

on Government and it extended equal protection of the law to every person, including peasants, as well as establishing separation of powers. Although the Constitution formally lasted only for few years until the Third Partition of Poland, today the legacy of this historic document is still alive. It tells us about the grand Polish tradition of democracy, which was crafted in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 18th century, evolved in the Polish Republic after regaining independence in 1917, and was reconfirmed in the early 1990's following the end of the cold war.

Poland's has been a success story in its smooth transition to a liberal democracy with a free market economy. I was proud to cast my vote in the Senate in favor of the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, to include Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Poland was admitted to NATO on March 12, 1999, and has become a close ally and friend of the United States, which is a home to more than 9 million people of Polish descent. Furthermore, Poland is one of the frontrunners seeking membership in the European Union.

We must continue our support for Poland's successful integration in the Western structures of security and economic cooperation, which promote peace, stability and prosperity across all of Europe. I firmly believe that both America and Poland share the same goal of continuing to enlarge NATO by admitting the Baltic countries into NATO in order to enhance the overall tranquility in the region.

As a Senator of the State of Illinois, where the Polish community is the second largest in the country, I hope my colleagues in the Senate will join me in congratulating Poland on its remarkable celebration of anniversary of their democratic constitution. I also believe that they will join me in providing their support to Poland's continuing endeavor to contribute to the security and stability of the entire European continent.

The Third May Constitution two centuries ago signaled to the world that Poland entered the family of emerging Western democratic states. Our effort today should be to make sure that Poland's centuries-long commitment to democracy culminates in Poland fulfilling its promise as a full-fledged member of the Western democratic world and ceasing to be discounted as part of Europe's "grey zone."

COLUMBIA BASIN SALMON RECOVERY PLAN

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, a priceless national treasure in the Pacific Northwest is in dire straits. Icons of our region, wild salmon and steelhead, teeter on the brink of extinction. These anadromous fish are one of the best examples of how nature works her magic and selects the best and the brightest for future generations. This heritage must not end. Our generation has the

responsibility to assure that these fish live on and enrich our lives in the future.

Despite several decades of work and a cost to taxpayers and electricity ratepayers of an estimated \$3 billion, Pacific Northwest salmon and steelhead have continued to decline to the point where they may soon become extinct. We must reverse this trend. We must not allow extinction to happen and must proceed quickly with an aggressive consensus plan of action that returns them to sustainable and fishable populations. I believe we can do so in a manner that honors the principles of state water sovereignty, states' rights, and private property rights.

The economy of the Pacific Northwest is mainly vibrant and strong with some important exceptions, particularly in some more rural areas that depend on agriculture and natural resource industries. We must keep our Northwest economy strong and spread its strength throughout the entire region. This economy provides jobs for families and tax revenue to support important work, particularly the education of our children. Now, we face high energy costs and drought. Therefore, it is imperative that we make prudent choices now that will assure our future and quality of life in the Pacific Northwest.

There are volumes of scientific research and theories on what needs to be done to bring these fish back from the brink of extinction. For years, I have studied documents, discussed science with experts and advocates, held hearings to learn about and publicize policy choices, and today I am here to lay out a funding proposal to make our efforts for salmon and steelhead recovery far more aggressive, comprehensive, and coordinated than they have ever been.

The cost of restoring these fish has largely been borne by the citizens of the Northwest through the electricity rates they pay that fund the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. But because this is a national issue and because recovering the species is required by the Endangered Species Act, the Federal Government has an obligation to shoulder a significant portion of the financial responsibility for doing so.

I will not support flow augmentation other than that agreed to by the State of Idaho, if any. The extensive political opposition to breaching the four lower Snake dams means that such a recommendation would put the region into economic and political gridlock in such a way that would prohibit further efforts to take achievable steps to save the salmon and steelhead.

We now have a window of time, possibly up to 10 years, to exercise options and take steps toward recovering the fish before evaluation of dam breaching is then brought back to the table for further consideration. That means we have a brief opportunity to do things right. Otherwise, if we continue to spin

our wheels or make wrong decisions about how to approach recovery, we will, in 5, 6, or 8 years be once again facing the difficult question of whether the region must breach the dams to save the fish.

