

Mr. BROWNBACK. I want to read from the Governor's letter:

I continue to support the rights of the four existing residential Native American tribes to conduct gaming in Kansas in accordance with approved compacts. Efforts to side-step IGRA negatively impact the rights of our residential tribes as well as the rights of the State of Kansas.

This is a quote from the Indian Nations of Kansas, the four tribes—the Kickapoo, Sac and Fox, Prairie Band, and Iowa Tribe:

The four Indian Nations in Kansas have unanimously supported the governor of the State of Kansas in opposition to out-of-state Tribes attempting to gain land holdings in the state of Kansas for purposes of establishing gaming enterprises.

They are all united and opposed to what was stealthily slipped in the dark of night by staff in a handwritten note, and it is wrong for this to take place.

I put my colleagues on notice, I put the House on notice, and I put the Wyandotte Tribe in Oklahoma on notice: This is going to be back next year. You have bought the land, and you may have won this round, but we will be back at this next year.

The way this happened is not fair. I think it is a sacrilege for them to desecrate this sacred site for their own gaming purposes, their own income purposes, their own purposes of making money that they would take this upon this sacred site. In all traditions, burial grounds are treated as a sacred site. This is wrong. It should not happen, and it was slipped in the wrong way.

Madam President, I thank you for your understanding of this situation. I hope we can correct this next year. I yield the floor and 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. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY

Mr. REID. Madam President, as we approach the end of this first session of the 107th Congress, there are many significant legislative achievements of which we should be proud. In the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, Democrats and Republicans, Senators and Representatives, came together in a bipartisan, bicameral fashion to pass a resolution authorizing the President to use military force in the war against terrorism.

Then we immediately appropriated, on a bipartisan basis, \$40 billion in emergency funds to help fight the war against terror and aid in our ongoing recovery, cleanup, and rebuilding efforts in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

We came together to pass antiterrorism legislation, the USA Pa-

triot Act, that will provide law enforcement in this country with the necessary tools to fight terrorism at home and abroad.

In an effort to improve our homeland security, we also passed important legislation that will dramatically improve the security of our Nation's airports.

We passed these initiatives and other legislation because we made a commitment to set aside bipartisan bickering and devote the collective efforts of this Congress toward working on behalf of the best interests of the American people.

I was asked recently by a member of the press how far bipartisanship should go during wartime and whether it should apply only to military matters.

I responded that bipartisanship should apply at all times, in peace and, of course, in war. Unfortunately, it seems our commitment to bipartisanship has been unable to produce an economic stimulus package that our economy and so many American working families desperately need.

As I am speaking, I see the chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. BAUCUS, the senior Senator from Montana. He has made a valiant effort. There is still a glimmer of hope maybe something can be done, but he has made a valiant effort. He has worked for weeks to come up with an economic recovery package. It is too bad his efforts have not been rewarded with some bipartisan legislation in keeping with some of the things I have outlined that we have been able to accomplish.

We need to pass an economic stimulus package before the end of this session that would extend unemployment and health benefits for the hundreds of thousands and even millions of Americans who have lost their jobs since the recession started in March. We need to pass an economic stimulus package that will provide much needed relief for the American businesses that have been hit hard by the downturn in the economy.

An economic stimulus package is also important because we need to address one sector of the American economy that has suffered more than any other as a direct result of the terrorist attacks of September 11: the travel and tourism industry. It would be wrong for this Congress to adjourn for the year without doing something to address what has happened to the American travel and tourism industry since that fateful day in September.

Prior to September 11, the travel and tourism industry employed more than 18 million people with an annual payroll of almost \$160 billion. In 30 States, tourism is the No. 1, No. 2, or No. 3 industry. It is estimated that travel and tourism generated \$93 billion in tax revenues during the year 2000 for State, Federal, and local governments. When our Governors and other State officials find themselves strapped for cash to pay for basic services such as education, \$93 billion in tax revenue becomes even more significant. More-

over, during the past decade, travel and tourism has emerged as the Nation's second largest services export, generating an annual trade surplus of about \$14 billion. This, of course, is no surprise to the people and workers of Nevada where travel and tourism is by far the largest industry.

