

In that regard, I am pleased to report that I am working with my colleagues on bipartisan bioterrorism legislation that targets problems posed by bioterrorist threats to our Nation's food supply. I believe that the measures provided for in my Imported Food Safety Act of 2001, as well as the bipartisan bioterrorism bill we are drafting, will significantly reduce this potential threat to our country. It is my hope that parts of my bill will be incorporated into the comprehensive bioterrorism bill that we are working on now and that we will pass it this year.

Mr. President, we need to take action now. We have identified a threat to our food supply. We know what we need to do to put in place the safeguards that are needed.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2620 CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate considers the conference report to accompany H.R. 2620, the VA-HUD appropriations bill, that there be 45 minutes for debate with respect to the report, with the time equally divided and controlled among the chairperson and ranking member of the subcommittee and Senator McCAIN or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of all time, without further intervening action, the Senate proceed to vote on adoption of the conference report.

Mr. President, this would mean Senator MIKULSKI, Senator BOND, and Senator McCAIN would each have 15 minutes if they choose to use that time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 739

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I see Senator MIKULSKI here; I assume Senator BOND will be here. I will just take but a moment.

For the fifth or sixth time in the last 2 weeks, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 191, S. 739, the Homeless Veterans Program Improvement Act; that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I know how committed the Senator is to this issue, and much of that issue I agree with. I hope sometime in the future we can deal with it. It is important, certainly to those who meet the standards and the qualifications which the Senator has proposed.

At this time I believe it necessary to object, and I do object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I have spoken about this before. The Senator from Idaho was objecting on behalf of someone else. He said: I hope this legislation passes soon because we all support this, or because it is important, something to that effect.

This legislation passed the veterans committee on a 21-0 vote. It is the kind of legislation you massage—LANE EVANS has done this in the House—so you get everybody agreeing. It is really important. I have gone through all the details before.

It is there in terms of making sure you have the job training, the services for people, and the health care for people struggling with addiction or struggling with posttraumatic stress syndrome, transition to other housing. It is really important to do.

Veterans Day is coming in just a few days.

My last point is that even though my colleague from Idaho says we all think it is a good thing to do, for 2 weeks I have come out here and I have asked: Who is the Senator who has an anonymous hold on this bill? If he or she opposes it, come out and debate it. This is no way to proceed. As a result, I have put a hold on every bill introduced by my colleagues from the other side, all of them that are unanimous consent and have a great deal of merit. I am not giving up any of my leverage.

It is unconscionable that this piece of legislation has been blocked through an anonymous hold. It is no way to say thanks to veterans. The veterans in the military say: We don't leave our wounded behind. We have a lot of wounded left behind on the streets of our country who are homeless.

If I got started on this issue, I could spend about 10 hours expressing my indignation at what has happened. Out of deference to Senator MIKULSKI, I will not.

Again, there aren't going to be any bills beyond appropriations and judi-

cial appointments that are going to go through until this bill goes through. This should be a priority.

I make a plea to my colleagues from the other side of the aisle, find out who it is, the Senator who is blocking this consideration. No one has ever even given me the slightest hint why. Let's get this work done.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002—CONFERENCE REPORT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I submit a report of the committee of conference on the bill, H.R. 2620, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commission, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, having met have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment, signed by all of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of November 6, 2001, at page H7787.)

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, it is with a great deal of pride that I bring this conference report to the Senate. I take this opportunity to thank my Republican colleague, the ranking member, Senator BOND of Missouri. This has been a year of tumultuous change in our country.

On Tuesday a year ago, we thought we had elected the President. It went on for 35 days—unprecedented. We were turned into a 50-50 Senate—again unprecedented.

Senator BOND chaired the committee in January and then, after Senator JEFFORDS' decision, the reins passed to me.

I say publicly, I thank Senator BOND for the graciousness in the way he transited the gavel and the chairmanship to me. He did it with graciousness and efficiency. His staff could not have been more cooperative or collegial. Because of that, our subcommittee didn't miss a beat, and we didn't miss a buck. We went to work on behalf of veterans, housing, the environment, investments in space, science, technology, as well as other agencies. I thank him for that.

I bring to the Senate's attention a summary of the bill. This act provides for a total of \$112.7 billion for all the programs within the bill, which is \$4.8 billion or 4 percent over the fiscal year

2001 level. This includes \$27.3 billion in mandatory funding, an increase of \$1.8 billion over the fiscal year 2001 level, and \$85.4 billion in discretionary spending, which is an increase of \$3 billion over last year.

What this bill essentially does is meet compelling human need. It meets compelling human need in terms of our veterans, in terms of the poor, meeting the day-to-day needs of the working poor. It helps rebuild our neighborhoods and communities. Through its funding for FEMA, it protects our homeland security. And it invests in science and technology through NASA and the National Science Foundation.

For our veterans, we have increased veterans health care by over \$1 billion from last year, bringing it to a total of \$21.3 billion. This would allow the VA healthcare system to serve 4 million patients through 2002. This conference agreement also provides the VA the ability to open 33 new outpatient clinics. It would also continue to allow research and treatment of chronic disease; diagnosis and treatment for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's; look at the issues again of special populations, such as stroke and spinal cord injury; and continue its groundbreaking research in the area of prostate cancer.

In terms of our veterans, we also make a substantial effort to reduce the claim time for how long a veteran has to wait in order to get their disability benefit. They had to often stand in line when they were in the U.S. military. But after the way they serve their country, they should not have to stand in line for almost a year in order to see if their disability claim can be processed. We are working on a bipartisan basis to shorten that.

As to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, we had three goals: Expand housing opportunity for the poor, rebuild our neighborhoods, and help special-need populations. To do that, we have renewed all the section 8 housing vouchers. We have funded this program at \$15.6 billion. This is \$1.7 billion over last year.

At the same time, we restored cuts proposed by the President to the critical public housing capital program by funding it at \$2.8 billion. We have increased funding for the public housing operating cost by \$250 million over last year for a total of \$3.5 billion.

Knowing that many of our colleagues believe the decisions are best made locally, we wanted to keep our commitment to the community development block grant money, and we have increased that by over \$200 million. This year CDBG will be funded at \$5 billion.

For other HUD programs, we have continued at last year's level the funding for brownfields, housing for the elderly, and housing for the disabled. But we have, in order to create home ownership, included language to raise the FHA loan limit for multifamily housing by 25 percent this year. This came from the private sector, home builders, as well as the AFL-CIO. I believe this

will mean more rental property will be available. We cannot voucher our way out of our housing crisis. We need a new production program. This has long been a position held by my colleague, Senator BOND. I look forward to the recommendation of the Millennial Housing Commission and the Commission on Senior Housing. We look to those in the private sector and the non-profit sector to give us guidance on what a 21st century HUD should look like, which will create real hope and opportunity. We provided the inspector general with no less than \$5 million, and this will also be going after predatory lending.

Let's move on now to EPA. For EPA, the conference agreement provides \$7.9 billion, an increase of \$587 million above the budget level. This is \$75 million above what we funded last year. What do we get for our money? First of all, we get EPA enforcement. This is funded at last year's level of \$465 million. We can keep the current level of enforcement.

The conference agreement also keeps our commitment to clean and safe water by fully funding the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund at \$1.35 billion, which is an increase over the President's budget request. We also fully fund the Drinking Water SRF at \$850 million, an increase of \$27 million over the President's budget request.

