

Finally, the bill will provide assistance to small businesses in need of capital and investment financing, procurement assistance or management counseling. The incentives include physical and economic injury disaster loans, reductions in interest rates, and easier approval standards on Guaranteed Business Loans.

Small businesses across our Nation are in great need of economic assistance. The vitality of this sector is of crucial importance to our economy. This bill will allow thousands of working families the opportunity to maintain a reasonable standard of living, and give small business owners the boost they need to maintain and hopefully grow their businesses.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE MEXICAN SENATE FOR ITS SUPPORT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

Mr. DODD. Madam President, last week representatives of the Mexican Senate came to the U.S. Senate to meet with legislators and express their support for the U.S.-led effort against terrorism. Mexico has always been a close neighbor and friend to the United States, and the Senators traveled here to ensure us that, in this time of need, our friend and ally Mexico stands by us.

The delegation of Mexican Senators presented the Majority Leader, Mr. DASCHLE, with a letter from Diego Fernandez De Cevallos, the President of the Mexican Senate, which expresses the Mexican Senate's condolences in the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11th. That letter also contained a statement from the entire membership of the Mexican Senate commenting on the attacks and the unique relationship between Mexico and the United States. I think that my colleagues would benefit from seeing these comments in the RECORD.

At times like these every expression of support from our allies is important. However, given the special relationship between the United States and Mexico, it is even more important to see evidence that our allegiance is strong. These letters prove exactly that. I thank the Mexican Senate for their support.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter and statement from the Mexican Senators be printed in the RECORD.

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

MEXICO D.F.,
October 2, 2001.

Hon. TOM DASCHLE,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Capitol Building,
Washington DC.

DEAR SENATOR DASCHLE: On the occasion of the visit of a delegation of Mexican Senators to the United States, and in the name of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico, allow me to express to the people and to the Government of the United States, our profound shock and most sincere condolences with respect to the acts of terrorism perpetrated on September 11, 2001 against humanity itself.

It is truly hard to find words adequate to convey the sadness and anguish that all Mexicans feel at the loss of so many innocent lives.

As legislators there are many things we can do together with the U.S. and other Congresses to confront the barbaric threat of terrorism of any kind, as well as the harm that is caused by various forms of fanaticism.

We declare ourselves once again unequivocally in favor of peace, justice, and international solidarity.

I have asked the delegation of Mexican Senators who are visiting your Congress this week to provide you with a copy of the statement which was made by the Mexican Senate on September 11 in response to that tragic act, which we also provided to his Excellency Ambassador Jeffrey Davidow so that it might be known to the American people and the Government of the United States.

Sincerely,
DIEGO FERNANDEZ DE CEVALLOS,
President of the Mexican Senate.

STATEMENT OF THE MEXICAN SENATE

September 11, 2001.

"The Mexican Senate wishes to express to the Government of the United States of America as well as to all Nations, its most profound sympathy and deep indignation relative to the barbarous acts which today have offended the entire world.

"The Mexican Senate calls upon all men and women of good faith to prevent this tragedy from escalating into an interminable blood bath.

"Let us bring together the governments and peoples of the world to work together to guard against further harm; to scrupulously respect human rights throughout the world; and to build together a peaceful, dignified, and just world for all mankind."

THE U.S. ROLE IN OCEAN EXPLORATION

Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, as we contend with the threats of global terrorism and our national sorrow in the aftermath of September 11th, we must focus on the accomplishments, ideals, and spirit that make America great and look to the future with a renewed sense of resolve and hope. As we engaged in exploring the American continent in the 19th century, and the far reaches of space in the 20th century, we must welcome, in this new century, the challenge of exploring our oceans, the last uncharted frontier. Oceans make up 70 percent of the earth's surface, yet we have characterized less than ten percent of the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone. Within our EEZ, the United States has jurisdiction over more submerged lands than terrestrial lands. Newly charted research voyages and state-of-the-art underwater technology give us the tools we need to make new discoveries to aid us in better understanding this underwater world.

My focus on ocean exploration is timely because the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration celebrated the culmination of two voyages of discovery in Charleston, South Carolina, on October 1, 2001. The "Deep East Expedition" and "Islands in the Stream" projects represent two impor-

tant steps in revitalizing our exploration of the oceans. Through these journeys, NOAA scientists and their partners are uncovering the ocean's secrets.

