

The mass migration to the area has been great for developers and other businesses, but it has put enormous strains on the local government.

Since 1900, Beaufort County's population has grown 31%. That's three times the national average. The county has had to keep expanding its roads, and in just the past three years, it has built 13 schools, making it one of the fastest-growing school districts in the USA.

The boom has been especially traumatic for the little town of Bluffton (population 800), which finds itself suddenly surrounded by explosive growth.

Last year, the town had to hire its first full-time city manager to deal with development issues. And the town has annexed 30,000 acres over the past three years to exert more control over land use. That has expanded the town's size from 1 square mile to 50.

This year, the town is asking residents for permission to double its budget so it can add a planning department, increase existing departments and augment its tiny police force.

Although construction is bringing in new property tax revenue, the town laments that it has lost revenue from speeding tickets. Bluffton used to be a well-known speed trap, but the traffic is so bad now, it's hard to exceed the 25 mph posted limit.

"Bluffton has become the biggest little town in South Carolina," says Town Councilman Hank Johnston, 58, who claims that Johnny Mercer wrote the lyrics to Moon River while sitting on Johnston's porch, which overlooks the May River.

The town's transformation is upsetting to the locals, even those who profit from all the tour buses that roar through the town's historic center, disturbing the tranquility Bluffton had known for 100 years.

"People used to come Memorial Day and leave Labor Day. Now they're here to stay," sighs Babby Guscio, owner of a general store. "It's sad. It's the end of an era. Our small town is gone."

As the economic transformation along the shore continues, that refrain is being echoed up and down the coast. But there's no indication that the mass exodus to the beach will slow anytime soon. "People are seeking out a different lifestyle," says urban planner Hill of Cleveland State. "Quality of life matters."

"There's no stopping the trend," agrees Rutgers professor Baker. "It's like the primordial urge of sea turtles (to lay their eggs in the exact same spot). The instinct to live near the water is that strong."

Ms. LANDRIEU. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

THE BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT ACT OF 2000

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will try not to delay my good friend from Kansas too long. I know he, like others, wishes to leave.

I speak only because I am disappointed the Senate has not yet passed the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2000 that is S. 2413.

The Senate Judiciary Committee passed this bill unanimously on June 29. All Members, Republicans and Democrats, voted for it. Since then, I have checked with the Democratic caucus. All 45 Democratic Senators support this bill. All 45 are perfectly agreeable to have it either come to an immediate vote or passed by unanimous consent.

But it still has not passed the full Senate. This is very disappointing to our nation's law enforcement officers who need life-saving bulletproof vests to protect themselves. Protecting and supporting our law enforcement community should not be a partisan issue.

Senator CAMPBELL and I worked together closely and successfully with the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the last Congress to pass the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998 into law. Senator HATCH is an original cosponsor this year's bill to reauthorize this grant program. Senators SCHUMER, KOHL, THURMOND, REED, JEFFORDS, ROBB, REID, SARBANES, our late colleague, Senator Coverdell, BINGAMAN, ASHCROFT, EDWARDS, BUNNING, CLELAND, HUTCHISON, and ABRAHAM also cosponsored our bipartisan bill.

I mention this because I have been receiving calls from a number of people in the law enforcement community asking why it has not passed. I did not know the answer. As I said, I checked and found the 45 Democratic Senators all said they had no objection to it being passed by voice vote today, yesterday, whenever—but we have been told a Republican Senator has stopped this bill from passing. He has a hold on the bill, a bill that is intended to provide protection to our Nation's law enforcement officers.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, more than 40 percent of the 1,182 officers killed by a firearm in the line of duty since 1980 could have been saved if they had been wearing body armor. Indeed, the FBI estimates that the risk of fatality to officers while not wearing body armor is 14 times higher than for officers wearing it.

When we introduced the original Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998, President Clinton invited Senator CAMPBELL and me down for the signing of it. Shortly after it was passed into law, we funded 92,000 new bulletproof vests for our Nation's police officers. You can now make application on web sites. The whole thing has worked extremely well.

To better protect our nation's law enforcement officers, Senator CAMPBELL and I introduced the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998. President Clinton signed our legislation into law on June 16, 1998 (Public Law 105-181).

The law created a \$25 million, 50 percent matching grant program within the Department of Justice to help state and local law enforcement agencies purchase body armor for fiscal years 1999-2001.