This country is facing an enormous backlog of funding for water infrastructure projects. Every single one of my colleagues talks to me about sewer or water infrastructure projects, failing septic tanks, how to comply with the new arsenic requirement; we have aging systems in my own region, as do New Orleans and Chicago. I could give every single Senator a billion dollars to take back to their State, and it would be just a drop in the bucket for this need.

I hope, as we look at the stimulus package, we look at how we can fund clean water and safe drinking water projects because, at the end of the day, I believe we will stimulate the local economy and create jobs but have value for our dollar.

We also kept our commitment to cleanup. We provided \$1.27 billion for the cleanup of Superfund sites. This also includes \$95 million for brownfields. We have included \$22.6 million for the National Estuary Program. Again, we have worked closely with the administrator.

For FEMA, we maintain our commitment to protecting our homeland by providing FEMA with \$3 billion. We provide \$2.1 billion for disaster relief to ensure that we are ready to respond to any future disaster. We have also worked very closely with Joe Allbaugh, the FEMA Director, to be sure we respond to the needs of New York and local communities and, at the same time, are ready for those natural disasters like hurricanes and tornadoes that could affect us.

We also wanted to support America's heroes, our firefighters, and in this bill

we fund the Fire Grant Program at \$150 million in order to be able to fund the firefighters' need of protective gear and equipment. This program is authorizing \$3 billion. We would prefer to do more and look forward to doing more in the stimulus package. We understand Senator BYRD is going to work closely with us to do this.

In order to be protected by the firefighters, we need to protect them and make sure they have the protective gear, respiratory gear, and the technological tools to go into horrific situations. In order to be able to protect us, they need to have the right equipment. Many firefighters in America are volunteers; we ask them to do it on their own time and on their own dime. We can't protect our firefighters and give them the equipment they need based on bingo and fish fries at the local level—although, I sure like those bingo games and fish fries. They are fun things to do, but they are not a reliable funding stream. We have to back them.

Let's go to NASA. We provide \$14.8 billion for NASA programs, which is \$500 million over last year. Our top priority remains the safety of our astronauts. We made a significant investment in shuttle upgrades, including \$207 million allocated for safety upgrades to the space shuttle. By improving the safety of the shuttle, we reduce the risks to our astronauts.

We fully fund the rest of the shuttle program at over \$3 billion for fiscal year 2002. For the space station, we redirected \$75 million to other pressing needs such as safety upgrades to the shuttle and other science and aeronautics programs. We know that former astronaut Tom Young is taking a look at our space station. We like it; we think it is very important to our country and to the world. But we also believe that the management of the space station has had a fiscal permissiveness that has allowed unacceptable cost overruns. They had over \$4 billion in overruns. We can't let that stand.

This independent review team, chaired by former astronaut Tom Young, has given us a new roadmap for the station. I can assure the Senate and our taxpayers that we will be holding hearings and meetings to be able to ensure that we keep our commitment to the space station, do our research, keep our astronauts safe, but at the same time have fiscal responsibility.

For the National Science Foundation, the conference agreement provides \$4.8 billion, an increase of 8.4 percent over last year. This represents a downpayment on an effort initiated by Senator BOND and myself to double the NSF budget. We want to do that in 5 years. I think we might have to wait 6 years to do it, but we are convinced it is in the Nation's long-term interest that funding for basic research in all science and engineering disciplines must increase substantially.

We have increased the funding in several areas for research, such as information technology and nanotechnology

and, of course, in agricultural biotech, on which, of course, the ranking member has been a leader. But also, at the same time, we really try to back our young researchers so that young Americans will choose science and scientific research as a career.

We have also maintained the Corporation for National Service. Voluntarism is our national trademark, and this agreement maintains our commitment to AmeriCorps and other agencies within it.

There are also 25 other agencies, but I am not going to go through all 25. We have kept our commitment to them. I thank the President for giving us the opportunity to work with very excellent Cabinet people. Again, we were under very difficult circumstances, with a late start, but there was an orderly transition.

I think we have met our charge to the compelling needs of our constituents, the long-range needs of our Nation and done it with fiscal stewardship, which I believe the taxpayers require from us.

Mr. President, that concludes my summary of the bill.

I thank Paul Carliner, Gabriel Batkin, and Joel Widder of my staff for giving me the support that I needed. I thank John Kamarck and Cheh Kim from Senator BOND's staff for their cooperation and collegiality.

Mr. President, I hope that at the conclusion of our debate, when we take the rollcall, the Senate will support this conference report. They can go back and talk to every single one of their constituents, whether it is a veteran from the "greatest generation," or the firefighters, the warriors of this generation, or the scientists who are giving us the ideas to keep America strong and safe, or the poor who depend on us even at this time. We have a great bill and I hope that this bill will pass.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I thank the conferees of this bill for their hard work in completing this conference report for this legislation.

The report provides critical Federal funding for the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies. The conference report spends at a level of 4.1 percent higher than the level enacted in fiscal year 2001.

In real dollars, this is \$2.1 billion in additional spending above the amount requested by the President, and a \$4.4 billion increase in spending from last year.

Once again I find myself in the unpleasant position of speaking before my colleagues about parochial projects in yet another conference report. I have identified over \$1 billion in earmarks, which is greater than the cost of the earmarks in the conference re-

port passed last year. Last year, it was \$970 million. So far this year, the total of appropriations pork-barrel spending has already hit a staggering \$9 billion.

Before I go into some specifics—and it will not be many on this bill—I would like to quote from an article by Deryck Murdoch of the Scripps Howard News Service that was published on October 14, 2001. He says:

Each dollar spent on pork-barrel projects is one less dollar that can be devoted to the War on Terror. This inescapable fact somehow has escaped members of Congress. While senators and representatives swiftly and wisely approved \$40 billion in recovery and defense funds after the Sept. 11 massacre, they quickly relapsed into old habits.

Congress again is spending money as recklessly and foolishly as it did on Sept. 10. Even as U.S. warships steam toward the Persian Gulf, Citizens Against Government Waste, a Washington-based fiscal watchdog group, has calculated in military terms the opportunity cost of business as usual.

Side-winder missiles sell for \$41,300 each. . . . Tomahawk Cruise missiles are \$1 million apiece while one F-15 fighter jet costs \$15 million. Pork projects chew right through cash that could purchase these and other weapons the Pentagon will need to crush the international terror network and its state sponsors.

For instance, on Sept. 13, the Senate adopted the fiscal 2002 Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Appropriations Bill. Consider just several items the Senate approved while the Pentagon and Ground Zero still smoldered:

—\$2 million for the Oregon Groundfish Outreach Program and \$850,000 for Chesapeake Bay Oyster Research.

Cost: 69 sidewinders.

—\$6 million for the National Infrastructure Institute in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Cost: Six cruise missiles.

—\$204 million for the Advanced Technology Program, a quintessential corporate welfare boondoggle, for which the Bush administration requested only \$13 million.

Cost: Thirteen F-15 fighters.

Even more maddening is a brand-new bill to expand farm subsidies one year before the existing spending plan expires. The Farm Security Act would increase agricultural pork by \$73.1 billion over the next 10 years. Added to the \$96.9 billion budget baseline, Uncle Sam would plow \$170 billion into the ground through the year 2011.

This bill authorizes \$101 million for honey producers. The once-terminated wool and mohair program rises again, \$202 million strong. Peanut farmers can expect \$3.48 billion. This bill would also revive a \$37.1 billion in "counter-cyclical assistance" which was scrapped in 1996.

