

have already heard that the worst thing to do with the surplus is to spend it. The best economic advisers that our country has say the worst thing you can do is spend it. So we have, in the first 5 years, \$18.5 billion in tax relief, mostly for small businesses so they can continue to be the driving force behind America's growth.

I am going to just quickly, in a moment, tick off three or four of those tax proposals that I think are very good. Somebody said this is a waste of effort because if the Republican package passes—and I hope it does because I think it is a very good package—the President will just veto it. Well, I am not too sure of that. Let me make sure the Senate understands that the tax package included in this Domenici, et al., proposal is 12.5 percent of the tax package we passed some months ago. It is 12.5 percent—not 50 percent of it, not 75, but 12.5. If you can't get that through, what can you get through? I believe the President would sign it in a minute because it does the kinds of things that even he has talked about as being necessary for American business to retain its energizing effect and its competitive qualities.

For a moment, let's quickly go through the amendments we have attached and put in the tax amendments in this package.

One: For the first time, we really help workers in America pay for health care insurance. Heretofore, if a worker bought his own insurance, he could not deduct it. He would have to put it in a large pot called health expenditures.

Only if it exceeds 7.5 of his income could it be included in the deduction. We have said let's try this out. Let's see what would happen if workers who buy their own health insurance—for whatever reason—deducted the whole thing the same as a company today deducts the whole thing under an exclusionary rule that we have established by precedent around here, and then we made it part of the rule of law. That is in there.

Self-employed men and women have had a raw deal on health insurance. Everybody in this Chamber knows it. If we have a surplus, we ought to make that right. Let self-employed Americans deduct 100 percent of their insurance costs—not some percentage. That is built in with a rather rapid curve where they will be able to deduct the full amount.

This is a work opportunity tax credit. Almost everybody in this Senate wanted that when we put it in before and made it temporary. It runs along with welfare reform. We have reduced welfare by 48 percent, and we cry out to business to hire welfare trainees. Yet the credit they get for doing that is temporary. We want to make it permanent. So a welfare trainee is more apt to get a job if the employer can get some incentives up front while they are training them and helping them.

Who can be against that? Will the President veto that? I can't believe it.

There is an item where small business can do an expensing of certain capital improvements. But we have a limit on it. Otherwise they have to depreciate it over time. We have increased that to \$30,000 a year. It will be marvelous for small business to deduct those kinds of expenses that are encapsulated in that amendment. It will make their businesses grow and prosper. There are two or three others that go with this.

But essentially, I believe when you put that package together you are saying there will be fewer minimum-wage workers in the future, small business will have a chance to profit more, and they will pay higher wages because the marketplace will force them to. In the meantime, we also increase minimum wage by \$1. We just take 12 months longer to do it.

I believe it is a good package. I hope the Senate passes it tomorrow. We will have a few more minutes of debate tomorrow before the vote. In the meantime, I hope everyone looks at the package in their offices and will get briefed on it because it is a very good package. I not only yield the floor, but I yield back any time that I had on my amendment.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 2768 AND 2772 EN BLOC

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be laid aside, and that two amendments be called up en bloc, No. 2768, relating to retroactive finance charges, and 2772 relative to residency issues on credit card issuance.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN] proposes amendments numbered 2768 and 2772, en bloc.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendments be dispensed with.

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

The amendments, en bloc, are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 2768

(Purpose: To prohibit certain retroactive finance charges)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN RETROACTIVE FINANCE CHARGES.

Section 127 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) PROHIBITION ON RETROACTIVE FINANCE CHARGES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any credit card account under an open end credit plan, if the creditor provides a grace period applicable to any new extension of credit under the account, no finance charge may be imposed subsequent to the grace period with regard to any amount that was paid on or before the end of that grace period.

“(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘grace period’ means a pe-

riod during which the extension of credit may be repaid, in whole or in part, without incurring a finance charge for the extension of credit.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2772

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate concerning credit worthiness)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

The Federal Trade Commission shall report to the Banking Committee of Congress within 6 months of enactment of this act as to whether and how the location of the residence of an applicant for a credit card is considered by financial institutions in deciding whether an applicant should be granted such credit card.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that those two amendments be laid aside and that I be permitted to call up amendment No. 2658 relating to the nondischargeability of debts arising from firearm-related deaths.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRASSLEY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the Chair. I thank my friend from Iowa.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of routine morning business, with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each, with the exception of Senator LANDRIEU.