In the year 2000, 36 million people visited Las Vegas, contributing approximately \$32 billion to local economies and sustaining approximately 200,000 hospitality and tourism-related jobs. Since September 11, these impressive numbers have declined. According to the Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Union, 41 percent of hotel and restaurant employees in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area have been laid off. In Washington, DC, 41 percent of hotel and restaurant employees have been laid off.

In Las Vegas, the fastest growing metropolitan community in the United States, 30 percent of the hotel and restaurant employees have lost their jobs. Similar cuts have been seen in other cities throughout the country, including New York, San Francisco, Boston, Los Angeles, Honolulu, and Miami.

Jonathan Tisch, one of the premier businessmen in the world, has told me on many occasions—he is based in New York—how drastic September 11 has been to his business. I spoke yesterday to Barry Sternly, another fine, outstanding businessman in American today. The tourism industry, the hotel business in which he is involved, has suffered tremendously. Around the country, 450,000 jobs directly related to travel and tourism will be lost this year. Think of those jobs that will be indirectly affected as a result of what has happened since September 11.

The forecast for the industry from this point on is not much better. The Travel Industry of America estimates travel by Americans will decrease by 8.4 percent this winter compared to the 3 months of December, January, and February a year ago.

These months are always down months, but they are drastically down now. Many hotels use these months to do renovations and things they can afford to do with the money they would normally have earned in the other months, but they did not make money as they anticipated they would in the months of October and November, which are normally very good months for them. So with the decline of 3.5 percent for the entire year 2001 when compared to the year 2000, the Travel Industry of America estimates it will result in nearly \$43 billion in lost travel expenditures in 1 year.

Even more chilling, the International Labor Organization projects up to 3.8 million jobs related to the American travel and tourism industry could be lost in the next few years—\$43 billion and almost 4 million jobs. How can we possibly consider leaving without doing something to address this critical sector of the economy?

Certainly there should be bipartisan support for tourism since it is so important in so many States, whether it is the State of Montana, the State of Michigan, the State of Nevada, or the State of Iowa. Tourism is important in all of these States, and I mention them because I see their Senators in the Chamber today. How can we possibly consider adjourning without doing something to help the hundreds of thousands of people who have already lost their jobs and do something so that millions more will not lose their jobs? How can we possibly discuss an economic recovery package without addressing the needs of travel and tourism? I say if we do nothing except something related to tourism, we will be doing a good job. It has such an important impact on our economies.

Since September 11, I, with a number of other Senators, have come to the Senate floor on various occasions to urge action on a travel and tourism package in conjunction with the so-called economic stimulus plan. We have urged our colleagues in the Senate, the House, and the administration to include legislation that will encourage people to start traveling again in order to stimulate the economy and get workers back on the job. We have taken some important first steps.

A few days after September 11, Congress acted quickly and responsibly to enact crucial legislation to help stabilize our Nation's airline industry with \$15 billion in grants and loans. Since September 11, the airline industry has cut 20 percent of its flights and laid off more than 100,000 workers. The financial package for the airline industry was the right thing to do, but it was just the first step toward making sure travelers truly feel safe to fly.

We then passed a comprehensive airline security bill to dramatically increase the number of sky marshals, strengthen cockpit doors, and federalize the screening of passengers and luggage at our Nation's airports.

While we were right to enact these measures, it is important for us to remember travel and tourism in this country entails so much more than just the airline industry. Travel and tourism has many different faces: Hotels, car rental agencies, cruise ships, theme parks, resorts, credit card companies, family-run restaurants, big city convention centers, tour operators and travel agencies. These are just some of the many diverse elements of an industry that in some way reaches every State, virtually every community in America.

More importantly, it is from these nonairline sectors of the travel and tourism industry that the vast majority of the jobs have been lost. That is why I proposed a comprehensive travel and tourism package as part of any economic stimulus plan we would consider.

There are many Senators who have been interested in travel and tourism, but I would specifically mention Sen-

ators CONRAD, DORGAN, INOUE, KYL, BILL NELSON, BOXER, MILLER, AKAKA, SCHUMER, CLINTON, ENSIGN, ALLEN, STEVENS, and there are many others.