I talked about this at another time.

The U.S. Agriculture Department released a study last month that describes these subsidies as spectacularly wasteful and fundamentally unfair. Forty-seven percent of agricultural payments go to commercial farms with average household incomes of \$135,397, more than 2½ times the average American household's \$51,855 in earnings.

According to the Associated Press, just 10 percent of farm owners shared 63 percent of last year's \$27 billion in federal agriculture payments.

Media tycoon Ted Turner received farm aid, as did Portland Trail Blazer Scottie Pippen. Modestly paid waitresses and school bus drivers pay twice for largesse—first through taxes, then again as agricultural price supports hike their grocery bills.

These legislative hijinks are bad enough in peacetime. America is at war. Soldiers, sail-

ors, airmen, and Marines are kissing their loved ones goodbye and shipping out to face a vicious and bloodthirsty enemy lurking in foreign shadows. Right now, Congress should grow up and stop treating the domestic budget as a political Toys R Us. Americans already are making huge sacrifices. Weak tourist revenues have lowered the curtains on five Broadway shows. Hotel beds have gone empty as conferences have been canceled, and weddings have been scaled back or postponed. Major U.S. airlines have fired 87,000 employees since terror struck.

Amid such national belt-tightening, it is beyond ugly to watch public servants loosen their belts as their pork-laden bellies swell. If the American people must live with less, so must their representatives.

I would like to read the words of OMB Director Mitch Daniels who said that in time of war:

Everything ought to be held up to scrutiny. . . . Situations like this can have a clarifying benefit. People who could not identify a low priority or lousy program before may now see the need.

Mr. President, we obviously have not seen the need in this conference report, and I intend to clarify some items stuffed in the bill. Let us take a look at this year's porkbarrel spending projects in the VA-HUD conference report before us.

No. 10: \$1 million for Spring Hill College in Mobile, AL, for construction of the Regional Library Resource Center;

No. 9: \$175,000 for the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, CA, for construction needs of the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum;

No. 8: \$1 million for Dubuque, IA, for the development of an American River Museum;

No. 7: \$300,000 for the Central Missouri Lake of the Ozarks Convention and Visitor Bureau Community Center;

No. 6: \$750,000 for the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development at Iowa State University;

No. 5: \$1 million for the Mid-Atlantic Aerospace Complex in West Virginia.

You will notice, Mr. President, each one of those is earmarked to a specific location. For example, in my State of Arizona, we just voted a bond issue to expand our convention facilities. They are not going to have to do that in the Central Missouri Lake of the Ozarks because they are going to build a convention center, and we are going to give them \$300,000 to do so.

Again, No. 5, \$1 million for the State of West Virginia, which seems to pop up quite a bit.

There is an additional \$250,000 to Maui for the control of nuisance seaweed accumulations on the beaches of Kihei, Maui, HI;

\$100,000 for the Memphis Zoo in Memphis, TN, for the Northwest Passage Campaign;

\$140,000 for the city of El Reno, OK, for development of a trolley system;

And \$190,000 for the city of Spartanburg, SC, for the Motor Racing Museum of the South.

Mr. President, we are in a war. Isn't this really unconscionable? Isn't it

really unacceptable? Isn't it really quite a commentary that the earmarks in this year's bill are higher than last year's bill? Isn't it interesting that each one of these is earmarked for a specific place? Perhaps the Presiding Officer's home State would like to compete for money for a Motor Racing Museum of the Midwest since we are giving money to Spartanburg, SC, for the Motor Racing Museum of the South.

We are now about to have a big fight with the President and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle about increased spending. How can my colleagues on this side of the aisle go into that battle with clean hands when we continue to add porkbarrel project after porkbarrel project—\$9 billion so far of unrequested, unauthorized items that are specifically earmarked for certain powerful members of the Appropriations Committee. That is not right, Mr. President.

Sooner or later, we are going to educate the American people about this, and it is going to come to a halt. I am afraid it may be later rather than sooner. It continues to lurch out of control, and no one believes we have enough money for defense spending. No one believes that. That is why we are spending extra money on defense, and yet these projects continue to be added both in conference as well as in the bills themselves, and it is not acceptable.

It is not acceptable. If the average American knew more about this, they would reject it.

I intend to do as I have done in the past to make sure as many Americans understand where their tax dollars are spent.

I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I am proud to rise in strong support of a conference report on H.R. 2620, the VA-HUD fiscal year 2002 appropriations bill. The chair of the committee, Senator MIKULSKI, has done an excellent job in crafting this measure. I am deeply grateful for her leadership.

She was kind enough to talk about the smooth transition. It was not something we desired, but it was something that worked extremely well because we have had the good fortune of being able to work closely on this measure for a number of years. In fact, it was a seamless transition.

I believe the legitimate wishes and concerns of Members of this body, the needs of the veterans, those who depend upon housing for Federal Government assistance, those who depend upon the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up our rivers and our waters and our air, are well served by this measure.

I add my compliments to Congressman WALSH, the chair of the House VA-HUD Committee, and Congressman MOLLOHAN, the ranking member. This bill has been a very tough one because

of the limitation on funding, but I believe it strikes the right balance. We have met many of the administration's funding priorities, and I compliment the administration for not looking to create a series of new programs but instead focusing on some exceptions, maintaining existing program levels and reforming program implementation to ensure that agencies can deliver assistance under existing program requirements.

The Senator from New Mexico has asked for a few minutes out of my time, so I ask the Presiding Officer to notify me when I have used 9 minutes of time. I do wish to reserve some time for Senator DOMENICI for a very pressing issue he must address.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, the respective leaders have asked the vote be held at 4:30, so we are going to have some extra time. We can accommodate the Senator for as much time as he or the distinguished Senator from New Mexico would like to have.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank my chairman. I will try to be reasonably brief, but there are some important things I wish to include.

To return to the analysis of the bill, the VA and veterans needs remain the highest priority of the bill. The funding decisions in this bill are designed to ensure the best quality of medical care for our veterans and to keep the best doctors in the VA system. Furthermore, Senator MIKULSKI and I are committed deeply to meeting the medical needs of veterans, and we are working with the VA and the administration to ensure the successful implementation of the new CARES process, which is designed to assure that VA has the facilities it needs, that targets the services and the medical care throughout the country, and gets rid of unneeded facilities that drain money away from needed care for veterans.

In addition, the VA-HUD bill appropriates some \$30.2 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, an increase of \$1.7 billion. This includes funding to renew all expiring section 8 contracts and provides for 18,000 incremental vouchers. I do remain deeply concerned that vouchers do not work well in many housing markets. We do, as the chairman of the subcommittee mentioned, need to develop new production programs that assist extremely low-income families in particular. This is a need that we must address, and we look forward to working with the authorizing committees, the Millennium Housing Commission, and others, to ensure it is addressed.

The bill also reflects our continuing support for CDBG, the HOME Program, homeless assistance, FHA mortgage insurance, and assistance for abatement of lead hazards in housing.

As for the Environmental Protection Agency, the bill includes a \$587 million increase to \$7.9 billion, \$74 million over

the fiscal year 2001 level. The bill maintains funding of the clean water State revolving fund at \$1.35 billion and drinking water at \$850 million. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of continuing to maintain funding for these State revolving funds.

The clean water infrastructure financing alone, there is a need in this country for some \$200 billion over the next 20 years, excluding replacement costs and operation and maintenance.