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

The Senator from Louisiana.

THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Ms. LANDRIEU. Thank you, Mr. President. I have a few important things to say tonight. I will try to fit that in with the time that has been allotted to me.

There are many important issues that need to be resolved in the next few days in order for us to wrap up this year and move on. The minimum wage debate is clearly a very significant issue for us. I am glad we will be voting on it and, hopefully, come to a resolution tomorrow. There are other issues pending that have yet to be resolved. That is why I rise tonight to speak for a few minutes about one of them that is very important to the people of my State, the State of Louisiana.

I say at the outset as respectfully as I can that I am going to object to proceeding to any additional actions of the Senate until this issue is resolved, or until there is an answer in terms of what our options are. Some of us are not party to some of the discussions that are going on behind closed doors and some being reported. There is some information that I am very interested in receiving, and many people in Louisiana are interested in the information because it has to do with money

that our State is producing. It has to do with the kinds of investments we are either going to make or not make to the environment of our Nation, to the coast of Louisiana, which is critical to preserve and help restore that coastline.

It is a very important issue to the American people in terms of our opportunity to use a small percentage of the non-Social Security surplus to invest in the Land and Water Conservation Fund to fully fund it, to invest in some extraordinarily successful wildlife conservation programs, to invest in historic preservation, and to invest in coastal restoration and impact assistance for States that produce oil and gas and for States that do not.

This is an issue that we have now been debating actually for many years. This debate has gone on for 30 years in terms of funding for land and water. It has gone on for over 50 years in terms of what percentage would be fair for Louisiana, the producing State, to receive. Texas is in that position. Mississippi is in that position to a certain degree. Alaska could be in that position. So there are a few States that are producing States. This debate has raged on, in my opinion, for too long.

In my opinion, there is broad bipartisan support for a concept that would take a portion of these revenues. They are estimated to be about \$3 billion a year; \$120 billion has been generated off the coast in offshore oil and gas production in taxes that the companies are already paying and many continue to pay. These are not new taxes. These are not new revenues. These are revenues that are coming into the Federal Treasury. There is bipartisan support for taking a portion of those revenues and investing in the things that I have just outlined.

Let me tell you why it is important for me to respectfully object to moving on to any further business.

I know that I am going to be the skunk at the garden party because Louisiana is not a huge State such as California or Texas or Illinois. We have a small delegation.

Sometimes, because our numbers are smaller, we aren't able to get all the attention I think we need and the people of our State deserve. Fortunately, the rules of the Senate allow each Senator to be able to speak at length, to be able to express their will and their opinion. As respectfully as I can, I am going to object to any further business until some of these things can be resolved.

Let me begin by telling a story that is not well known. I think Americans are very interested judging from all of the correspondence my office has received over the last year and a half from thousands of individuals and groups who seem to be very sympathetic about this issue.

Let me read from a brochure called "Coast 2050," discussing sustaining coastal Louisiana. I will read a few pages that tell a story about a great and mighty river.

At the end of Old Man River, the mighty Mississippi, lies the largest expanse of coastal wetlands in North America. This dynamic and bountiful landscape was literally built and sustained by the sediment-laden waters that drain to the river from 31 states and three Canadian provinces.

This is not a river that just drains a few States. This is a river that drains our entire Nation. The economy of our Nation depends on the taming of this river and this ecosystem. The future of our Nation depends on how well we manage the resources of this great river.

The Louisiana coast is home to 2 million Americans. The wetlands, bays, and islands of the coast constitute an enormously productive ecosystem and resource base that support the livelihood and well-being of the Nation. The statistics are awesome: the ecosystem contributes nearly 30 percent by weight of the total commercial fisheries harvest in the lower 48 states and provides overwintering habitat for 70 percent of the migratory waterfowl using the Central and Mississippi Flyways; 18 percent of U.S. oil production and 24 percent of U.S. gas production * * * Louisiana's ports rank first in the Nation in total shipping tonnage.

