

THE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL AND THE CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT ACT

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President. I would like to say a few words about the Interior Appropriations bill and CARA. The Interior Appropriation is a good bill. CARA is a great bill. CARA brought together a variety of supporters from all parts of the country to develop a program that would provide for wildlife protection, urban parks, green space, coastal impact protection and would guarantee funding for the development of recreation areas for years to come.

Elements of CARA have been included in the Interior bill, although the funding for these provisions is paltry by comparison to the House and Senate CARA bills. Other provisions may find a home in other appropriations packages, but one of the most important elements may be orphaned in the end. That is the provision for wildlife and habitat protection. Just as we are cheering our success in securing a place for wildlife, as we celebrate a growing population of eagles on the Potomac River, we are failing to fund the programs that make this possible. State wildlife agencies have clearly demonstrated their ability to bring back populations of threatened and endangered species, such as the pronghorn and the bald eagle. But they lack the resources to repeat the success on thousands of other species.

The purpose of CARA was to provide the ounce of prevention that keeps species from becoming threatened. CARA was to protect both game and nongame populations. By providing dependable state based funding we could ensure on-the-ground protection of wildlife, and continued maintenance of habitat for all wild species. It is important to note that there is an educational component in Title III of CARA. We are increasingly becoming an urban nation, and it is important to provide an introduction to wild places and wild things to our children. This introduction will help them become the next generation of good land stewards.

Virginians have come out for CARA. Rarely have I heard from so many different groups who support a piece of legislation. I would like to submit for the RECORD a list of the Virginia groups who support this legislation and to thank all of the groups for the remarkable job they have done in promoting CARA and the principles of outdoor recreation and education. I am highlighting Title III in my remarks simply because it is being ignored in the Interior Appropriations bill. But each and every title in CARA was thoughtfully deliberated and negotiated. Rarely have I seen such care taken in developing a bill, and even though efforts to allay the concerns of some western Senators were not successful, they were genuine, and I hope useful for future discussions.

The Interior bill does provide substantial funding for the Lands Legacy program, and this is important. The

bill also provides a good deal of funding for Virginia projects that are particularly worthy. But we could have done better, we could have done more. And I regret that the Senate has not yet risen to the occasion, that we did not complete this important work. Senator LANDRIEU, like the gracious lady that she is, has not asked CARA sponsors and supporters to withhold our support for the Interior Appropriation, and for the sake of the Virginia projects in the bill I will vote for the Appropriation. But, I will pledge to keep working for the passage of CARA in the final days of the session.

I ask unanimous consent that this statement be included in the RECORD.

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

VIRGINIA ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING CARA

AFS—Virginia Chapter; American Bass Association; Anderson Cottage Bed & Breakfast; Augusta Bird Club; Burke Center Wildlife Committee; Carl Zeiss Optical, Sports Optics; Clarke County Citizen Council.

Duck Island Enterprises, Inc.; Evergreen Bed & Breakfast Inn; Fair View Bed and Breakfast; For the Birds, Inc.; Friends of Dragon Run State Park; Friends of Shenandoah River; Friends of the North Fork Shenandoah.

Friends of the Rivers of Virginia; High Meadows Inn; IWLA—Maury Chapter; IWLA—Virginia Chapter; James River Basin Canoe Livery, Ltd. Laurel Creek Nursery; Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy; Lynchburg Bird Club; Mattaponi River Company; Mill Mountain Zoo.

More Critters & Company; NAS—Cape Henry Audubon Society; NAS—Fairfax Audubon Society; NAS—Virginia Beach Chapter; Natural Resources Technology; New River Free Press; New River Valley Bird Club; New River Valley Environmental Coalition Newport House Bed & Breakfast.

North Bend Plantation; North Fork Nature Center; Piedmont Productions; Prince William Natural Resources Council Public Lands Foundation; Resource Management Associates; Responsive Management; Ridgerunner Forestry Services; River Place at Deltaville.

Selu Conservancy; The Alleghany Inn; The Conservation Fund; The Friends of the North River; The Mark Addy; The Opequon Watershed, Inc.

The Ornithological Council; The River'd Inn; The Wildlife Center of Virginia; Thornrose House Bed & Breakfast; Trout Unlimited (National); TWS—Southeastern Chapter; TWS—Virginia Chapter; TWS—Virginia Tech Student Chapter.