I want to address some comments made about spending characterized in this bill as porkbarrel. The Members of this body know this bill funds monies that go through to State and local governments. This is a measure that includes funds for the Community Development Block Grant Program. Under that program, we take Federal dollars and send it back to the local communities so Governors, mayors, and city council members can allocate the needs in their community.

Is that porkbarrel? I happen to think that providing money for needed community improvements is not porkbarrel spending. This measure also sends, as I just said, \$1.35 billion for the clean water state revolving funds to clean up sewers, and \$850 million for safe drinking water. Is that porkbarrel? I do not think so.

The greatest need for many of our communities, whether they be large or small communities, is to have the money they need to develop projects that will make them strong communities and to assure that the water systems are healthy. We provide that money.

Now my colleague was addressing the fact that out of that money, we send back for community development block grants some 6.8 percent. Less than 10 percent has been designated by Members of the House or the Senate for particular high need activities and investments in communities in their State.

Do Members of Congress somehow know less about the needs of their communities for community development? Do Members of Congress somehow know less about the need for critical improvements to water and sewer supply systems? I think not.

This money goes to those communities that have needs for tremendous efforts to improve community life, whether it be facilities that will bring in more business or whether it be money to go to drinking water or cleaning up sewer water in the States. This is one of the areas where those legislators in Congress who are concerned and who pay attention to the needs of their State can find areas where there are pressing needs. I believe, by and large, they do an excellent job, and we do a good job.

One may quarrel with some of the decisions made by local officials on community development block grants. One may quarrel with some of the decisions made on clean water in State revolving funds for drinking water, but the fact

remains there are tremendous needs in all of these areas. So I am very proud of the fact we are able to assist States, communities, and localities in taking care of their needs.

Mr. President, I do not see the Senator from New Mexico. I believe we have additional time remaining so I will continue and intend to address the subject he was going to address because I know he feels very strongly about it. One of the major controversial areas we have addressed in this bill concerns the level of arsenic in drinking water. In this case, the bill supports the current regulation of 10 parts per billion for arsenic levels in drinking water, and while this level is supported by a number of scientific studies, the requirement that the communities must meet these new requirements by 2006 is very troubling because there are communities in the United States, especially communities in the West, communities in New Mexico and Idaho and other States, where there are high levels of naturally occurring arsenic in the water.

Unfortunately, for communities which are small and do not have the financial ability to meet these requirements, the possibility is some very unwanted consequences of forcing through a regulation on all communities. We provide some relief in these communities through a temporary waiver. Our colleagues on the authorizing committees objected to this approach even though the leaders of the committee on both the House and Senate sides believed it was warranted. The conference report defers to those committees and suggests the authorizing committees pay attention to an evaluation to be done by EPA on the affordability of these projects and how a small system variance and exemption programs should be implemented for arsenic. This is a serious issue. Congress will have to address and balance this need over the next few years, both the financial burdens and health concerns faced by the small communities on the new arsenic standards.

To be blunt, the last thing we need is to push these communities, with high arsenic levels in their drinking water, to abandon local municipal water systems which are reducing the levels of arsenic and force residents to go back to untreated and unregulated wells where they would be getting potentially higher levels of arsenic and potentially being exposed to greater health risks, not only from arsenic but from other sources of water pollution that would be treated in the municipal water systems.

For FEMA, the conference report includes \$1.5 billion in emergency disaster assistance, funding for firefighters, and flood mapping and mitigation. I join with my colleague from Maryland in expressing my gratitude for the way FEMA moved in. They have our highest appreciation. They stepped up to the plate and assisted the citizens of our Nation during this time of need.

I will address for my colleagues the fact, at the request of Representatives and Senators from New York, that we took special note of the economic needs of the people and businesses in New York that have been devastated by the tragic terrorist attack of September 11. The President allocated \$700 million for New York for the VA/HUD community development block grant. In this bill we included authority for HUD to meet these needs through existing programs, including broad authority to waive a part of the statute—except for labor standards, environmental standards, fair housing, and antidiscrimination—to meet these truly pressing needs. I understand a community economic development corporation has been established to allocate these funds.

I believe the Governor and the mayor set up a Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Corporation that will hand out the funds. I raise this point because today the Environment and Public Works Committee passed out of committee a new measure setting up a different form of allocating these funds. I caution members of that committee, on which I happen to serve, that we not set up a competing structure. We need to do the job well. We need to do it right. We need to do it one time and not have two different structures stumbling all over each other. We have, we think, dealt with the concerns, and we will be happy to work with friends and colleagues from New York to make sure we do it effectively.

Finally, I mention in addition to funding NASA at \$14.78 billion, we have expressed grave concerns about the serious cost overruns. The costs of the International Space Station have continued to grow, over \$4 billion above more recently; it is probably now \$5 or \$6 billion. There seems to be a total loss of management control by NASA with regard to the space station. We have received a report from the Young commission to study the International Space Station. I believe it is a top priority for the administration to find a new Administrator as soon as possible to review the extensive analysis and major recommendations of the Young commission and make whatever program and management reforms are necessary to ensure the ISS and other NASA programs meet our expectations and not rob the funding for NASA.

I express my strong feeling, as the chair of our subcommittee has, for the need to double the National Science Foundation budget. We have to meet pressing human priorities. But for the long run, the pressing human needs of this country are going to be met to the extent that we fund the scientific exploration that goes on in the National Science Foundation. We should not be shorting the basic scientific research. I hope we can have the support of our colleagues to get the money to increase it next year to put us on the path of doubling.

In addition to thanking Senator MIKULSKI, I express my sincere thanks to

the members of the subcommittee and my staff, Jon Kamarck, Cheh Kim, and Isaac Green, who worked long and hard. They have become very good friends and worked closely, particularly in the new setting with limited space, with our good friends, Paul Carliner, Gabrielle Batkin and Joel Widder, for their quality work and commitment to the process. They have done an excellent job, and we are very proud of the work they do.

I, too, commend this bill to my colleagues and urge unanimous support.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to voice my support for the fiscal year 2002 HUD-VA conference report. I congratulate Chairwoman MIKULSKI and Senator BOND for the outstanding job they have done to provide HUD with the resources it needs, while working within a very tight allocation for all of the agencies within their jurisdiction.

The conference report before us today is a great improvement over the administration's budget request. The budget request for HUD, the agency that provides housing assistance to this Nation's poorest families, was sorely inadequate. Their proposal would not even have provided the funding necessary to maintain HUD programs at current levels.

The appropriators recognized the great need for housing assistance in this country by providing more funding than the administration requested in almost every program area.

The increases included in this bill are clearly needed. We have a severe housing crisis in this country, and the need for housing assistance continues to grow. In addition to the 5 million very low-income households in this country who have worst case housing needs, which means they are either paying more than half of their income towards rent or living in severely substandard housing, another 2 million people will experience homelessness this year. These families face greater challenges today, as the Nation's low-income housing stock continues to shrink. In the past decade, the number of units available to extremely low-income renters has dropped by 14 percent, a loss of almost a million units.

These statistics make clear that programs to aid low-income families must not be cut, but must be expanded to meet the growing need. Unfortunately, the overall funding level requested by the administration put Congress in the untenable position of choosing between maintaining the current affordable housing stock or funding additional needed housing units. The appropriators were forced to forego expanding housing opportunities so that scarce Federal resources could be used to maintain existing housing, a choice that is both cost-effective and necessary. While we need to expand Federal housing programs, we have an obligation to ensure that the affordable housing that exists is habitable and safe.