Again, not a river that just serves Louisiana or serves Mississippi but a river that serves the entire Nation. It would be all for naught for the Midwestern States to produce any agricultural product if they couldn't get it to market. That is the great benefit and strength of this Mississippi River—and we sit at the mouth—in terms of the transport of goods for hundreds of years.

The unique human culture and beautiful setting of southern Louisiana is world-renowned.

We are losing it at an enormous and frightening rate. Since 1930, Louisiana has lost over 1,500 square miles of marsh. The State is still losing 25 to 30 square miles each year, nearly a football field of prime wetlands every 30 minutes. Environmentalists should be alarmed.

There are great needs in California, the West, and in the Everglades, but there is a tremendous need that should call us to arms, call citizens to action, to help preserve and restore the south Louisiana coast and this tremendous ecosystem not just for the benefit of Louisiana and the 4 million people who live in our State but for the benefit of the 260-plus million population of this Nation.

There is no one reason for this land loss. Some of our coastal wetlands have always been subsiding, but in the past the river built and sustained the wetlands and built new ones, which offset the natural losses.

Since Europeans came to Louisiana, we have been building levees to protect against the floods. Levees keep homes, businesses, and farms safe, but they prevent the sediments from flooding to refurbish the marsh. In addition, levees were built to tame the route and flow of the Mississippi River to allow for the great transport and trade on which this Nation is dependent to grow and prosper. Canals were dug through the

marshes to promote navigation and to recover petroleum resources that have helped fuel this Nation, to turn the lights on, to run our machinery, to run our factories.

We are happy to make that contribution, and we are trying to do it in a more environmentally sensitive way. This ecosystem supports a tremendous amount of commerce, and I don't think I should have to explain it much more. However, we are losing it.

Today, Louisiana has 3,800 square miles of marsh and over 800 square miles of swamp. Even at the current pace of restoration efforts—which have been, by the way, successful, albeit minimal because we don't have the financial resources that we deserve, that we should get for this restoration—we will lose more than 600 square miles of marsh and almost 400 square miles of swamp by the year 2050 if we do not take action. Consequently, nearly 1,000 square miles of Louisiana wetlands will become open water. The Nation will lose an area the size of the State of Rhode Island if we fail to act.

That is why I come to the floor tonight to speak about this issue. I know some colleagues think perhaps there is nothing we can do or we just can't make this happen. I am compelled to speak again because of this story, because of this great resource, and because I know what the serious consequences will be for my State and for the entire Nation if there is no solution. It is not a difficult solution. It is not even an expensive solution. It is a real solution that has been laid on the table in this Congress.

If we do nothing, we face significant reductions in the \$20 billion-per-year shipping and export industry in addition to our ports, our commercial fisheries, and oil and gas, and leave ourselves open to serious hurricane damage.

There is a consensus about what we can do. We have learned two things: We already know how to fix most of the problems; second, coastal recovery will require much more effort than has been undertaken so far. We know what it will take to fix the problem. We just need to get the job done. That is why I am here tonight to try to get this job done because it is most certainly something that is within our grasp.

I want to read for the record a letter from over 800 environmental organizations circulated last week. I want to take the time to read it. It is a good letter using good common sense that is within the grasp of the Interior appropriations bill that is now being debated. We have the opportunity to make this happen. Without adding any new money, we can make this happen.

As the 20th century draws to a close, Congress has a rare opportunity to pass landmark legislation that would establish a permanent and significant source of conservation funding. A number of promising legislative proposals will take revenue from non-renewable offshore oil and gas resources and reinvest them in the protection of renewable resources such as wildlife, public lands, our

coast, our oceans, our cultural resources, historic preservation, and outdoor recreation. Securing this funding would allow us to build upon the pioneering conservation tradition that Teddy Roosevelt initiated at the beginning of this century. The vast majority of Americans recognize the duty we have to protect and conserve our rich cultural and natural legacies for future generations, a diverse array of interests including sports men and women, conservationists, historic preservationists, outdoor recreationists, the faith community, the business community, State and local governments. Over 40 Governors, Democrat and Republican, have supported this initiative, and they support conservation funding for this legislation because they recognize it is our obligation to make these commitments for future generations.