Valley Conservation Council; Virginia American Bass Association; Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation District Virginia BASS Federation, Inc.; Virginia Game Warden Association; Virginia Herpetological Society; Virginia Society of Ornithology; Virginia Tourism Corporation; Virginia Wildlife Federation; Virginia's Explore Park; Virginians for Wilderness; Western Virginia Land Trust.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until

we act, Democrats in the Senate will read the names of some of those who have lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

October 5, 1999:

Norman P. Blasco, 47, Chicago, IL; Guy Colbert, 25, Detroit, MI; Daniel Galloway, 39, San Antonio, TX; Justin Eric Googenrand, 23, St. Paul, MN; Denise Long, 41, Nashville, TN; Shawndell Mosely, 27, Memphis, TN; Donald Roper, 34, Oakland, CA; and Theodore Slater, 87, Toledo, OH.

One of the victims of gun violence I mentioned, 41-year-old Denise Long of Nashville, was shot and killed accidentally by a 22-year-old co-worker who pulled out a handgun and dropped it on the floor. Her co-worker did not have a permit to carry a handgun. She also did not have permission to have the gun at their place of work.

We cannot sit back and allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The deaths of these people are a reminder to all of us that we need to enact sensible gun legislation now.

PNTR

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, as a strong advocate for Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China, I feel a personal responsibility to ensure that American companies benefit from this continuing trade relationship. I believe most of my Senate colleagues feel the same way. I am confident there will be many success stories, but there are also valuable lessons to be learned from watching U.S. companies that have tried to do business thus far.

Panda Energy International is one such company. Panda is currently building a substantial gas-powered generator in Union County, Arkansas, and I have been personally briefed by Panda's officials about their difficulties in China. Panda spent six years developing a power project near Tangshan in Hebei Province. It signed a contract to sell all of the output from the project to the North China Power Group—an arm of the national utility—at a price to be determined by a formula. Armed with this contract, Panda borrowed \$155 million needed to construct the project through a public bond offering in the U.S. capital markets. Construction for the project got underway in 1997. The project was completed late last year, and has been in limbo since that time.

The project cannot sell power without formal approval of a tariff, or price for its electricity, by the Tangshan municipal pricing bureau. The Tangshan pricing bureau has been reluctant to assign a tariff that would then set in motion the need to buy additional electricity for the region

where demand has recently diminished. At the same time, Panda Energy is in a perilous bind, because it had to mortgage all of its existing power plants—two in the United States and one in Nepal—as security to guarantee the U.S. bond holders they would be repaid their loans. The company is on the verge of defaulting on the loans.

Mr. EDWARDS. Would the Senator yield?

Mrs. LINCOLN. I would be pleased to yield to my friend from North Carolina.

Mr. EDWARDS. I want to associate my self with the concern expressed by the Senator from Arkansas. Panda Energy has a major gas-fired co-generator in northwestern North Carolina. That plant, in Roanoke Rapids, was the first project completed by this corporation and has been a significant supplier of electricity to the citizens of my state for the past ten years.

I, too, have been briefed about the difficulties Panda has faced in their effort to improve China's electricity-generating infrastructure. The commitment to approve and issue a formal tariff to the Panda Project in Luannan County, that the municipal and provincial governments agreed to, is not being honored. By failing to honor their commitment to grant a reasonable tariff rate, these governments have precluded the commercial generation of power. If this continues, the U.S. bondholders will have no choice but to foreclose on what represents the first U.S. capital markets power project financing in China.

This is a difficult situation for both sides, but the bottom line is that the international trading system breaks down if agreements are not honored, especially for large infrastructure projects like this one with long lead times. People invest money based on these agreements. They put their companies at risk.

I would like to yield to my colleague, Senator KERRY, who has been working on this issue for some time.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I have been aware of this story since July. Many of the bonds for this project are held through mutual funds in which Americans have invested their savings. This is not just a question of inequity for the U.S. developer of the project but also for millions of Americans who are the bondholders, and many of whom are my constituents.