For this reason, I am pleased that the conference report increases funding for public housing, a program that houses over 1.3 million of this Nation's poorest families. This bill provides \$2.84 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund, the fund used to repair and modernize public housing—\$550 million above the administration's request. There is a significant need for Public Housing Capital Funds as HUD estimates that there is currently a \$22 billion backlog in needed capital repairs in public housing. A cut of the magnitude proposed by the administration would have led to further deterioration of this Nation's public housing stock. Fortunately, the bill before us today provides additional funding, helping us to maintain a much needed resource and to ensure that the Federal investment in public housing is protected.

Recognizing the importance of public housing, the conference report funds the Public Housing Operating Fund at \$3.5 billion, \$110 million above the administration's request. I am disappointed that this bill does not separately fund the Public Housing Drug Elimination Fund. The administration requested no funding for this critical program which helps to fight drugs and crime in our public housing communities. The conference report provides \$250 million more for the Operating Fund than provided in fiscal year 2001 to ensure that PHAs will not have to cut all of their anticrime activities. While this increase will assist PHAs in continuing after-school programs, mentoring activities, and safety patrols, I am concerned that PHAs may be forced to use the increased funding to pay for rising utility costs, leading to a reduction in activities normally funded by the Drug Elimination Fund.

In addition to ensuring that public housing is maintained, this bill fully funds the Homeless Assistance Programs. I am pleased that the bill provides \$100 million to fund Shelter Plus Care renewals. Shelter Plus Care provides permanent housing to formerly homeless people, and this \$100 million will maintain all of these housing units, while allowing communities to continue to meet the demand for additional homeless services.

The conference report continues to expand the section 8 voucher program. I am concerned that we are only providing an additional 17,000 incremental vouchers, as compared to 79,000 vouch-

ers provided last year. While I had hoped we would be able to provide as many vouchers as last year, I appreciate the effort of the appropriators to continue expanding the voucher program even with such a tight budget allocation.

One area of concern in this bill is the cut in section 8 reserves from 2 months to 1 month. These reserves are used in the event of higher program costs so that the section 8 program can continue to serve the same number of families. According to the Congressional Budget Office, this cut could result in a decrease of almost 25,000 vouchers being used this year. This would be an unfortunate, and devastating consequence. Fortunately, the appropriators included report language directing HUD to ensure that PHAs can fund all of their vouchers, and I expect HUD to implement these changes so that the number of families receiving vouchers is not decreased.

Housing assistance for elderly people and those with disabilities is also increased in this bill. Housing for the elderly is funded at \$783 million, an increase of \$4 million over the fiscal year 2001 level, and housing for people with disabilities is funded at \$240 million, an increase of \$23 million. In addition, I am pleased that the conference report provides \$277 million for Housing for Persons with AIDS, an increase of \$20 million over last year's funding level. This \$20 million will ensure that additional communities in need of housing assistance for people with HIV and AIDS will receive Federal funding. These increases will go a long way in providing needed housing to this nation's most vulnerable citizens.

At this time of economic uncertainty, it is imperative that we not turn our backs on low-income families in need of housing assistance. Though it is unfortunate that the administration's budget request forced us to forgo expanding affordable housing opportunities further, the bill fully funds the HOME program, which is a primary vehicle for building affordable rental housing. The need for new affordable rental housing is growing, and I hope that we can work over the next year to secure additional funding for housing construction.

Hard choices had to be made in hammering out a final version of this bill, and I understand that all of our priorities could not be funded at the desired levels. As a whole, I support this bill,

and commend Chairwoman MIKULSKI and the other members of the Appropriations Committee for negotiating a bill that greatly improves on the inadequate budget request, and affirms our commitment to housing this Nation's poor.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise to offer for the record the Budget Committee's official scoring for the conference report to H.R. 2620, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002.

Including an advance appropriation into 2002 of \$4.2 billion, the conference report provides \$85.434 billion in discretionary budget authority, of which \$143 million is for defense spending. The conference report will result in new outlays in 2002 of \$40,489 billion. When outlays from prior-year budget authority are taken into account, discretionary outlays for the conference report total \$88,463 billion in 2002. The conference report is within its section 302(b) allocation for both budget authority and outlays.

Included within the \$85.434 billion in budget authority for 2002 is \$1.5 billion in emergency-designated sending authority for the Federal Emergency Management Agency for disaster relief activities. The emergency funding, which is not estimated to result in any outlays in 2002, is consistent with the revised 2002 budget reached between President Bush and Congressional leaders last month. Per section 314 of the Congressional Budget Act, I have adjusted the Appropriations Committee's allocation for 2002 by the amount of the emergency funding. In addition, the conference report provides an advance appropriation for section 8 renewals of \$4.2 billion for 2003. That advance is allowed under the budget resolution adopted for 2002. Finally, the report would reduce federal revenues by \$32 million in 2002. By law, the revenue loss, which results from changes made to certain HUD and EPA fees, will be placed on the PAYGO scorecard.

Mr. President, I ask for unanimous consent that a table displaying the budget committee scoring of this bill be inserted in the RECORD at this point.

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

H.R. 2620, CONFERENCE REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002, SPENDING COMPARISONS—CONFERENCE REPORT

[In millions of dollars]

	General purpose ¹	Defense ¹	Mandatory	Total
Conference report: ²				
Budget Authority	85,291	143	26,898	112,332
Outlays	88,326	137	26,662	115,125
Senate 302(b) allocation: ³				
Budget Authority	85,415	138	26,898	112,451
Outlays	88,463	0	26,662	115,125
President's request:				
Budget Authority	83,221	138	26,898	110,257
Outlays	87,827	136	26,662	114,625
House-passed:				
Budget Authority	85,296	138	26,898	112,332
Outlays	87,909	136	26,662	114,707

H.R. 2620, CONFERENCE REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002, SPENDING COMPARISONS—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

[In millions of dollars]

		General purpose ¹	Defense ¹	Mandatory	Total
Senate-passed:					
Budget Authority	.....	85,905	138	26,898	112,941
Outlays	.....	88,320	136	26,662	115,118
CONFERENCE REPORT COMPARED TO:					
Senate 302(b) allocation: ³					
Budget Authority	.....	-124	5	0	-119
Outlays	.....	0	0	0	0
President's request:					
Budget Authority	.....	2,070	5	0	2,075
Outlays	.....	499	1	0	500
House-passed:					
Budget Authority	.....	-5	5	0	0
Outlays	.....	417	1	0	418
Senate-passed:					
Budget Authority	.....	-614	5	0	-609
Outlays	.....	6	1	0	7

¹ The split between general purpose and defense spending is for illustrative (i.e., nonenforceable) purposes only. The 2002 budget resolution includes a "firewall" between defense and nondefense spending, contingent on an increase in the discretionary caps. That contingency has not been met.

² The conference report includes \$1.5 billion in general purpose emergency spending authority for FEMA disaster assistance.

³ For enforcement purposes, the budget committee compares the conference report to the Senate 302(b) allocation. In addition to the amounts shown, the conference report also would reduce federal revenues by \$32 million in 2002. By law, the revenue loss, which will result from changes made to HUD manufactured housing and EPA registration fees, will be placed on the PAYGO scorecard.