The "Deep East Expedition" sailed from Maine to Georgia to investigate the diversity of deep-sea coral beds and gas hydrate communities that may contain new energy resources. On a simultaneous timetable, "Islands in the Stream" followed the Gulf Stream both from Belize to North Carolina. Scientists investigated ocean currents in the Gulf of Mexico, dove in submersibles examining coral reef and hard-bottom communities, and conducted acoustic surveys to characterize the ocean floor. NOAA partnered on these two projects with Woods Hole and Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institutes, the National Geographic Society, numerous universities and other federal agencies, such as NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey.

This summer, NOAA's flagship research vessel, the *Ronald H. Brown*, returned from an unparalleled journey of discovery in the undersea Astoria Canyon, beyond the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon. This voyage was titled the "Lewis and Clark Legacy Expedition" and was intended to be an extension of that historic journey which ended at the mouth of the Columbia River almost two hundred years ago. The scientists discovered two new species of invertebrates and viewed deep-water communities never before seen, at depths of over one half mile. Using advanced sonar technology, scientists created three-dimensional views of the canyon's sea floor texture and discovered an ancient shoreline from the last ice age, over 17,000 years ago. These discoveries will help answer questions about how glaciers, earthquakes, and plate movement affect the earth's geological history and its future.

Just as Thomas Jefferson commissioned Lewis and Clark in 1803 to gather scientific facts of the uncharted Western lands, so too must we be visionary in commissioning our best scientists to map and discover unknown reaches of the oceans. We must duplicate Jefferson's "Corps of Discovery" for our ocean depths. This undiscovered domain is believed to contain many times the biomass of all the rainforests and terrestrial life forms combined.

Today's pioneers in ocean exploration have already embarked upon this journey. Just as explorers of the past mapped the mountain ranges and the riverways of our nation, these modern explorers have begun mapping the ranges and riverways beneath the surface of the ocean. Two weeks ago Congress heard many of these explorers, researchers and managers speak about the important role of the oceans in global climate change, weather patterns and carbon cycling, as we celebrated the first annual Congressional Oceans Day. Presenters highlighted the successes of ocean exploration and the challenges that lie ahead.

Recent developments in sonar and submersible vehicles promise to accelerate discoveries in ocean depths. Multibeam sonar, emitting a wide swath, gives the exact contour of the ocean bottom, rather than extrapolating from a single beam directed below a vessel. Advanced sonar can detect temperature fluctuations to fractions of a degree. The upper few hundred feet of the oceans hold 1000 times more heat than the atmosphere, but scientists do not yet know how this may affect changes in global climate. The private sector is improving the capabilities of remotely operated vehicles and autonomous underwater vehicles. These vehicles, armed with the newest in sonar equipment, will gain better knowledge of bathymetry, resources and navigation.

Two years ago, President Clinton convened an internationally renowned panel of oceanographers and charged them to develop a United States strategy for ocean exploration. In October of 2000, the Ocean Exploration Panel presented its recommendations. The panel challenged the federal government to embrace the discovery of the unknown, to dedicate a vessel for ocean exploration, and to establish an Ocean Exploration Program.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provided leadership on this directive by establishing the Office of Ocean Exploration. The Bush Administration proposed \$14 million for NOAA to accomplish this significant endeavor for Fiscal Year 2002. The Senate Appropriations bill for the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State provided for this amount, and it is my hope that it will be retained in conference.

The panel further recommended designating a lead federal agency for ocean exploration. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the U.S. Department of Commerce has the authority, the mission, the track record, the desire, and the capabilities to provide a leadership role. For these reasons, NOAA should be recognized as the federal leader for ocean exploration.

In the Senate of Hawaii, our cultural history is entwined in the history of the ocean. From fishermen to tourists, researchers to snorkelers, we integrate the oceans into our daily lives. Marine life embodies those very elements which define Hawaii. The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, the Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, and many other federal and state marine protected areas illustrate the importance we as a community place on our marine resources. The commitment to nurture, protect, and educate people about the ocean represents the essence of malama kai, care for the sea, which is so important to the Hawaiian culture. Given the importance of the sea to our sustenance and livelihoods, it is essential that we learn about and share the responsibility to

protect our ocean and coastal resources.

