

165,000 jobs and \$22 billion in annual economic activity port commerce generates, these channels must go to 50 feet.

Once clean materials from these deepening projects, and other projects from around the nation, have been dredged we should not neglect possible beneficial uses. Within WRDA, there is a \$2 million annual authorization for the Corps to develop a program that will allow all eight of its regional offices to market eligible dredged material to public agencies and private entities for beneficial reuse.

I want to thank my colleagues, particularly Senators SMITH, BAUCUS, and VOINOVICH for their assistance and cooperation in developing this legislation. My colleagues have been remarkably helpful in this matter, having worked closely with me to ensure that the final bill incorporated language based on my legislation S. 2385, the Dredged Material Reuse Act, which I introduced earlier this year. They have understood the need, and I am grateful that they have agreed to include it in this legislation.

Beneficial reuse is a largely underutilized concept. As a result, unwanted dredged material is often dumped on the shorelines of local communities. Through a program of beneficial reuse the dredged material would be sold to construction companies and other developers who would be eager to have this material available.

Mr. President, the people of Southern New Jersey are all too familiar with this situation. Current plans by the Corps calls for more than 20 million cubic yards of unwanted material dredged from the Delaware River to be placed on prime waterfront property along the Southern New Jersey shoreline. However, with some effort and encouragement, the Corps has recently identified nearly 13 million cubic yards of that material for beneficial reuse in transportation and construction projects.

We should learn from beneficial reuse that contracting companies, land development companies, and major corporations want this material. This means we need to encourage the Corps to market dredged material for beneficial reuse up-front so that communities will not be confronted with the same problems faced by the citizens of Southern New Jersey.

The program created by this legislation will give the Army Corps the authority and the funding they require to begin actively marketing dredged material from projects all across the United States. It recognizes the need to keep our nation's rivers and channels efficient and available to maritime traffic while ensuring that communities are treated fairly.

Of equal, if not greater importance, to the small businesses and shore communities of New Jersey is the protection of our beaches. Recreational activity at our beaches is extremely important to NJ, supporting an annual tourist economy of \$17 billion.

However, due to beach erosion, many of our shore communities have lost revenue on which they depend. This lost revenue affects the local tax base, property values, results in lost jobs and diminished quality of life in coastal regions.

Rebuilding and protecting our beaches is vital to the health of our economy. With 127 miles of shoreline and a booming tourist industry, simply watching the beaches erode is not an alternative. From commercial and recreational fishermen, to bait and tackle shops and restaurants, our shore communities depend on healthy coastlines.

With this in mind, I applaud the Senate for authorizing in WRDA several Corps projects to protect and re-nourish New Jersey beaches.

One project authorizes the Corps to re-nourish beaches along the entire stretch of Long Beach Island, from Barnegat Inlet to Little Egg Inlet, in Ocean County, New Jersey. This \$51.2 million project authorizes the Corps to create dunes and beaches along the coastline municipalities of Long Beach Island, including: Harvey Cedars, Surf City, Ship Bottom, Beach Haven and Long Beach Township.

Another project for shore protection authorizes the Corps, at a total cost of \$30 million, to re-nourish beaches on the 1.8 mile stretch in Port Monmouth along the Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay Shoreline, by constructing floodwalls, levees, dunes, dune grass, dune fencing, dune walk-overs, and suitable beachfill.

Finally, I commend the Senate for including language I supported that would direct the Secretary of the Army to develop and implement procedures to give recreational benefits the same budgetary priority as storm damage reduction and environmental protection in cost-benefit analysis for Corps beach replenishment projects. Currently, the Corps is not required to list recreation benefits in its cost-benefit analysis of beach projects. This language is similar to legislation I introduced earlier this year, and I am pleased that this initiative has been passed in the Senate's WRDA Conference Report.

Prior to the 1986 Water Resources Development Act, the Corps viewed recreation as an equally important component of its cost-benefit analysis. However, the 1986 bill omitted recreation as a benefit to be considered, and New Jersey coastal communities have suffered.