In its first year of operation, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program funded 92,000 new bulletproof vests for our nation's police officers, including 361 vests for Vermont police officers. Applications are now available at the program's web site at <http://vests.ojp.gov/> for this year's funds.

The entire process of submitting applications and obtaining federal funds is completed through this web site.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2000 builds on the success of this program by doubling its annual funding to \$50 million for fiscal years 2002-2004. It also improves the program by guaranteeing jurisdictions with fewer than 100,000 residents receive the full 50-50 matching funds because of the tight budgets of these smaller communities and by making the purchase of stab-proof vests eligible for grant awards to protect corrections officers in close quarters in local and county jails.

More than ever before, police officers in Vermont and around the country face deadly threats that can strike at any time, even during routine traffic stops. Bulletproof vests save lives. It is essential the we update this law so that many more of our officers who are risking their lives everyday are able to protect themselves.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2000 will provide state and local law enforcement agencies with more of the assistance they need to protect their officers.

Our bipartisan legislation enjoys the endorsement of many law enforcement organizations, including the Fraternal Order of Police and the National Sheriffs' Association.

We need to recognize the hard work of those who have sworn to serve and protect us. And we should do what we can to protect them, when a need like this one comes to our attention.

Our nation's law enforcement officers put their lives at risk in the line of duty every day. No one knows when danger will appear.

Unfortunately, in today's violent world, even a traffic stop may not necessarily be "routine." Each and every law enforcement officer across the nation deserves the protection of a bulletproof vest.

I hope this mysterious "hold" on the other side of the aisle will soon disappear. The Senate should pass without delay the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2000, S. 2413, to ensure that each and every law enforcement agency in Vermont and across the nation can afford basic protection for their officers.

I just want to speak a little bit personally about this. I spent the first 8 years of my public life in law enforcement. I have said many times on the floor of the Senate that it was in so many ways the most rewarding career I had. I got to know the men and women in law enforcement who are called upon to go out at 3 o'clock in

the afternoon or 3 o'clock in the morning and put their lives on the line for us.

I thought this legislation was something that would help. I have received hundreds of letters and e-mails from police officers across the country who use the Campbell-Leahy law to get themselves bulletproof vests. I know Senator CAMPBELL has, too. We joke about it, but we call it the Campbell-Leahy, Colorado-Leahy, Campbell-Vermont law—police officers know what it is. It is the bulletproof vest law.

I was so glad to tell the leaders of law enforcement, the sheriffs, the police officers, and others that we had put together, once again, a bipartisan coalition and were moving through the reauthorization in what has proven to be one of the most successful pieces of law enforcement legislation we have had.

That is why when they started calling me and asking, "why hasn't it passed; if everybody supports it, why hasn't it passed," I had to tell them an anonymous Republican Senator has stopped it from passing. Whoever that Senator might be has a right to object to it going forward under our practices, if not under our rules.

I ask if that Senator might be willing to put first, and foremost, the needs of our law enforcement officers. If they do not like the bill, then let's bring it to a rollcall vote and they can vote against it. I suspect it will be a 98-1 vote on this. I know every Democrat is going to vote for it because they have told me they will. Every single Republican I have talked with said they will vote for it. I suspect the vast majority of the Senate will vote for it.

I call on that anonymous Senator to step forward and either allow us to pass it by a voice vote or let us bring it to a rollcall vote and vote it up or down. The President has assured me personally that he will sign this bill. He has no hesitation signing it. He wants to sign it.

Senator CAMPBELL and I will support it throughout the appropriations process to get the money. The most conservative, most liberal, and the moderate Senators in this body have all supported it. Let's do the right thing. Let's tell the same police officers we ask to go out at 3 o'clock in the morning to protect us that we will not do the closed-door withholding of the bulletproof vest legislation.

MINORITY JUDICIAL NOMINEES IN 106TH CONGRESS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am glad to see the Senate confirming Judge Johnnie Rawlinson to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals today. She will be an outstanding member of that Circuit. I thank Senator REID for all of his hard work on this nomination. I also commend our Democratic Leader for getting Judge Rawlinson and the other nominations reported yesterday con-

firmed by unanimous consent today. No one has worked harder than Senator DASCHLE to try to get the Senate to act on President Clinton's judicial nominees and I thank him for his dedicated efforts.