The steep terrain of Hawaii's coastal underwater lands and its location in the Pacific Ocean make Hawaii a prime candidate from which to launch deep-sea exploration. The Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory (HURL), established by NOAA under the National Undersea Research Program and the University of Hawaii, works through private, state and federal grants to study the processes of the deep ocean. HURL's Ocean Bottom Observatory has been studying the volcanic activity of the undersea volcano, Loihi, and its effects on the global carbon cycle and tsunamis. Studying this dramatic phenomenon is critical to understanding the creation of Pacific Islands and submerged land masses that provide essential habitat for marine life.

I applaud the efforts of those who continue down the unmarked path toward ocean exploration, constructing the framework for future discoveries. At this time of national resolve and sorrow, I call attention to the global challenges that we face to understand the inner space of our earth—the oceans. A true ocean odyssey under the leadership of NOAA should be developed in cooperation with the Navy, National Science Foundation, NASA, the USGS, universities and private not-for-profit organizations. Our oceans are crucial to our existence and national security; we must understand them.

AMERICA MUST OPPOSE HATE CRIME

Mr. VOINOVICH. Madam President, one of the guiding principles upon which the United States of America was founded is that of religious freedom. Indeed, it is guaranteed in the Constitution, and it is a right that we as Americans hold dear.

Our forefathers came to these shores from nations all over the world searching for the ability to worship as they pleased, and even now, men, women and children still come to the United States to do so. Today, virtually every branch of religion known to man is represented here in the United States. That fact should not only be expected in a Nation of immigrants, but our diversity of cultures and religions should be celebrated.

However, in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, events have occurred across this Nation that fly in the face of our Constitutional guarantees. Acts of hatred have been perpetrated against Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans as if they had carried out or even condoned the killing of thousands of innocents.

I am disturbed by the stories I have heard in the last few weeks; a Sikh gas station owner in Mesa, AZ, who was shot and killed in the weekend following the attack simply because he was wearing a turban; a Pakistani Muslim grocer in Texas, as well as an Egyptian Christian in California, both

killed in crimes of hate as a result of the attacks; two girls in Palos Hills, IL, beaten because they were Muslim; a mosque in Evansville, IN, damaged by a man who rammed his car through a wall. We have had incidences of intolerance in my own home state of Ohio, I'm sad to say, where large ball bearings have been tossed through the windows of Arab-American owned businesses in Hamilton, and an Islamic Center in Cincinnati continues to receive harassing and threatening phone calls.

These stories, which have resonated across the country, do not constitute the views of the majority of Americans. Indeed, most Americans are peaceful and tolerant. The individuals perpetrating these crimes may think these acts represent patriotism, but they are far from it. Instead, they are perpetuating a hatred similar to that which drove 19 terrorists to take so many lives on that fateful Tuesday, and it must stop.

There are 6.5 million Muslims living in the United States today. By September 27, the FBI was investigating over 90 hate crimes committed against Muslims, individuals of Middle Eastern descent, or in some cases, individuals who appear Muslim or Middle Eastern. While these cases are under investigation, the Council on American-Islamic Relations has received reports of more than 625 attacks against Arab-Americans. This type of bigotry cannot go on.

On September 11, the terrorists did not single out their victims based on what they looked like or how they worshiped. They killed American citizens and foreign nationals of dozens of other nations indiscriminately. They murdered men, women and children of different ethnic backgrounds and religions, many of whom were themselves Muslims.

Some of our citizens have lost loved ones and friends, yet the vast majority of us have lost only our innocence. Our Nation is hurting right now, and we will all grieve in our own fashion, but we must not redirect our anger and frustration against one another.

Even in the face of such hatred in our own Nation, the rays of hope and compassion still shine. The same Islamic Center in Cincinnati that has been the target of hate has raised \$6,000 for the American Red Cross, and will hold a blood drive soon to help in rescue efforts. Muslims from the tri-state area, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, have also helped in the relief efforts, calling on their community to donate blood, give money, and pray for the victims and their families.

As President George W. Bush stated in his September 20 speech to the Nation, "[Islam's] teachings are good and peaceful, and those who commit evil in the name of Allah blaspheme the name of Allah." We must not only remember these words in the weeks to come, but we need to assure men and women of all backgrounds that the American