In response to a letter written on August 7 to the Chinese ambassador, the charge d'affaires indicated that he had met with both the U.S. developer and representatives from the U.S. bondholders, had conveyed the concern back home, and would be—quote—making efforts to facilitate a satisfactory solution to this problem—end quote. It has now been almost two months, and we have seen no resolution of this problem, but rather delay and discrimination.

I note that the Democratic Leader has joined us, and I would like to sug-

gest to him a report by the Administration, but first I would yield the Floor to my colleague from Montana, Senator BAUCUS.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I do not have first hand knowledge of the situation, but it is troubling to hear of U.S. businesses running into such difficulties. I read the written statement that the U.S. sponsor of this project submitted to the Senate Finance Committee last spring.

Two things struck me. One is that the mediator split the difference. He split the difference between the price for electricity proposed by the Tangshan pricing bureau and the minimum price that the U.S. developer of the project said it needed in order to avoid defaulting on the project debt. The other thing that struck me is, although this was no great result for the U.S. developer, all the developer is seeking at this point is to have the mediator's recommendation implemented.

I would like to read a paragraph from the statement that the U.S. sponsor of the project submitted to the Senate Finance Committee. This is the president of the company speaking. "I am not here to ask you or your colleagues to grant or deny China PNTR status. I am here to relate a story of how one U.S. company fared when it tried to supply electricity to the Chinese. Unfortunately, we have come to find that our experience is not all that uncommon. However, in our case, the consequences are potentially disastrous because Panda had to guarantee the U.S. bondholders that they would be repaid. We feel like the jilted bride who entered into a marriage five years ago with the Chinese only to find them trying to walk away from the marriage now that the child has been born. This isn't fair."

I agree, and I yield the Floor to the Democratic Leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I have discussed this unfortunate situation with several of my colleagues. I believe that it would be very helpful to have the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Energy undertake a joint analysis of the facts of this situation and report back to the Senate on their discussions with the Chinese government within 45 days.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, October 4, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,653,380,479,214.62, five trillion, six hundred fifty-three billion, three hundred eighty million, four hundred seventy-nine thousand, two hundred fourteen dollars and sixty-two cents.

One year ago, October 4, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,654,411,000,000, five trillion, six hundred fifty-four billion, four hundred eleven million.

Five years ago, October 4, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,980,561,000,000, four trillion, nine hundred eighty billion, five hundred sixty-one million.

Ten years ago, October 4, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,255,813,000,000, three trillion, two hundred fifty-five billion, eight hundred thirteen million.

Fifteen years ago, October 4, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,823,105,000,000, one trillion, eight hundred twenty-three billion, one hundred five million, which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,830,275,479,214.62, three trillion, eight hundred thirty billion, two hundred seventy-five million, four hundred seventy-nine thousand, two hundred fourteen dollars and sixty-two cents, during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING DIRECT SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join the Illinois chapter of the American Association on Mental Retardation in recognizing the recipients of the 2000 Direct Service Professional Award. These individuals are being honored for their outstanding devotion to the effort to enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities in Illinois.

These recipients have displayed a strong sense of humanity and professionalism in their work with persons with disabilities. Their efforts have inspired the lives of those whom they care for, and they are an inspiration to me as well. They have set a fine example of community service for all Americans to follow.

These honorees spend more than 50 percent of their time in direct, personal involvement with their clients. They are not primarily managers or supervisors. They are direct service workers at the forefront of America's effort to care for people with special needs. They get up and go to work every day, with little recognition, providing much needed and greatly valued care and assistance.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge the contributions of the following Illinois direct service professionals: Kimberly Brown, Janelle Cote, Margaretha Daigh, Dawn Golec, David Hamm, Pat Hartz, Sandy Hawkins, Rhonda Housman, Kathy Lambert, Kathy Lyons, Deb Minor, Valensie Parnell, Mary Beth Schultz, Marshall Sears, Kim Smith, Jayce Turner, Don Van Duyse, Junior Vieux, Clifton White, and Tijuana Wright.

I know my fellow Senators will join me in congratulating the winners of the 2000 Direct Service Professional Award. I applaud their dedication and thank them for their service. •

TAIWAN CELEBRATES NATIONAL DAY

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, next Sunday marks the eighty-ninth birthday of the Republic of China, which now resides in Taiwan. This representative government arose from a revolution against an archaic imperial system. In 1911, Chinese patriots ousted