

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT
OF 2000

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise to make a few remarks on the Coastal Zone Management Act of 2000, legislation to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act. This bill, S. 1534, was passed last Thursday evening by unanimous consent.

To begin, I want to thank Senator SNOWE, our chairman on the Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee on the Commerce Committee, for putting this legislation on the Committee agenda this Congress and working for its enactment.

When Congress enacted the Coastal Zone Management Act in 1972, it made the critical finding that, "Important ecological, cultural, historic, and esthetic values in the coastal zone are being irretrievably damaged or lost." As we deliberated CZMA's reauthorization this session, I measured our progress against that almost 30-year-old congressional finding. And, I concluded that while we have made tremendous gains in coastal environmental protection, the increasing challenges have made this congressional finding as true today as it was then.

At our oversight hearing on this legislation, Dr. Sylvia Earle testified on the current and future state of our coastal areas. Dr. Earle has dedicated her career to understanding the coastal and marine environment, and knows as much about it as anyone. She warned us that, "We are now paying for the loss of wetlands, marshes, mangroves, forests barrier beaches, natural dunes and other systems with increasing costs of dealing somehow with the services these systems once provided—excessive storm damage, benign recycling of wastes, natural filtration and cleansing of water, production of oxygen back to the atmosphere, natural absorption of carbon dioxide, stabilization of soil, and much more. Future generations will continue to pay, and pay and pay unless we can take measures now to reverse those costly trends."

The Coastal States Organization, represented by their chair, Sarah Cooksey, told the Committee that, "In both economic and human terms, our coastal challenges were dramatically demonstrated in 1998, by numerous fish-kills associated with the outbreaks of harmful algal blooms, the expansion of the dead zone of the Gulf coast, and the extensive damage resulting from the record number of coastal hurricanes and el Nino events. Although there has been significant progress in protecting and restoring coastal resources since the CZMA and Clean Water Acts were passed in 1972, many shell fish beds remain closed, fish advisories continue to be issued, and swimming at bathing beaches across the country is too often restricted to protect public health."

It is clear from the evidence presented to the Committee in our oversight process and from other input that I have received, that a great need ex-

ists for the federal government to increase its support for states and local communities that are working to protect and preserve our coastal zone. To accomplish that goal, the Committee has reported a bill that substantially increases annual authorizations for the CZMA program and targets funding at controlling coastal polluted runoff, one of the more difficult challenges we face in the coastal environment.

S. 1534 would provide a significant increase to the CZMA Program. Total authorization levels would increase to \$136.5 million in FY2001. For grants under Section 306, 306A, and 309, the bill would authorize \$70 million beginning in FY00 and increasing to \$90.5 million in FY04. For grants under section 309A, the bill would authorize \$25 million in FY00, increasing to \$29 million in FY 04; of this amount, \$10 million or 35 percent, whichever is less, would be dedicated to approved coastal nonpoint pollution control strategies and measures. For the NERRS, the bill would provide \$12 million annually for construction projects, and for operation costs, \$12 million in FY 2001, increasing to \$15 million in FY04. Finally, the bill would provide \$6.5 million for CZMA administration.

This reauthorization also tackles the problem of coastal runoff pollution. This is one of the great environmental and economic challenges we face in the coastal zone. At the same time that pollution from industrial, commercial and residential sources has increased in the coastal zone, the destruction of wetlands, marshes, mangroves and other natural systems has reduced the capacity of these systems to filter pollution. Together, these two trends have resulted in environmental and economic damage to our coastal areas. These effects include beach closures around the nation, the discovery of a recurring "Dead Zone" covering more than 6,000 square miles in the Gulf of Mexico, the outbreak of *Pfiesteria* on the Mid-Atlantic, the clogging of shipping channels in the Great Lakes, and harm to the Florida Bay and Keys ecosystems. In Massachusetts, we've faced a dramatic rise in shell fish beds closures, which have put many of our fishermen out of work.

To tackle this problem, the Coastal Zone Management Act of 2000 targets up \$10 million annually to, "assist coastal communities to coordinate and implement approved coastal nonpoint pollution control strategies and measures that reduce the causes and impacts of polluted runoff on coastal waters and habitats." This is an important amendment. For the first time, we have elevated the local management of runoff as national priority within the context of the CZMA program. Runoff is not a state-by-state problem; the marine environment is far too dynamic. States share the same coastlines and border large bodies of waters, such as the Gulf of Mexico, the Chesapeake Bay or the Long Island Sound, so that pollutants from one state can det-

rimentially affect the quality of the marine environment in other states. We are seeing the effects of polluted runoff both in our coastal communities and on our nation's living marine resources and habitats. I'm pleased that we've included the runoff provision in S. 1534. It's an important step forward and I believe we will see the benefits in our coastal environment and economy.