It is imperative that federal policy base beach nourishment assistance on the entirety of the economic benefits it provides. Beach replenishment efforts ensure that our beaches are protected, property is not damaged, dunes are not washed away, and the resources that coastal towns rely on for their lifeblood are preserved.

Mr. President, it is for these reasons that I support the passage of WRDA. New Jersey relies on its unique water resources and this legislation will go a long way towards maintaining our economic and environmental health.

SPACE AND THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, this past week Washington, DC was the site of a global meeting of space faring nations at the International Space Symposium. A question raised at this event was how the United States' position, as a leader in both government sponsored and commercial space industry and exploration, is to be maintained in the future in light of emerging competitors and markets around the world.

As a partner in the construction of the International Space Station, we have entered into the greatest example of international cooperation to date. As NASA director Dan Goldin remarked at the Symposium, the Space Station will be a partnership of 16 countries, including the U.S., Russia, Japan, the eleven members of the European Union, and Brazil. The Expedition 1 crew left for the Space Station at 1:53 AM, Tuesday morning, marking October 31, 2000, as the date that humanity began its permanent residence in space. American astronaut Bill Shepherd and Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev will dock with the Space Station on Thursday and begin assembly tasks as new elements are added to the orbiting outpost. At completion, the Space Station will have a pressurized volume larger than the cabin and cargo hold of a 747 airliner. Of the seven modules, six will house laboratories. With these, the United States and the nations of the world will have the opportunity to use the resources and capabilities of the Space Station for scientific and technological research. The U.S. laboratory module will have racks, or lab space, for individual experiments, as well as sites where independent research payload can be attached. Some portion of each will be dedicated to commercial use.

As expected, a host of physical science experiments will use the research racks, payload sites, and Earth-viewing windows. Platforms will also be available to test communications systems. Exciting experiments are proposed in the life sciences and other fields only now recognizing the opportunities that exist in space. Studies in porous-ceramic bone replacement, gene transformation, and drug design will all benefit from extended experiments in the weightless environment of the Space Station. The ISS also provides an avenue for other countries to have access to space, for experimentation and exploration, thereby diminishing the need for their own space launch vehicle and potential missile capabilities. We must seize this opportunity for international cooperation, fair access to space, and limitless scientific and technological advancement.

As the International Space Station demonstrates, the future poses many opportunities for the United States in space. However, it likewise presents several risks. Also discussed at the International Space Symposium were

the threats facing the U.S. space industry. One of the largest and most worrisome for our long-term health and viability is a lack of trained, competent, technically skilled workers. The space sector employs between 400,000 and 1,000,000 people. Assuming a 25 year career span, this indicates a need for about 150,000 new employees a year. This does not take into account the fact that the space industry workforce is aging and that the skills used in the space sector, such as system level engineering, problem solving and trouble shooting, and general technical aptitude, are needed in other industries as well. A recent study found that the space sector dropped from being the third most popular field for young people to enter in 1990 to seventh in 1999. The space industry is finding it harder to both recruit and retain technically skilled workers.

I bring this to our colleagues' attention, Mr. President, because the federal government is facing a similar threat. Shortages in workers with scientific and technical training are being faced by many Executive agencies and government labs, as well as the federal space community. As difficult as it is for the commercial space industry to recruit and retain qualified employees, it is even harder for the federal government. Now, and for the foreseeable future, the federal government will continue to be the biggest client for the space industry with its civil and military space ventures. The federal government needs to be able to make decisions regarding selection of products, services and systems and have the personnel to use them. It must also have the personnel to advise Congress and federal regulatory agencies in making intelligent, informed and prudent decisions that will encourage competition and success in the commercial space industry.

