \$3,000. Following this tremendous feat, Mr. Olague went on to become a popular mayor of Henderson, and served in this capacity until 1975.

Cruz is a man with deep religious convictions and a remarkably calm demeanor. Even when driving home a contentious point, he always maintains a gentleman's dignity and an even temperament. With his kindness, Cruz easily won people over. Consequently, it came as no surprise when he was selected Mayor of the Year in 1974.

This prominent member of the Hispanic community has long believed that our racial and ethnic diversity is our Nation's greatest strength. Cruz Olague has spent his life tirelessly fighting on behalf of minorities, the elderly, and the poor. He has used his abilities for those who often lack a voice in our society. The work of this outstanding citizen has left a lasting impact on the lives of many Nevadans.

Across southern Nevada, Cruz Olague will always be known as an individual of great integrity and conviction with a passion for good government. For 27 years, it has been a privilege to call Cruz Olague a friend. It is my pleasure to speak today in tribute to Cruz, and congratulate him on this special honor.●

#### SECRETARY PEÑA'S NOMINATION

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to express my concern with the Department of Energy's handling of the appliance energy efficiency standards regulations. My concerns regarding this matter are well known. In the last Congress, I authored an amendment to impose a 1-year moratorium on new DOE appliance standards rulemaking activities. That action became necessary because it was clear that DOE's energy efficiency standards program was placing jobs and investment in the manufacturing industry at risk, not just in Kentucky, but in other States around the Nation.

DOE's response to the moratorium was an interpretive rule that was designed to institutionalize a variety of reforms. While I commend DOE for identifying and correcting their own shortcomings, DOE's first test is before us now in the form of new energy efficiency standards for refrigerators. In my estimation, DOE deserves a failing grade.

I have raised the refrigerator standards issue with Secretary Peña during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Energy Committee, but I have not received a satisfactory answer to my questions. While I realize Secretary Peña did not create this controversy,

Congress will hold Secretary Peña responsible for the outcome and the consequences of this rulemaking.

Mr. President, I am disturbed by the fact that DOE has changed its position outlined in the August 1996, notice of proposed rulemaking, which established a 2003 standard as its preferred option. This option was supported by manufacturers. DOE has since changed its position and now supports implementing the new standards for refrigerators in the year 2000. As a result of this flip-flop, manufacturers will be required to make costly investments twice—once to comply with the DOE energy standards in 2000, and again when regulations mandate the elimination of HCFC insulation as required in the year 2003.

Mr. President, it is important to note that these burdensome and duplicative regulations are not necessary. Once it was determined that DOE was not going to abide by its preferred option, manufacturers offered a good-faith compromise that would set a more stringent level of energy savings than proposed by DOE to be implemented in 2003. This proposal would save more energy while minimizing the reengineering and regulatory burden, which will add unnecessary costs to manufacturers and consumers.

What is more disturbing is that DOE has ignored its own contractor's analysis in setting these standards. I am informed that the analysis by Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories confirms that the energy savings attributable to the 2003 standard would exceed the benefits of the 2000 standards. Unfortunately, DOE has chosen to ignore this analysis and not include it in establishing these standards.

Mr. President, this is not the only procedural defect in DOE's proposed rule. The Department has failed to comply with the requirements of law regarding the Department of Justice's role in this rulemaking. DOE has failed to obtain an updated competitive impact determination from the Department of Justice that takes into account new evidence of the potential impact of the proposed rule. I believe such analysis is essential to maintaining a competitive marketplace.

Mr. President, considering the latest analysis by DOE's own contractor, it has become apparent to me that this battle is no longer about securing the greatest energy savings. Rather, it seems this is about punishing manufacturers more than a legitimate or responsible basis for regulation. The only regulation that makes sense is one that takes effect in 2003.

This controversy raises fundamental questions about whether DOE will faithfully administer the appliance standards program as currently authorized. I will continue to follow this matter very closely and keep my legislative option open.