Notes.—Details may not add to totals due to rounding. Totals adjusted for consistency with scorekeeping conventions.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the VA-HUD conference report, H.R. 2620. I appreciate the conferee's recognition of the importance of the Environmental Protection Agency's enforcement budget, as well as full funding for state revolving loan funds. These are priorities for the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Another priority for the Committee is ensuring the American public that when they turn on their faucets in their homes and businesses, day care centers and hospitals, they will fill their cups with clean, safe water. The new standard for arsenic in drinking water is a welcome measure to improve the quality of drinking water nationwide. Earlier this year, I was concerned when this Administration announced its intention to review the new, lower arsenic standard issued by the last Administration. Last week, I was relieved when EPA Administrator Whitman announced her intention to abide by the 10 parts per billion standard as well as the 2006 compliance date.

As Administrator Whitman stated in her letter to me on October 31st, the science clearly supports an arsenic standard no higher than 10 parts per billion. Over the past several months, three new independent scientific studies have been conducted by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Drinking Water Advisory Council and EPA's Science Advisory Board. These studies tell us that arsenic in drinking water is a public health concern, and that the levels allowed by current law are much too high. In fact, these studies support a standard lower than 10 parts per billion. EPA tells me they have received more than 55,000 comments from the public on this subject. Clearly, this new, lower standard confers an important protection, supported by many of our citizens.

I am aware of the concerns that some of my colleagues have expressed about the ability of small communities to comply with the new arsenic standard. I have read the conference report language directing EPA to study this

issue, and I look forward to receiving EPA's report. Indeed, with the significant public health concern associated with arsenic in drinking water, we care greatly that all communities are able to comply. Although current law contains affordability criteria as well as waiver and variance provisions, I would hope that we can provide financial assistance to these communities, if they need it, so that they can comply with the new standard in accordance with the compliance deadline and without having to avail themselves of these mechanisms. With such a pressing health issue at stake, what the public needs is timely compliance, not delay.

I also thank the conferees for their attention to a hazardous waste issue known as the "mixture and derived from rule." While EPA will continue to pursue exemptions for certain low-risk wastes, the conferees' commitment to supporting exemptions only where sound science applies will ensure protection of human health and the environment.

I urge my colleagues to support the conference report.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased that the conference report on the VA-HUD Appropriations bill includes a provision requiring the Bush administration to end its delay of the Clinton rule establishing a tougher standard on arsenic in drinking water.

The statutory language is similar to the amendment I offered to this bill, which passed the Senate 97-1. This language will result in a 10 parts per billion standard for arsenic and will ensure the community's right to know when unhealthy levels of arsenic are present in the drinking water.

I am concerned, however, about language in the conference report. It says that the Administrator should focus on developing procedures that would result in extensions of time for small systems to comply with the arsenic standard. Clearly, those extensions would have to be consistent with the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. But they would only result in further delay.

In addition, the Administrator is asked to report to Congress on legislative proposals that address further extensions of time for compliance by small systems. The focus of EPA's limited resources should be on helping these systems to accelerate compliance—by providing technical and financial assistance—not on how to further delay compliance.

As a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, that will be my focus. I will be working to provide funding for small communities to meet the 10 parts per billion standard, and I will not support legislative proposals that provide additional extensions and delay even more the time when all Americans have safer drinking water.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, while I will support the fiscal year 2002 VA-HUD and Independent Agencies conference report, I must express my strong disappointment in the funding level included in the bill for YouthBuild. I strongly believe that YouthBuild proves that the Federal Government, working in cooperation with community-based non-profits, can make a real difference in the lives of young people, the young people that most Americans have given up on. During Senate consideration of the VA-HUD appropriations bill, I successfully included an amendment to provide a \$10 million increase in funding for YouthBuild. A similar amendment was included in the House, so the amount allocated to YouthBuild was approximately \$70 million in each bill.

While I understand the difficult allocation which the Subcommittee operates, I am nevertheless very disappointed that in the Conference Report included only \$65 million for YouthBuild. With strong support for YouthBuild in both the House and the Senate, I believe this program deserved \$70 million in fiscal year 2002. These additional funds would have assisted YouthBuild in expanding its programs across the nation and assisted more at-risk youths.

YouthBuild is designed to serve those that, too often, have proven to be the

hardest to serve. In return, they serve us, by getting job training, learning a skill, completing their educations, and working in communities across the country rebuilding housing, providing desperately needed affordable housing to other needy families.

Many low-income young adults are having great difficulty achieving success in our society. YouthBuild attracts low-income young adults who have dropped out of school. Many participants have been adjudicated, are from welfare families, have children already and live in public housing projects. The premise of YouthBuild is that these young adults need and deserve a second chance, that they are eager to live productive, constructive lives, and we cannot afford not to provide them with that second chance. Skills, education, inspiration and support provided by YouthBuild help them make the transition to the jobs or higher education.

YouthBuild is the only national program that provides young adults an immediately productive role in the community while at the same time providing all of the following benefits to participants: basic education toward a diploma; skills training toward a decent paying job; leadership development toward civic engagement; adult mentoring to help overcome personal problems; and participation in a supportive mini-community with a positive set of values.

Of those that enter YouthBuild, 67 percent complete the program. 85 percent of YouthBuild graduates are placed in college, or get a job with an average wage of \$7.53 per hour. Many become leaders in their communities, both while they are in the program and thereafter.

YouthBuild receives bipartisan support for one simple reason—it works. The program fills a major gap in public policy by addressing the needs of at-risk, out of school young adults in a more comprehensive way than any other existing national program. That is why I circulated a letter with Senator MIKE DEWINE, which was cosigned by 63 Senators, in support of increasing funding for YouthBuild to \$90 million.

YouthBuild program has grown from 15 sites which served 600 at-risk youth in 1993, to 145 sites serving approximately 5,800 youth in 40 States today. The engine of this growth has been the HUD appropriation. The fuel has been the highly motivated local leaders whose commitment keeps the program on the cutting edge of community needs. They have raised State, local, and private funds to supplement Federal funds and extend the reach of this important program. Major support from the Ford Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, The DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, local Rotary Clubs, The Home Depot, US Bancorp, and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company demonstrates that the network is highly regarded by leaders in the private sector. YouthBuild at-

tracts, motivates, educates, and trains precisely the young people who have fared least well in virtually all other existing systems.

The demand and need for YouthBuild programs far exceeds the resources allocated to it. Successful YouthBuild programs have 6 to 10 times more applicants each year than they can accept. In this period, with the economy in need of qualified workers and the number of at-risk adults is increasing, it is excellent public policy to invest in a proven national model that can bring these young adults into employment, post-secondary education, and constructive civic engagement.

The best way for me to explain to you the importance of YouthBuild is to tell you about one the YouthBuild programs. YouthBuild Springfield, MA, has received more than 250 applications for its services since it opened in 1999, and has been able to serve 80 young people in a comprehensive, year round programs which includes education and employment training, as well as community and leadership development. Over half of the participants are young women, many with dependent children. All of the participants commit to being drug free, participate in weekly drug education workshops, and agree to random drug testing. They provide four therapy groups each week and access private therapy as needed. They have maintained a 77 percent retention rate, 86 percent attendance rate, and 82 percent placement rate at an average wage of \$8.10 per hour. Another 10 percent have gone on to further training or college.

With the strong bipartisan support for YouthBuild, I am hopeful that we will be able to increase the appropriation for this important program in fiscal year 2003.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

MS. MIKULSKI. I ask unanimous consent the vote on adoption of this conference report to accompany H.R. 2620, the VA/HUD appropriations bill, occur at 4:30 p.m. today and that if all time for debate has expired, the time until 4:30 p.m. be equally divided and controlled by the two managers.