My plan calls upon Congress to enact tax credits for leisure travel to encourage Americans to get back on the airlines, to rent a car, to stay a few nights at their favorite hotel or enjoy a few meals at their favorite restaurants. The tax cuts would be temporary and would provide immediate results. Travel tax credits would encourage people to take advantage of all the many wonderful things the travel and tourism industry in this country has to offer while at the same time spending much needed dollars to stimulate the economy.

My plan also calls for a temporary increase in the deduction for business meals and entertainment expenses.

This proposal will encourage businesses to increase their entertainment expenses. And, because the average expensed business meal is less than \$20, this proposal will assist small businesses. This proposal by itself will have an enormous and positive impact on our Nation's restaurants and the millions of Americans they employ.

We need to address the needs of our nonairline travel business such as rental car companies, hotels, travel agencies, airport concessionaires, to name only a few. These businesses need our help. My plan will provide a financial package of loan guarantees similar to that for the airline industry. Finally, we need to do a better job of promoting tourism at home and abroad by establishing a Presidential advisory council on travel and tourism to assist in the development of a coherent and comprehensive national tourism policy designed to help strengthen the travel and tourism industry. My plan provides for the necessary funds to help carry out this mission. We need to make sure that this country advertises the great tourism attractions in Florida, New York, Michigan, California, and Nevada. Most other countries spend significant amounts of money advertising tourism. We see advertisements on television and radio all the time. Australia, New Zealand, and other countries advertise and promote tourism to their countries. We need to do the same for America.

The travel and tourism industry is too important to our Nation's economy, too important to my State and other States and communities throughout the country to be ignored. I hope everyone understands the importance of travel and tourism and how important it is to our country.

I have a letter from the former majority leader of the Senate, GEORGE MITCHELL. The letter says:

I know how hectic these days are for you and so I will be very brief.

Some of the people who were most adversely affected by the events of September 11 are the working poor. Welfare reform in the 1990s forced them into the job market, and fortunately, many found work in the travel and tourism industry. Many have lost

their job or face unemployment unless we can get the industry moving again.

By embracing the travel credit, [we] can keep the focus of the economic stimulus bill on individuals and on doing everything we can to help the working poor stay in the job market.

I also have a letter addressed to me from the chair and chief executive officer of the Carlson Group, one of our nation's largest travel agencies. I ask unanimous consent it be printed in the RECORD.

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

DECEMBER 18, 2001.

Hon. HARRY REID,
*Assistant Majority Leader of the Senate,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR REID: I cannot tell you how dismayed I was to read the article in the Washington Post, today, concerning the impact of September 11th on the travel and tourism industry.

As I am sure your constituents have told you, domestic air travel has remained down 31% for the past seven weeks. All elements of the travel and hospitality industry dependent on air travelers have watched their revenue drop by at least this amount.

Since personal travel is down 37-40%, tourist destinations, resorts, cruise ships, and many other segments of the American travel and hospitality industry have suffered declines as much as 60% over the same period and it continues.

We believe that a personal travel credit and elimination of the 50% penalty on business meals and entertainment expenses are desperately needed to keep Americans employed.

Obviously, being employed is far superior to receiving unemployment compensation and far more beneficial to our wonderful people and their families and the states, which bear the burden of such unemployment costs.

To the extent some in the industry seem to suggest that such assistance is too expensive or impracticable, they are not speaking for our people, our franchisees, our company and many others who have been the casualties of the fallout from 9/11.

We know that you understand this. We deeply appreciate your efforts and those of your colleagues, in particular Senators JON KYL and BILL NELSON, to help our employees and our businesses regain their economic footing through an amendment to the stimulus bill.

Best Regards,
MARILYN CARLSON NELSON,
Chair and Chief Executive Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

UM GRIZZLIES GOING TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I rise today to express a little hometown and a little home State pride. Last Saturday, the University of Montana Grizzlies defeated the Northern Iowa Panthers. I say to my very good friend from Iowa who attended Northern State, and is the strongest northern State booster I have ever run across. I will not embarrass my good friend by giving the score of that game, but I will say to my good friend from Iowa and to the world that we are proud that the University of Montana Grizzlies