So this letter goes on to call on our body here, the Senate and the House, to:

* * * seize this unprecedented opportunity to pass legislation that would make a substantial and reliable investment in the conservation of our Nation's wildlife, public lands, coastal and marine resources, historic treasures, urban and rural parks, open spaces * * * design a bill that provides significant conservation benefits free of harmful environmental impacts to our coastal and ocean resources, and one that does not unduly hinder land acquisition programs.

We have this within our grasp.

It says:

We look to Congress to make this a reality.

I hope, as I slow down this process, perhaps we can get some answers from the White House, from the negotiators, about the real possibilities of this taking place. There are some on the right who say we do not need any more public land. There are some on the left who say if we do anything that might encourage drilling, no matter how great the benefits, we are not for it.

Let me say, in a markup that is being done, hopefully this Wednesday in the House, many of those criticisms will be put to rest. In the markup that is being considered on the House side on this bill, there are no incentives for oil and gas drilling. We can fight that battle another day. There is an incentive and language that will help us spend this money for coastal restoration in ways that are environmentally sensitive and that do not encourage drilling. There is language, on the other hand, that is going to suggest that Congress has a legitimate role to play in the purchasing of lands, along with the administration—whether it is this administration, President Clinton, or whether it is a future President—that it is right that this Congress and the President would make decisions about the purchases of land, how much, and when, and where.

Those differences could be worked out. So there is bipartisan agreement we should take a portion of these revenues.

I want to show a graph, because people think, Why does Mary keep speaking about this issue over and over again? It is because the revenues that are being considered for this come from basically one State. I know you would

be able to guess what that State is. This is Louisiana. I know this is a very small sheet, but I think the camera can pick this up. This red represents the contribution Louisiana makes to offshore oil and gas revenues which totaled, in this particular year, \$4.8 billion. The average is about \$3.5 billion. But Louisiana contributes over 90 percent.

When we talk about taking this money and funding programs I have outlined—and I am for all the things I have just suggested—we need to be fair to the producing States. Louisiana produces the most, then Texas; Mississippi contributes; Alabama is a contributor. Of course, California did contribute. There is a moratorium there. This bill does nothing to upset that political decision, but it does save, for the States that are producing, a portion.

Let me talk about a portion because I believe in fighting for your State. But I also believe in being fair. If I did not think my State was correct, I would be the first one to stand up and say we should do it another way; we simply do not have an argument. But it is widely known the interior States in our Nation get to keep 50 percent of the revenues they produce. States such as Wyoming and New Mexico get to keep 50 percent of their revenues, and they can spend it basically as they wish, with few restrictions.

I am not coming to this body, nor have I introduced a bill, to give Louisiana 50 percent of this offshore oil and gas revenues. It is not on our land, but it is right outside of our coast. If it were not for our land, this industry simply would not exist. Very few can dispute that because I don't know where you would launch the helicopters, Honduras or Guatemala; or where you would build the machinery, the canals, the barges, the railroads, or highways that allow this industry to exist. I do not know if a good option would be Honduras or Guatemala, but if you don't do it from the coast of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, you do not have many options.

But I did not come here to ask for 50 percent. I am asking the President and the administration and this Congress to give Louisiana not even 30 percent. I am not even asking for 25 percent. I have simply said to the producing and coastal States, let us keep at least 10 percent of the dollars for Louisiana and the producing States, and share with all the other coastal States, whether they produce or not, to give them moneys from this source of revenue because it does not just belong to us, it belongs to everyone.

But surely we should, since we produce 90 percent of the money, get a fair share as we try to distribute this money. Whether we do it for 1 year—we have been doing sort of hit or miss over the last 30—or whether we try to take the step and do it permanently, recognizing the needs and legitimate concerns of the Western States and some others that are concerned about pur-

chasing land—then clearly Louisiana deserves its fair share. So do the other coastal States.

For the record, we have produced over \$120 billion since 1955 and have received less than 1 percent. I guess that is worth it, to me, to be a skunk at the garden party, because it is just not fair. One of the things about the Senate and about Congress and about this whole body, and about America and the debate, is trying to pass legislation the American people care about. The American people can understand fairness. Whether they are from a Western State or California or Washington, or from a Southern State, I think they would say: Senator LANDRIEU, you are correct. It is not fair for your State to produce 90 percent and get virtually nothing when we have a bill that will share this with everyone and do something the American people want to do.