The Coastal Zone Management Act of 2000, Mr. President, has been endorsed by the 35 coastal states and territories through the Coastal State Organization. It also has the endorsement of the Great Lakes Commission, American Oceans Campaign, Coast Alliance, Center for Marine Conservation, Sierra Club, Environmental Defense, California CoastKeeper and many other groups. It's a long list. I will ask unanimous consent to have printed into the RECORD a letter from support organizations. I add that S. 1534 passed the Senate Commerce Committee, with its regionally diverse membership, unanimously.

I want to thank some of those assisted my staff with this legislation, and helping us pass it in the Senate. They include the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Program office and its Director, Tom Skinner, who provided technical assistance on the program, as well as the Center for Marine Conservation, Natural Resources Defense Council, American Ocean Campaign, the Coastal States Organization and the Coast Alliance. And I thank my colleagues on the Commerce Committee.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter to which I referred be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEPTEMBER 18, 2000.

Hon. TRENT LOTT
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LOTT: On behalf of the following organizations, we are writing to urge you to schedule S. 1534, the Coastal Zone Management Act of 2000, for floor consideration as soon as possible. Sponsored by Senators SNOWE and KERRY, S. 1534 has been reported out of the Commerce Committee with unanimous bipartisan support.

Since its enactment in 1972, the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) has helped protect and improve the quality of life along the coast by providing incentives to states to develop comprehensive programs to meet the challenges facing coastal communities reducing their vulnerability to storms and erosion, the effects of pollution on shellfish beds and bathing water quality, and loss of habitat, to name a few.

The CZMA has proven to be a model statute for promoting national, state and local objectives for balancing the many uses along the coasts. There is no better testament to the success of the state/federal partnership forged by the CZMA than the fact that 34 of 35 eligible coastal states, commonwealths and territories have chosen to participate in the program. Federal assistance provided under the Act is matched by states dollar for dollar. Each state can point to significant benefits resulting from the Act, such as improved coastal ecosystem health; revitalized waterfront communities; coastal habitat

conservation and restoration; increased maritime trade, recreation, and tourism; and the establishment of estuarine research reserves which serve as living laboratories and classrooms.

The lands and waters of our coastal zone are subject to increasingly intensive and competing uses. More than half of the Nation's expanding population is located near the coast. S. 1534 will improve the Act by authorizing "Coastal Community Grants" to assist states in enabling communities to develop strategies for accommodating growth in a manner which protects the resources and uses which contribute to the quality of life in coastal communities. The bill will help build community capacity for growth management and resource protection; dedicate funding for communities to reduce the causes and impacts of polluted runoff on coastal waters and habitats; and reduce the pressure on natural resources caused by sprawl by targeting areas for revitalization.

As a measure of the support the CZMA has enjoyed, it is worth noting that in 1996, the CZMA reauthorization bill passed by a unanimous vote in the House, and passed the Senate by voice vote. We hope that passage of S. 1534 will form part of the legacy of significant accomplishments of the 106th Congress.

Sincerely,

Anthony B. MacDonald, Coastal States Organization.

Jeanne Christie, Association of State Wetlands managers.

Barbara Jean Polo, American Oceans Campaign.

Jacqueline Savitz, Coastal Alliance.

Dr. Michael Donahue, Great Lakes Commission.

David Hoskins, Center for Marine Conservation.

Cyn Sarthou, Gulf Restoration Network.

Tim Williams, Water Environment Federation.

Ed Hopkins, Sierra Club.

Richard Caplan, U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

Howard Page, Sierra Club—Gulf Coast Group, Mississippi Chapter.

Cindy Dunn, Salem Sound 2000.

Diane van DeHei, American Metropolitan Water Agencies.

Joseph E. Payne, Friends of Casco Bay.

Gay Gillespie, Westport River Watershed Alliance.

James Gomes, Environmental League of Massachusetts.

Judith Pederson, Ph.D., MIT Sea Grant College Program.

Bill Stanton, North & South Rivers Watershed Association.

Robert W. Howarth, Ph.D., Environmental Defense.

Michelle C. Kremer, Surfrider Foundation.

Enid Siskin, Gulf Coast Environmental Defense.

Elizabeth Sturcken, Coastal Advocacy Network.

Polly Bradley, SWIM.

Ken Kirk, Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies.

Denise Washko, California CoastKeeper.

Roger Stern, Marine Studies Consortium.

Victor D'Amato, North Carolina Chapter Sierra Club.

Nina Bell, J.D., Northwest Environmental Advocates.

Donald L. Larson, Kitsap Diving Association.

Cliff McCreedy, Oceanwatch.