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

MS. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am happy to yield to the Senator from Texas such time as she may consume.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

MS. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise to talk about the VA/HUD bill which has a number of good parts to it. I know the managers have worked very hard to divide up the dollars. It is always hard when there are not as many dollars as projects.

I specifically want to talk about the issue of NASA. I know of the great concerns, because it is very obvious from the bill, and, frankly, they are valid concerns, about the management of the space station and the cost overruns. I also understand there are concerns

about the overruns hurting other programs within NASA.

When you are doing something new, when you are pushing the envelope of technology, you cannot always be precise. This is not to say some of the overruns have been invalid, incomprehensible in some ways, and I don't understand some of them myself. I do not think you can set an exact budget when you are experimenting. We all know you have to have some freedom in science in order to be able to make a mistake, learn from the mistake, and do something else.

I appreciate the \$150 million cut in the original Senate bill was halved to \$75 million in the conference. I hope NASA can work within that \$75 million and the rest of the budget for the space station to continue to move ahead. I am told by the people at NASA it will delay the space station, but it will certainly not kill it.

But I think the overriding issue is the one that was mentioned by the Senator from Missouri, and that is we need to have a new administrator appointed for NASA right away. Dan Goldin has done a terrific job, but he is leaving at the middle of this month. So we need to have that leadership.

I urge that the new leader of NASA look at what NASA can do. Let's decide, what is the science that we want to create? What is the goal of NASA? NASA has given us so much in the past, in new technologies that create new industries and new jobs. It has been part of the revitalization of our economy. We want to continue to push ahead. We want to continue to be the leader of the world in technology. To do that, we are going to have to have a clear vision for NASA and new leadership.

I thank the Senator from Maryland and the Senator from Missouri for working with me to make sure we do have the expenses that must be paid for NASA to stay in place. I think their concerns are valid, but let's not throw out the baby with the bath water. We cannot starve NASA if we are going to stay in the forefront of technology.

I look forward to working with the Senators from Maryland and Missouri during the next year, hopefully with a new Administrator from NASA, so we can have a clear vision and we can continue America's lead in technology that will have a major impact, not only on our future defense and our future programs, but also for our economy for the future.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

MS. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I know the Senator from New Mexico wishes to speak. We have guaranteed him this time. I say to the Senator from Texas, she has been a long-standing advocate of the space program. I have traveled with her to Texas to see the first-class, world-class research that is going on there.

I, too, look forward to working with the new Administrator of NASA. We

should also recognize the current one because I think he has tried his best. But we have to have a NASA for the 21st century. I look forward to working with her to be able to do that.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Senator from Maryland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. BOND. I thank my colleagues for their important discussion. I am now pleased to yield 5 minutes to the Senator from New Mexico.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I thank Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BOND for their sensitivity to the issue of the new arsenic standards in water and its impact on thousands of communities throughout America.

Let me say, I have given up on attempting to challenge the 10-parts-per-billion standard the administration has now found to be the standard that is necessary in drinking water in America for the water to be healthy and safe. Saying that I cannot fight it any longer does not mean I agree with it, nor that I think the Congress can ignore the consequences of this new standard on many communities across this land.

More than 140 communities in my home State of New Mexico face this new burden at an estimated cost of more than \$440 million, from the smallest of water supply systems to the very largest in the city of Albuquerque.

Why would one be concerned enough about this to bring it to the floor of the Senate? It is a highly controversial issue as to whether the exact same standards on arsenic should apply in every community across the breadth and width of America because if you come from a State such as New Mexico, Nevada, West Virginia, Utah, Idaho, and many more, whatever human beings have lived in those parts of America, from the earliest arrival of men to the modern American living in these communities, there has been arsenic in the water that did not come from anything that human beings did by their actions or nonactions. Arsenic was in the water for all the time that humans have lived and found this water and drank of it. The arsenic was there because of the rock formations, that geology, over which the rainwater, after it rippled down, ran and percolated into lakes and reservoirs and areas underground which were then used for drinking water.

Many hundreds of thousands of people drank of that water with no ill effects. I know it is almost the wrong thing to say scientifically, but it seems as if it is factual that the citizens in those areas to which I have alluded, including my State of New Mexico, are healthier, whatever is allegedly the damage that arsenic in the water produces.

In other words, the diseases that are attributable to having more arsenic in the water are present less frequently in

States such as mine than they are in other States that have not, for all this period of time, had drinking water which had naturally flowing arsenic as a component of the compound.

Since I believe that, it doesn't mean I am advising that we not follow the law. But what I am suggesting is that soon small, medium-sized, and large communities in all of these States, including Nevada, including West Virginia, including New Mexico, including Arizona and many others, are going to start getting the estimates as to how they make these small water systems, these medium-sized ones, and these large ones—how do you get them down to 10 parts per billion of arsenic. They are going to get these big estimates.

They are going to get estimates of rebuilding whole waterworks for this purpose. Then the citizens are going to be asking, after seeing the headlines: What is this all about?

What I think we should have done in this conference is we should have let the Department—the Environmental Protection Agency—which adopted the new standard, deal with it in a normal manner. Actually, they would have 6 years before the implementation date. But they could at least work with cities. They could perhaps work on waivers attributable to good research which said if they are given 2 more years, they are going to come out with new science and it is going to be much less costly to Las Vegas, NV, and Reno, NV.

I see my friend, the junior Senator from Nevada is here.

But we went one step further in this bill and we prohibited the Environmental Protection Agency from doing anything other than enforcing this standard, literally, specifically, no exemptions, no waivers.

I say to the two Senators who are managing this bill, the Chair and Senator BOND have been most understanding. They have both pledged if we can find a way to help with this, by either partial financing or in some reasonable way, they are going to do that.

I want to tell the Senate there is some exciting research going on. That is getting funded, too. So we might make a breakthrough where we don't have to clean the arsenic out of the water in the manner expected of us today. There will be a newer way, cheaper, more reasonable, and perhaps we can get something done.

To reiterate, I thank Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BOND for their sensitivity to the issue of the new arsenic standard and its impact on thousands of communities throughout the nation. I am not arguing against the new standard of 10 parts per billion, since the administration has announced that it will support this level of arsenic in our water. But, we all know that achieving this new level will cost literally billions of dollars for communities, most of which will never be able to afford the equipment to meet this standard by the year 2006.

I wish that we in the conference on VA-HUD could have addressed this

issue in a substantive fashion, perhaps by establishing direct funding to help these communities. We were not able to do so, but I am assured by the many Senators who agreed with me that this issue is critical. We must establish a new program to help through grants and loans the communities that face virtual ruin if they try to fund this new equipment themselves. More than 140 communities in my home state alone face this new burden, at an estimated cost of more than \$440 million.

I hope that my colleagues will join with me, and with others, like Senator REID of Nevada, as we try to forge a program as soon as possible, perhaps even later this session of Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, how much time is left?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 1 minute.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Let me conclude by thanking the Senator from Missouri for all his help and cooperation, and his staff—all of whom were working on it. I take this opportunity to thank the people who worked directly with the bill, worked directly in the Senate.

There are a lot of people who work in this institution.

We are coming up on the second month anniversary of the aerial attack on the United States of America. I thank all the people here at the Capitol who continue to show up every day and every way to support us so we can keep democracy's doors open.