On July 13, 2000, President Clinton spoke before the NAACP Convention in Baltimore and lamented the fact that the Senate has been slow to act on his judicial nominees who are women and minorities. He said: "The quality of justice suffers when highly-qualified women and minority candidates, fully vetted, fully supported by the American Bar Association, are denied the opportunity to serve for partisan political reasons." He went on to say: "The face of injustice is not compassion; it is indifference, or worse. For the integrity of the courts and the strength of our Constitution, I ask the Republicans to give these people a vote. Vote them down if you don't want them on." I wholeheartedly agree with the President.

I was encouraged to hear Senator LOTT recently and repeatedly say that he continues to urge the Judiciary Committee to make progress on judicial nominations. The Majority Leader said: "There are a number of nominations that have had hearings, nominations that are ready for a vote and other nominations that have been pending for quite some time and that should be considered." He went on to note that the groups of judges he expects us to report to the Senate will include "not only district judges but circuit judges."

The United States Senate is the scene where some 50 years ago, in October 1949, the Senate confirmed President Truman's nomination of William Henry Hastie to the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, the first Senate confirmation of an African American to our federal district courts and courts of appeal. This Senate is also where some 30 years ago the Senate confirmed President Johnson's nomination of Thurgood Marshall to the United States Supreme Court.

And this is where last October, the Senate wrongfully rejected President Clinton's nomination of Justice Ronnie White. That vote made me doubt seriously whether this Senate, serving at the end of a half century of progress, would have voted to confirm Judge Hastie or Justice Marshall.

On October 5, 1999, the Senate Republicans voted in lockstep to reject the nomination of Justice Ronnie White to the federal court in Missouri—a nomination that had been waiting 27 months for a vote. For the first time in almost 50 years a nominee to a federal district court was defeated by the United States Senate. There was no Senate debate that day on the nomination. There was no open discussion—just that which took place behind the closed doors of the Republican caucus lunch that led to the party-line vote.

It is unfortunate that the Republican Senate has on a number of occasions

delayed consideration of too many women and minority nominees. The treatment of Judge Richard Paez and Marsha Berzon are examples from earlier this year. Both of these nominees were eventually confirmed this past March by wide margins.

I have been calling for the Senate to work to ensure that all nominees are given fair treatment, including a fair vote for the many minority and women candidates who remain pending.

The bipartisan Task Force on Judicial Selection of Citizens for Independent Courts has recommended that the Senate complete its consideration of judicial nominations within 60 days.

Governor Bush of Texas recently also proposed that presidential nominations be acted upon by the Senate within 60 days.

Of the 34 judicial nominations currently pending, 26 have already been pending for more than 60 days without Senate action. Already this Congress 83 nominees, including 56 eventually confirmed, have had to wait longer than 60 days for Senate action. I urge the Senate to do better.

The Senate should be moving forward to consider the nominations of Judge James Wynn, Jr. and Roger Gregory to the Fourth Circuit. When confirmed, Judge Wynn and Mr. Gregory will be the first African-Americans to serve on the Fourth Circuit and will each fill a judicial emergency vacancy. Fifty years has passed since the confirmation of Judge Hastie to the Third Circuit and still there has never been an African-American on the Fourth Circuit. The nomination of Judge James A. Beaty, Jr., was previously sent to us by President Clinton in 1995. That nomination was never considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee or the Senate and was returned to President Clinton without action at the end of 1998. It is time for the Senate to act on a qualified African-American nominee to the Fourth Circuit. President Clinton spoke powerfully about these matters last week. We should respond not be misunderstanding or mischaracterizing what he said, but by taking action on this well-qualified nominees.

In addition, the Senate should act favorably on the nominations of Judge Helene White and Kathleen McCree Lewis to the Sixth Circuit, Bonnie Campbell to the Eighth Circuit, and Enrique Moreno to the Fifth Circuit. Mr. Moreno succeeded to the nomination of Jorge Rangel on which the Senate refused to act last Congress. These are well-qualified nominees who will add to the capabilities and diversity of those courts. In fact, the Chief Judge of the Fifth Circuit declared that a judicial emergency exists on that court, caused by the number of judicial vacancies, the lack of Senate action on pending nominations, and the overwhelming workload.

I am sorely disappointed that the Committee has not reported the nomination of Bonnie Campbell to the Eighth Circuit. She completed the