

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 nondescript 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, BREAUX, 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

thank Senators ROBB, COCHRAN, and JEFFORDS for cosponsoring this measure. I also express my appreciation to Chairman THOMAS for his ever vigilant efforts on parks legislation, and in particular, for moving both the Vicksburg Campaign Trail and Corinth battlefield bills forward. I take this opportunity to recognize Chairman MURKOWSKI for his continued stewardship over the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. President, I also want to recognize Ken P'Pool, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Mississippi; Rosemary Williams, chairman of the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission; John Sullivan, president of the Friends of the Vicksburg Campaign and Historic Trail; and Terry Winschel and Woody Harrell of the U.S. Park Service for their support and guidance on these important preservation measures. Lastly, I recognize several staff members including Randy Turner, Jim O'Toole, and Andrew Lundquist from the Senate Energy Committee, Darcie Tomasallo from Senate Legislative Counsel, and Stan Harris, Angel Campbell, Steven Wall, Jim Sartucci, and Steven Apicella from my office, for their efforts to preserve Mississippi's and America's historic resources. Mr. President, as a result of the Senate's action today, our children will be better able to understand and appreciate the full historic, social, and economic impact of the Vicksburg Campaign Trail and the Siege and Battle of Corinth.

REGIONAL COOPERATIVE HEALTH PROGRAM FUNDING THROUGH WYE SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE-FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to urge the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to allocate some of its Wye Supplemental Assistance Funding to the first regional cooperative health program ever designed to serve both the Palestinians and Israelis. Improving the health of Palestinians and Israelis through a successful cooperative endeavor would provide a vibrant prescription for peace in the Middle East.

This important health program, which pairs the Kuvin Center for the Study of Infectious and Tropical Diseases of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem with the Palestinian Al-Quds University, has requested support from USAID as a \$20 million, five-year program. The purpose of this program is to find innovative ways to fight infectious diseases in the region, and calls upon these Universities to build a permanent, collaborative infrastructure for improving the health of the Palestinian and Israeli people.

United States Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has said the most important projects for promoting peace and cooperation between nations are what she calls "people projects"—those

projects that people of all races, religions, and beliefs can support. This program, which seeks to protect local people from the infectious and parasitic diseases that are among the leading causes of death in the West Bank and Gaza, is a great example of fostering cooperation through people projects of mutual interest.

USAID has successfully funded similar health programs in Egypt and Turkey, but this is the first such program proposed for the Israeli and Palestinian people. Members of Congress, the President, and the State Department all support this program. If USAID funds the program, it would give the United States scientific and fiscal oversight through both USAID and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

I support the funding for this regional collaborative effort as a powerful example of what a working relationship should be in the Middle East and I believe that it should be given the highest funding priority out of the Wye package.

THE FEMA EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, as a co-sponsor of S. 1516, legislation reauthorizing the Federal Emergency Administration's Emergency Food and Shelter program, I am very pleased that the Senate is about to pass this legislation and send it to the House of Representatives. I hope that our colleagues in the House will swiftly approve this important bill, so that it can be sent to President Clinton for his signature before our legislative session adjourns for the year.

FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) program provides financial assistance to supplement community efforts to provide food, shelter, and other valuable items to homeless and hungry people around the country. Most of the EFS' monies are distributed directly to local boards, which are comprised of representatives from religious and charitable organizations from the surrounding area. These boards then award grants to non-profit, voluntary, and social service organizations, which assist individuals with their food, shelter, or emergency assistance costs. Using a local distribution network helps to ensure that the EFS' funds are targeted to those who most need assistance.

To its credit, FEMA has been very successful in keeping the administrative costs of this program very low. In fact, these costs consume less than 3 percent of the funding, which is an inspiring example that all of the Federal Government's agencies and departments should strive to follow.

In Maine, the EFS program has been extremely helpful. For example the Sister Mary O'Donnell Shelter, located in Presque Isle, Maine, received a \$10,500 grant from this program. Amazingly enough, this shelter was able to use this modest funding to provide the

equivalent of 1,974 nights of shelter for the homeless in northern Maine.

EFS is a very successful program that carefully targets its resources where they are needed most, and does so with an absolute minimum of administrative expense. The Government Affairs Committee approved this legislation with a unanimous voice vote on November 3, 1999, and I hope the full Senate will do likewise.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I strongly support the current reauthorization of the Developmental Disabilities Act, and I commend Senator JEFFORDS for his leadership in making this reauthorization a priority.

I also commend the members of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and the administration for their leadership in developing this bipartisan bill. I especially want to recognize TOM HARKIN for his leadership and continued commitment to individuals with disabilities. I also commend all the staff members for their skillful work to make this process successful.

Today, I particularly want to take this opportunity to say thank you to my sister Eunice Kennedy Shriver for her many years of extraordinary dedication and commitment to children and adults with mental retardation and their families. Had it not been for her vision and commitment on behalf of people with mental retardation, the Developmental Disabilities Act would not be the impressive success it is today.

For many years, since the Developmental Disabilities Act was first signed into law by President Kennedy in 1963, developmental disabilities programs in the states have worked effectively to improve the lives of children and adults with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. The act serves as the foundation for a network of programs that offer them real choices on where to live, work, go to school, and participate in community life.

Through these programs, the 4 million individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities are able to obtain the support they need to participate in all aspects of the community. They receive needed assistance in education, and early intervention efforts are used to provide appropriate health care services and support.

For millions of Americans these services can mean the difference between dependence and independence, between lost potential and becoming contributing and participating members of their communities.

Throughout the preparation of this legislation, we have listened to consumers, advocates, families, and program administrators—all of whom have