I urge Secretary Peña to assume responsibility for assuring that the law is properly applied and the correct decision reached.●

## CONFIRMATION OF FEDERICO PEÑA TO BE SECRETARY OF ENERGY

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate voted to confirm Federico Peña to be Secretary of Energy. As a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, I have met with Secretary Peña and discussed issues of importance to Washington State, the Northwest, and the Nation. I understand that some Senators had reservations about Secretary Peña because he does not have a great deal of experience on energy related issues. I do not hold this same reservation. I do not necessarily view Secretary Peña's lack of expertise on energy issues as a liability, but rather as an opportunity to educate the new Secretary on issues important to the people of Washington State and the region.

Two issues immediately come to mind—Hanford and electricity deregulation.

I look forward to working with Secretary Peña on the many challenges facing the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in the southeastern part of my State. While there are many difficult issues facing Hanford, there are also many exciting opportunities.

One of these opportunities is the Fast Flux Test Facility [FFTF]. FFTF is a valuable asset for our national security interests and a potential cure for diseases and other medical conditions. Scientists believe FFTF can begin producing tritium—an essential part of our nuclear deterrent—within 5 years. Moreover, nearly 70 of our Nation's leading medical researchers have validated claims that FFTF is essential to the production of medical isotopes which could one day be a valuable weapon in the fight against cancer.

FFTF is by no means the only important issue that Secretary Peña will face at Hanford in his new position. In addition, I look forward to working with him on maintaining an adequate budget to meet the site's cleanup mission.

It's no secret that Hanford has been one of the most contaminated sites owned by the Federal Government. Despite the enormity of the cleanup, I believe we are making real progress due in large part to the extraordinary efforts and talents of the people who work at the site and make up the surrounding Hanford communities.

The DOE, in coordination with Congress, is also playing an important role prioritizing, streamlining, and increasing efficiency at Hanford. I look forward to continuing my already strong working relationship with Secretary Peña in his new role to preserve continuity in funding at Hanford and other DOE sites.

On the subject of electricity deregulation, it is critical that Secretary Peña listen and work closely with the Northwest congressional delegation on electricity issues unique to the Northwest. The Northwest has its own pecu-

liar set of challenges—namely the ability of the Bonneville Power Administration to market its power while paying nearly \$500 million in annual fish and wildlife costs. Secretary Peña and I have discussed these issues and he has committed to work with the Northwest members of the Senate Energy Committee on these difficult Northwest issues. I intend to take Secretary Peña up on his offer, and hope that together with my Northwest colleagues that we can work on these issues critical to Northwest ratepayers, and the environment.●

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate turn to the consideration of Calendar No. 24, Senate Joint Resolution 22, at 10 a.m., on Friday, March 14, and no amendments or motions be in order during the pendency of the joint resolution on Friday.

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

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume debate on that joint resolution at 1 p.m., on Monday, March 17, and that amendments may be offered beginning at 3 p.m., on Monday.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I further ask that immediately following the vote on Senate Joint Resolution 18, which is the constitutional amendment, being debated on Tuesday—and that occurs at 2:45—the Senate resume Calendar No. 24.

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

## PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, this agreement would allow the Senate to begin debate on this very important joint resolution regarding the appointment of an independent counsel at 10 a.m., on Friday. It is my understanding that the Democratic leader is discussing what amendments would be offered to this resolution. Perhaps he is meeting on that at this time. When the Senate resumes its consideration, then, on Monday, we would begin to take up the amendments, if any. In addition, it is my hope that, prior to the close of business on Friday, I will be able to inform the Senate as to not only the number of amendments we can expect, again, if any, on the other side of the aisle, but also I will be able to set a consent time for final passage, potentially as early as Wednesday of next week. It is our hope that we can get a vote on the independent counsel issue by Wednesday of next week. Then we will be able, on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday, to deal with the Mexico certification issue, assuming we have