Let me talk about that for just a minute. Sometimes we come to Washington and I think we have the tendency to forget, or maybe just temporarily lose our memory, about some of the things we promised to do when we came. Sometimes we get busy with the talk in Washington and we forget about what the talk at home is.

There was research done just recently, in fact a couple of months ago, by Luntz Research Companies, one of the foremost pollsters in America. He said some things that really brought this issue home to me. Even though I knew this was important to people, I frankly did not think to take a survey which would have been a good thing, but the environmental groups did. The results are staggering.

I am just going to read the overview:

What matters to Americans most these days is "quality of life" and "peace of mind." Our nation's prosperity has brought with it the need both to think beyond simple hand-to-mouth economics and to address the anxieties posed by perceived threats to our own health and safety. The public's mood on the environment speaks to the opportunity to deliver positively on a rising public priority.

More than 50% of Americans tell us they will head to the outdoors on vacation this year. What they expect to find when they get there is part of the legacy they most want to pass along to the next generation.

There is an emotional intensity to issues that define the legacy of what this generation will leave to the next. At the turn of the Millennium—as we enter the 21st Century focused more than ever on the future and rapid change—what drives people's attitudes on protecting the great outdoors may be the need to identify and carry with us those defining ideas and principles that have made America the great pioneer.

To deliver on the call for preservation and progress, policymakers can succeed by focusing more on the benefits the public wants and expects and by spending less time talking about the process that the public really doesn't care to follow in a debate.

And no issue speaks more directly to Americans' environmental "quality of life" than their ability to enjoy open spaces, parks, and wilderness areas. Whether they want a place to visit alone or with their families on vacation—or just having the peace of mind that those places will still exist (for

themselves, for future generations, and for the plant and animal species that assure diversity)—this desire presents an opportunity to deliver on a political priority. Anyone who wants to close their own “credibility gap” on environmental issues can do so by talking about conservation of open spaces. . . .

And by actually doing something about it, not just speaking about it.

Let me give some of the findings:

People like to spend their time outdoors. Over half of Americans polled cite an outdoor location like a national park, forest, wilderness areas, beach, shoreline, lake, river, or mountain as their preferred place to spend a vacation this year.

Ninety-four percent would justify spending more on Land & Water Conservation because “Parks, forests, and seashores provide Americans a chance to visit areas vastly different than their own.”

Those who think the overall quality of the environment is deteriorating outnumber those who think things are improving. Eighty-eight percent of all Americans agree that “we must act now or we will lose many special places, and if we wait, what is destroyed or lost cannot be replaced.”

They also say this poll defies a myth that some people think of as real, too much public land.

That meant, according to this survey which was conducted by a Republican pollster, it does not hold even in mountainous Western States where over 90 percent, in some places of the land is already owned by the Government. This poll indicates that even in places in the West where lots of land is already owned by the Federal Government, people still want us to make the effort and the small investment it will take to preserve these precious resources to provide wilderness, parks, and forest for our children and grandchildren.

Let me finally read one very startling result because all of us voted for the highway trust fund. We thought we should apply our gasoline taxes to improve the highway system which has been an extraordinary benefit for the growth of this Nation. We did it because we knew it was popular at home, because it was the right thing to do. In my State of Louisiana, and probably in your State, Mr. President, Illinois, people overwhelmingly support it.

Let me share this:

In a head to head between land and water and highway, the wildly popular highway and airport funds head to head was 45 percent for the conservation of land and water and 37 percent for highways.

We know how popular that highway bill was, but people in America—in Louisiana, in Illinois, in Mississippi, in other places, in Washington State—want us to take some of these revenues—not new taxes, not raising taxes, not robbing it from other places—but taking it from the Federal Treasury where it has gone into sort of a non-descript fund and reinvest it into the environment and to do that in a way that shares with the States and local governments—not a Federal land grab, not a Federal takings, but in partnership with local and State governments, and that is what our bill does.

In conclusion, there are over or close to 200 Members of the Senate and the House, Republicans and Democrats. It is the only environmental initiative—there are others that have been filed and talked about and are being debated in committee, outside of committee, in the negotiations taking place right now—but there is not a single proposal that has Democrat and Republican support except for this one.