Richard Delaney, Urban Harbors Institute, Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston.

Dee Von Quirolo, Executive Director, Reef Relief, Key West, Florida.

like the late Mike McKeivitt did. Former Congressman and Assistant U.S. Attorney General James D. "Mike" McKeivitt passed away last week here in Washington, DC. He was a remarkable man, a selfless public servant, and a loyal friend. He was always working on behalf of others to make the world better.

His positive attitude, personal warmth and absolute sense of fair play were most unique in a far too often cynical, and mean-spirited town called Washington, DC. For 30 years, he rose above the pettiness, nonsense and nastiness that often dominates the environment of the world's most powerful city. He made it more fun to be here. He made it all seem more noble than most of it is.

We will all miss Mike McKeivitt. We are all better because of him. Our prayers and thoughts go out to his wonderful wife Judy and his daughters and grandchildren.

I ask unanimous consent that the attached obituary from The Washington Post on Congressman McKeivitt be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 30, 2000]

CONGRESSMAN JAMES D. "MIKE" McKEVITT, 71, DIES]

James D. "Mike" McKeivitt, 71, a partner in the Washington government affairs firm of McKeivitt & Schneier who was a former congressman and U.S. assistant attorney general, died Sept. 28 at Sibley Memorial Hospital after a heart attack. He lived in McLean.

Mr. McKeivitt served in the House as a Colorado Republican for one term before losing a reelection bid in 1972. During his years in the House, he served on the Judiciary, Interior and Small Business committees.

In 1973, he served as assistant attorney general for legislative affairs, then in 1973 and 1974 was counsel to the White House Energy Policy Office.

From 1974 to 1986, he was federal legislation director of the National Federation of Independent Business. He then practiced law before founding the McKeivitt & Schneier government affairs firm in 1986.

Mr. McKeivitt was a founding member of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Board. In 1987, the former representative of Colorado's 1st District was honored by Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.) as a moving force in the enactment of legislation creating the memorial.

Over the years, he also had served on the board of the USO, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society and the International Consortium for Research on the Health Effects of Radiation. He was a past president of the University Club of Washington, parliamentarian of the 1986 White House Conference on Small Business and a member of the Bowen Commission on Medicare. His hobbies included sailing the Chesapeake Bay.

Mr. McKeivitt, who was born in Spokane, Wash., was a 1951 graduate of the University of Idaho and a 1956 graduate of the University of Denver law school. During the Korean War, he served as an Air Force combat intelligence officer in Korea.

He was admitted to the Colorado Bar in 1956 and practiced law in Boulder before serving as an assistant attorney general of Colorado from 1958 to 1967. He then served as dis-

trict attorney for the city and county of Denver until entering Congress in 1971.

Mr. McKeivitt was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church at Lafayette Square in Washington.

His first wife, Doris L. McKeivitt, died in 1994. Survivors include his wife, Judith Woolley McKeivitt of McLean; two daughters from his first marriage, Kate McLagan of Austin and Julia Graf of Park City, Utah; and four grandchildren.

THE GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES WWW.FIRSTGOV.GOV

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the Administration recently launched a new website, www.firstgov.gov. That website is the first all-government portal and will offer one stop information from over 20,000 separate federal websites. This promises to be a great tool. Throughout the country people will be able to download tax forms, read up on the status of legislation, better understand the Social Security system. But Mr. President, meaningful access to all of the important information depends on what side of the Digital Divide you find yourself. To benefit from websites like firstgov, you must have a computer and understand how to use it, and you must have an Internet connection with speeds fast enough to search databases, view graphics and download documents.

As the demand for high speed Internet access grows, numerous companies are responding in areas of dense population. While urban America is quickly gaining high speed access, rural America is being left behind. Ensuring that all Americans have the technological capability is essential in this digital age. It is not only an issue of fairness, but it is also an issue of economic survival.

To remedy the information gap between urban and rural America, I along with Senator DASCHLE introduced S. 2307, the Rural Broadband Enhancement Act, which gives new authority to the Rural Utilities Service to make low interest loans to companies that are deploying broadband technology to rural America.

The Rural Utilities Service has helped before; it can help again. When we were faced with electrifying all of the country, we enacted the Rural Electrification Act. When telephone service was only being provided to well-populated communities, we expanded the Rural Electrification Act and created the Rural Utilities Service to oversee rural telephone deployment. The equitable deployment of broadband services is only the next step in keeping American connected, and our legislation would ensure that.

If we fail to act, rural America will be left behind once again. As the economy moves further and further towards online transactions and communications, rural America must be able to participate. They must be able to start their own online business if they so desire and access information about government services efficiently.

CONGRESSMAN JAMES D. "MIKE" McKEVITT

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, few individuals ever touch the lives of people