

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

prevailed. It was a hard fought football game, and I give utmost credit to the Panthers, who were terrific.

This win gave the Grizzlies the privilege of going to the 1-AA championship game in Chattanooga, TN. They will play the Furman University Paladins Friday at 5:30 eastern time. Everyone tune in.

In Montana, folks travel from every corner of our big State. We call ourselves the big sky State. We are a pretty large State, at close to 149,000 square miles. People around Montana come from all corners of our State to see the University of Montana Grizzlies, the Montana State University Bobcats. There is a fierce rivalry between the Cat fans and the grizzly fans.

From Eureka to Ekalaka, from Havre to Virginia City, in buses, vans, cars, and trucks, Montanans travel great distances to cheer on their sons and daughters, their friends and neighbors. When our team, the Grizzlies, made it to the national championship, understandably we were a little bit excited. We are very proud of our team. I wish you could feel the energy and excitement going on in Montana right now. We are very excited.

This is not new for the Grizzlies. They have been to the I-AA playoffs 8 out of the last 9 years. Friday's championship game will be the fourth the Grizzlies have been to since 1995 when they won the championship. I will never forget. I was there. Man, did we have fun.

It is also important to note that most of the UM players are from Montana. We are proud of that. They are great athletes, but they are also good students first. The team averages a 2.9 GPA, virtually a 3.0 team average. They are from small towns, rural communities. Some of them came up playing 6- and 8-man ball—football in small towns known as "iron man" ball.

They are excellent student athletes, like big sky defense man of the year and Academic All-American Vince Huntsberger from Libby, MT. I was talking to Vince the other day after a game, and Vince remembers when I walked throughout the State of Montana running for office. He even told me he carried a sign in a parade I was in when he was a little kid.

We have Brandon Neil from Great Falls, T.J. Olkers from my hometown of Helena. Our star quarterback, John Edwards, is from Billings. Then there is Spencer Frederick from a little town called Scobey in the northeastern part of our State. These young people and all the others make us very proud.

If you ask anyone who follows I-AA football, they will tell you that the Washington Grizzly stadium is the premier place to play in the country. I commend the UM president, George Dennison, for his leadership at the university and for investing in the program. Also, congratulations to UM athletic director, Wayne Hogan, and his staff. He came about 7 or 8 years ago

and is doing a great job. He is from Florida. And Grizzly coach Joe Glenn, with his vision, his leadership, that has earned him the big sky coach of the year for the second straight year.

I think all of these individuals have done so well. I thank them for the pride we have.

Finally, I have a wager with my very good friend from South Carolina, Senator HOLLINGS. If the Paladins win—he went to the University of Furman—I will come to the floor and recite the words of the Furman fight song. If the Grizzlies win, Senator HOLLINGS has agreed to come to the floor and recite the UM fight song. Fair wager, for fun. I will send his office the words to our song so he can get started and get the rehearsal going so he can boom forth with the University of Montana fight song at the next opportunity in the Senate.

SOFTWOOD LUMBER—A CALL TO ACTION

Mr. BAUCUS. I rise today to focus attention on the ongoing softwood lumber dispute between the United States and Canada. I believe we have an excellent opportunity to permanently remove this blemish on our strong bilateral trade relationship.

In the past 3 months, the U.S. Department of Commerce found that the Canadian Government unfairly subsidizes this lumber industry and then dumps those products in the U.S. market, both of which are prohibited by U.S. law. These activities have caused unprecedented upsets in the U.S. market, resulting in record low prices, disruption in supply, mill closures, layoffs, people out of work.

Good jobs in my State of Montana and across the Nation have been put at risk by Canada's foul play. Now is the time to bring this matter to resolution once and for all. The U.S. negotiators have a meeting with their Canadian counterparts to work out what is a desirable solution.

As I have stated many times before, this solution must completely offset the subsidies and dumping. It must bring true competition to the marketplace and must take into consideration the cross-border and environmental issues with the objective of a truly level playing field.

With that said, the offers of our neighbors to the north have been, to date, short of the mark. If we are serious about resolving the issue, the Canadians need to put something on the table, something that reflects a true, open, competitive market for softwood lumber. Some in Canada would prefer to let international tribunals decide this matter. I think they misjudge both the legal strength of their position and the underlying merits of their case. At no other time in history have the facts been so squarely in favor of the U.S. industry—no other time in the many years this dispute has been ongoing. At no other time have we been so

close to a detente. Let's not forget, many of the reforms are beneficial and cost effective to the Canadian softwood industry as well as to Canadian taxpayers.

That said, the clock is ticking. Unfair Canadian lumber imports are hurting our American producers. In a regrettable setback on December 15, the preliminary countervailing duties expired temporarily. It is my understanding that due to a customs reporting loophole, Canada was able to avoid paying payment earlier than the duties' temporary expiration. This is wrong. It emphasizes the need to close the gap from now until final determination.

The statute does not require that this case drag on until next spring. There is simply no reason for further foot dragging. The U.S. lumber industry cannot afford to suffer further injury. Neither can our manufacturers, who are at the mercy of Canadian blackmail threats to cut off supply if we do not support Canada's position.

Simply put, if a decision cannot be reached in the next few weeks, the Commerce Department should accelerate their final determination.

That said, I would like to begin 2002 with this matter resolved. After two decades of fighting, it is time for a durable solution to the softwood dispute. I hope our administration and my Canadian friends will rise to the occasion.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

FOOTBALL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I compliment the University of Montana. They did, in fact, play well—too well—against the University of Northern Iowa.

Before I had bragged to Senator DASCHLE 2 weeks ago about how we were going to show the University of Montana how to play football, I wish I had researched how they have done so well in the last few years. I probably would not have been so boastful. But we had just come away from a tremendous victory, the UNI Panthers over the University of Maine Black Bears, just the week before. I thought if the Panthers could beat the Black Bears, they could surely beat the Grizzlies. But it did not turn out that way.

You played tremendous football, and I thank you very much for being so temperate in your remarks about the Panthers of the University of Northern Iowa.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, before the Senator begins a more serious discussion, and I will wait my turn, may I intervene to discuss this issue for just a moment, coming from a State that has won Division II championships more than any of you, and one that this year for the first time in a long while did not make it in the playoffs.

I want my friend from Montana to know I warned my seatmate from