I urge the White House, I urge the President, I urge the negotiators, whatever is in the bill, if we can afford \$300 million, fine. If we can afford \$500 million, fine. If we can afford \$1 billion, whatever the offset is, I am not asking for more money. But I am asking if we are going to spend offshore oil and gas revenues for 1 year or permanently, that it be done giving Louisiana and Mississippi and Texas and Alabama and the other producing States their fair share; that it will fund to the degree that is possible the coastal initiatives we have outlined.

Yes, there are authorized programs to fully fund land and water conservation and to fund wildlife conservation, historic preservation, and urban parks, which is a package that makes sense. Do my colleagues know why? Because it is fair. It is fair to the east coast; it is fair to the West; it is fair to the South; it is fair to the North; it is fair to the Great Lakes States that do not have an ocean or a gulf, but because they have the Great Lakes, they similarly have situations that need attention.

We have not written a bill that is selfish. We have written a bill that is generous. We have written a bill that we can afford.

I urge the President not to move to take a portion of the revenues that two of the poorest States in the Nation contribute—Mississippi and Louisiana—and give them away without giving us a fair chance at preserving our coastline, helping us restore a tremendous ecosystem that not only benefits our State and the 4 million people who live there, and the 2 million people who live on the coast but literally serves as a treasure for this Nation—an environmental treasure and a commercial base—without which this country could not possibly continue to grow and prosper without.

I am sensitive to the Florida Everglades. I have been to the redwoods. I believe in the preservation of the great lands of the West. I want to be fair to many places in this Nation, but I cannot in good conscience represent the State that is contributing 90 percent of the money and allow these negotiations to go on knowing there is some intention to take this money permanently away from us and give it to everyone else without sharing this with us to help us in our quest to restore this coastline for the benefit of the entire Nation.

I thank my colleagues for their patience. I hold up our plan: “Coast 2050.” It is a beautiful picture of Louisiana’s

coast. I ask my colleagues to be sensitive to our great needs. I am sorry to have to object, but I do it respectfully, and I do it because I know this is the right thing for our country and the Nation at this time.

I yield back the remainder of my time, if I have any.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

SENATE PASSAGE OF IMPORTANT HISTORIC PRESERVATION MEASURES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed much needed legislation to protect some of America’s most threatened historic sites, the Vicksburg Campaign Trail and the Corinth battlefield. S. 710, the Vicksburg Campaign Trail Battlefields Preservation Act of 1999, is a bipartisan measure that authorizes a feasibility study on the preservation of Civil War battlefields and related sites in the four states along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail. As my colleagues know, Vicksburg served as a gateway to the Mississippi River during the Civil War. The 18-month campaign for the “Gibraltar of the Confederacy” included over 100,000 soldiers and involved a number of skirmishes and major battles in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee. The Mississippi Heritage Trust and the National Trust for Historic Preservation named the Vicksburg Campaign Trail as being among the most threatened sites in the State and the Nation. S. 710 would begin the process of preserving the important landmarks in the four State region that warrant further protection. I appreciate the cosponsorship of Chairman MURKOWSKI, Chairman Thomas, and Senators LANDRIEU, BREAU, COCHRAN, HUTCHINSON, and CRAIG on this measure.

The Senate also approved S. 1117, the Corinth Battlefield Preservation Act of 1999, a measure that establishes the Corinth Unit of the Shiloh National Military Park. The battle of Shiloh was actually part of the Union Army’s overall effort to seize Corinth. This small town was important to both the Confederacy and the Union. Corinth’s railway was vitally important to both sides as it served as a gateway for moving troops and supplies north and south, east and west. The overall campaign led to some of the bloodiest battles in the Western theater. In an effort to protect the city, Southern forces built a series of earthworks and fortifications, many of which remain, at least for now, in pristine condition. Unfortunately, the National Park Service in its “Profiles of America’s Most Threatened Civil War Battlefields,” concluded that many of the sites associated with the siege of Corinth are threatened.

S. 1117 would give Corinth its proper place in American history by formally linking the city’s battlefield sites with the Shiloh National Military Park. I