The Federal and commercial space industry recognize the risk the shortage of technically skilled workers present to the nation's long-term prosperity and viability. As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services, I am interested in how we can avert what most certainly poses a threat to our national security and economic well-being. The Federal Government is attempting to address those factors in its work environment that make it less attractive to technically skilled workers, while emphasizing the rewarding and fulfilling public service careers available. A way for the Federal Government to increase the number of qualified workers could be a partnership with universities to encourage the skills and training needed to enter the field. The Federal Government should aggressively promote its student loan repayment program to attract young college graduates who may turn away from Federal service because they are burdened with school debts. This program, which has been authorized since 1991, was never imple-

mented due to budget cuts, hiring freezes, and downsizing over the past decade. Since last March, Senators DURBIN, VOINOVICH, and I have urged the Office of Personnel Management to implement the loan repayment program because we viewed it as an opportunity to encourage young people to join the Federal Government. We were successful in expanding the benefit beyond the scope of the initial authorization through an amendment to the FY01 DoD Authorization Act, which was signed by the President on October 30, 2000.

The loan repayment program will be a critical component for the Federal Government in its effort to recruit and retain highly qualified professional, technical, or administrative personnel by allowing Federal agencies to repay up to \$40,000 of an employee's student loans. In addition to attracting recent college graduates, efforts to retain experienced federal employees will include loan repayment programs for those who pursue additional academic training. We stand at the threshold of an age of opportunity and challenge. Our future as a global leader in space depends on having the people to meet this challenge. I urge my colleagues to join me in fostering an interest in public service among our nation's youth so that they will pursue careers that further our nation's federal space programs.

THE SMALL BUSINESS, HEALTH, TAX, AND MINIMUM WAGE ACT

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I am deeply concerned that important efforts to support small businesses are jeopardized by the many unrelated amendments that have been added to H.R. 2614 the Small Business, Health, Tax, and Minimum Wage Act. I ask my colleagues to join me in working to pass important legislation vital to preserve the Certified Development Company Program, the Small Business Innovation Research Program, and the reauthorization of the Small Business Administration. As Congress prepares to adjourn, it is irresponsible to prevent action on these important issues.

I am very concerned that innocent provisions that support small businesses and job creation are being held hostage in a debate over unrelated issues. H.R. 2614 was introduced as a bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act to make improvements to the certified development company program. This program provides gap financing which is vital to foster entrepreneurship and create economic opportunities. In recent days, however, this bill has been loaded down with numerous provisions that completely overshadow this program and threaten to shatter our chance to authorize these programs before Congress adjourns.

I am proud to speak out on behalf of the real intent of H.R. 2614 which would

help small businesses succeed. There is an old proverb used in my state of South Dakota which advises; "Don't put off until tomorrow what can be done today." Today, we should strip out the politically charged amendments that have been tacked onto this bill and pass legislation both parties agree is important to our economy, our local communities, and many businesses and families across the country.

It is careless not to reauthorize these important programs because of election year politics which bogged down the legislation with unrelated issues. Congress should vote on the genuine issues with regard to small business programs. We must not let certain partisan differences cause us to turn away from our opportunity to promote the entrepreneurial spirit of our country.

There are many issues before this body which evoke strong differences of opinion, however, authorizing these important small business programs are not among them. I urge my colleagues to join me in securing the passage of this important legislation and not allow these widely supported initiatives to fall victim to nonrelated amendments thrown together in the closing days of Congress.

DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER ADVERTISING AND RISING PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, anyone who has lived or visited in the United States during the last few years has been exposed to a phenomenon which is uniquely American. I speak of the direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription medicines.

U.S. pharmaceutical manufacturers will spend an amount this year very close to \$2 billion on advertising to the general public. This can be compared to about just \$150 million in 1993—which explains why no one can avoid these advertisements even if they wanted to. They are ubiquitous—TV, radio, newspapers, and magazines are all replete with prescription drug ads.

Typically, the drugs that are most heavily advertised are among those that ultimately are the most heavily prescribed. According to a recently released National Institute for Health Care Management study, for example, the seven drugs in 1999 which had more than \$1 billion in sales were advertised an average of \$58.5 million each. Together, they contributed an estimated 24.3 percent toward the increases in total expenditures of prescription drugs during 1999.

Clearly, advertising works, just as it always has.

Advocates of this relatively new technique to increase name brand prescription sales will say that consumers become more aware of treatment possibilities and may have a better starting point for discussion with their physicians. Other observers believe this practice artificially increases demand from consumers who are still not fully