First, I thank our young pages. They are high school students. They could have gone back home and been prom queens and football heroes, but instead they chose to serve their country by being right here in this Chamber. We thank them for their support for us and the confidence their families showed in us.

All of the people who run the food service, who run the elevators, and who are trying to clean up the Hart Building need to be acknowledged. By supporting us, they really support democracy. As we pass this bill that honors America's veterans and protects our homeland security, I thank all the people from the pages to the elevator operators, to the carpenters, and so on, who just show up every day and help us keep democracy's door open and functioning.

I bring you the VA-HUD bill and say God bless the U.S. Senate and God bless America. Let's vote and pass this bill.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the conference report.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the

Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) would vote "aye."

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 87, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 334 Leg.]

YEAS—87

Akaka	Domenici	McConnell
Allard	Dorgan	Mikulski
Allen	Durbin	Murkowski
Baucus	Edwards	Murray
Bennett	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Fitzgerald	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Frist	Nickles
Bond	Graham	Reed
Breaux	Grassley	Reid
Brownback	Gregg	Roberts
Bunning	Hagel	Rockefeller
Burns	Harkin	Santorum
Byrd	Hatch	Sarbanes
Campbell	Hollings	Schumer
Cantwell	Hutchinson	Sessions
Carnahan	Hutchison	Shelby
Carper	Inhofe	Smith (NH)
Chafee	Inouye	Smith (OR)
Clinton	Jeffords	Snowe
Cochran	Johnson	Specter
Collins	Kennedy	Stabenow
Conrad	Kerry	Stevens
Corzine	Kohl	Thomas
Craig	Landrieu	Thompson
Crapo	Levin	Thurmond
Daschle	Lieberman	Torricelli
Dayton	Lincoln	Warner
DeWine	Lott	Wellstone
Dodd	Lugar	Wyden

NAYS—7

Bayh	Gramm	McCain
Ensign	Helms	
Feingold	Kyl	

NOT VOTING—6

Boxer	Enzi	Miller
Cleland	Leahy	Voinovich

The conference report was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move lay on that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for a period of up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO MIKE MANSFIELD

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, all of us who knew and loved our former great Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield were saddened by his death last month. He was truly one of the all-time giants of the Senate, and he went on to serve with high distinction for many years as our Nation's Ambassador to Japan. His wisdom, his intelligence, his insights, his friendship, his fundamental fairness, and his extraordinary humility combined to make him a leader of uncommon vision and ability during his long and brilliant and historic service to the Senate, to the people of Montana, and to the entire country.

On October 10, at a beautiful service for Senator Mansfield at Fort Myer Memorial Chapel, his former Senate assistant, Charles Ferris, delivered an eloquent eulogy that touched us all and reminded us again of the many reasons why we loved and admired Mike Mansfield so deeply. I know that the eulogy will be of interest to all of us, and I ask unanimous consent that the eulogy be printed in the RECORD.

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

EULOGY DELIVERED AT THE FUNERAL OF MIKE MANSFIELD

(By Charles D. Ferris, October 10, 2001)

Thank you one and all for being here. A quiet giant is gone. And in the spirit in which he lived, Mike Mansfield would be embarrassed by inconveniencing so many but privately very grateful to each of you. And a special thanks to Father Monan, the Chancellor of Boston College. Mike received an honorary degree decades ago from Boston College and was the first recipient of their Thomas P. O'Neill Distinguished Citizen Award in 1996. He had a soft spot for Boston—he referred to Boston as the Butte of the East—an expression of great affection—for Butte had a hold on his heart. It was where he met Maureen.

And during 67 years of marriage, Maureen was to him what Abigail was to John Adams—a loving partner in a marriage of equals based on respect for each other's judgment and intelligence, with equal participation in all decisions, professional as well as personal.

How does one talk about the life of such a great man who was so reluctant to talk about himself? Any of the hundreds of experiences he shared with me and with so many of you would be a story worth telling. But most of the stories must be for another time, for the Irish wake we will conduct for him in our memories and hearts will never end.

He left the world as he lived in it, with the least possible fuss and absolutely no nonsense. His hospitalization was blessedly short, his mental capacity and condition unimpaired until the last three days when he gracefully slipped deeper into the last sleep. He gave his daughter Anne and granddaughter Caroline and others of us who loved him time to prepare ourselves and say goodbye. Till the end, he conducted himself with character and class, a sense of dignity and a lifelong sensitivity to others.

My sadness today is overwhelmed by the surge of gratitude for the things we shared that will be a part of me and my family forever. Thirty-eight years ago, he plucked me from the Justice Department where I was a happy and content trial lawyer. I don't know

to this day how I got the job. I had never met him before that day. He was anxious about the Civil Rights legislation coming over from the House—the Senate Judiciary Committee for decades being a graveyard for civil rights bills. As he talked, I wondered how I could ever connect my specialty in Admiralty law with the challenge he was describing. Thankfully, I didn't try. I just told him that I didn't know exactly how I could be helpful but, if he wanted me, I would do my best. After we spoke for about 25 minutes—which I would soon learn for him was a filibuster—he asked me to start the following Monday. Mike Mansfield was a "yep, nope, don't know, can't say" type of guy. My winning argument must have been admitting I didn't know. Over the years, I learned how clearly he detected and how strongly he reacted to any and all variations of the snow job. For whatever reason, his decision changed my life as he changed the lives of all who shared time with him. I look back and wonder if he hadn't taken that leap of faith, I would today be a GS18 step 32 at the Justice Department.

But, by my good fortune and his hasty judgment, I was graced with the opportunity to observe him—and learn from him, as I never could from any book, the meaning of decency, integrity, humility, of perspective, patience, and honor. Mike Mansfield exhibited all these rare qualities in full measure—and with it all, he was also the wisest man I have ever met.

His mother died when he was 7 and he had a rocky childhood until he finally joined the Navy at age 14, committing probably the only deceptive act in his life—presenting a document that declared he was 18. After the Navy, it was the Army and, after the Army, it was the Marines (he obviously got all his indecision out early in life). The Marines sent him to the Philippines and China. Thus began his lifetime interest and study of East Asia. But he had no formal education so he returned to work in the copper mines in Butte. Then, at the urging of his new found love Maureen, he enrolled at the Montana School of Mines as a special student, concurrently taking courses to earn his high school diploma; transferring a year later to the University of Montana, where he won his BA and high school diploma simultaneously in 1933. A Masters Degree followed, then a teaching position at the University, which was his calling until elected to Congress in the Fall of '42, then the Senate in the Fall of '52, Majority Whip in 1957 and Majority Leader in 1961.

Mike Mansfield was a distinctly different Leader than his predecessor. He never twisted an arm but he touched the conscience of his colleagues. He won them over by his openness, his character and his reason. He transformed a Senate of power brokers into a Senate of equals. His was a leadership rooted in clarity of motive, honesty of purpose and respect of his fellow Senators.

And he led it to shape an America of greater equality. He was a shaping force of the New Frontier and the Great Society. He was at the helm of the Senate at the height of fundamental achievement—the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the passage of Medicare, federal aid to education, the 18-year-old vote—all deeply controversial at the time, many requiring the then-dreaded two-thirds cloture vote. All this and more was written in American life and law—and, in each instance, he made sure a different Senator received the lion's share of the accolades. Mike Mansfield always gave the credit to others; his satisfaction came from within; his approbation from Maureen. Yet, each time, Mike Mansfield's leadership was the hinge of history: he was the man without