Even though we have not yet mastered the entire process required to recover these fish, it is very obvious that we do have an enormous amount of good information and a very long list of measures that we can do, right now. The problem is that we have done only part of what we can do. My proposal will commit the region and the Federal Government to take immediate coordinated and aggressive action that is known to benefit the fish while providing an agreed-upon mechanism for monitoring and subsequent adjustments.

Specifically, I am recommending:

Corps of Engineers, \$159.8 million, additional funding for their Columbia River Fish Mitigation program. This program primarily funds the construction of fish passage systems and also provides dollars for the Corps to contract with the National Marine Fisheries Service to do anadromous fish research and monitoring.

An increase for operations and maintenance funding (O&M), which will also provide the money needed to barge all fish, rather than trucking salmon around the dams. O&M funding is essential to keeping fish passage systems operable and mitigation programs running. Furthermore, we must study the potential benefit to modernizing the region's flood control management.

Money for restoring estuary habitat in the Lower Columbia River and Tillamook Bay Estuaries. We have heard from all of the interests that we'll get a big bang for the buck for salmon and steelhead by restoring estuary habitat.

National Marine Fisheries Service, \$243.5 million, additional funding for the operations and maintenance of fish hatcheries. In the past, our hatcheries have provided sport fishing opportunity, but have not yet benefitted wild salmon and steelhead recovery. We need to reform our hatcheries to produce fish that are not susceptible to disease and predation, and support recovery goals.

An increase for screening irrigation diversions. If we are to recover salmon and steelhead, we must keep juveniles in the river and out of irrigation systems. These diversion screens can cost up to \$1 million apiece, which make them unaffordable to communities, irrigation districts, and individual farmers.

Full funding for the Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. It is critical to the states of Idaho, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California as well as the Tribes that the federal government provide funding to help meet federal Endangered Species Act requirements for salmon and steelhead.

Bureau of Reclamation, \$25.0 million, funding to provide for the purchase of

one more year of Idaho State-authorized flow augmentation, which is the 427,000 acre feet of water that is used to facilitate salmon and steelhead migration, plus \$10 million to fund a water bank to store water for the purposes of fish passage and temperature reduction during low flow periods. The Bureau of Reclamation would also receive money to implement offsite mitigation measures called for in the Biological Opinion.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, \$56.9 million, increases for habitat improvements, habitat conservation planning, landowner assistance, Section 7 consultation, and hatchery retrofits.

In addition to the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service has major responsibilities for screening irrigation diversions. Its screening program provides help to individual landowners in the form of technical assistance and money to pay for fish screens over irrigation diversions.

There are many agencies with responsibilities for implementing salmon and steelhead recovery measures, and, frankly, these are just some of them. I also recommend funds for other agencies such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Environmental Protection Agency to implement their piece of the anadromous fish restoration program.

This adds up to a grand total of \$688.2 million.

I anticipate that regional interests will examine the details of my proposal and will offer suggestions to improve this appropriations package. I encourage that discussion and look forward to the input that others will offer. There are processes currently underway in the region that could well result in changes to this proposal.

It is my hope and expectation that this funding will change what has been a decades-long, torturous, and expensive process into a success that will make the Pacific Northwest a role model for how to recover endangered species. I look forward to working with colleagues in the House and Senate to provide funds to support a successful Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, May 2, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,655,955,997,201.31. Five trillion, six hundred fifty-five billion, nine hundred fifty-five million, nine hundred ninety-seven thousand, two hundred one dollar and thirty-one cents.

One year ago, May 2, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,669,551,000,000. Five trillion, six hundred sixty-nine billion, five hundred fifty-one million.

Five years ago, May 2, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,100,093,000,000. Five trillion, one hundred billion, ninety-three million.

Ten years ago, May 2, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,438,851,000,000.

Three trillion, four hundred thirty-eight billion, eight hundred fifty-one million.

Fifteen years ago, May 2, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,015,491,000,000. Two trillion, fifteen billion, four hundred ninety-one million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,640,464,997,201.31. Three trillion, six hundred forty billion, four hundred sixty-four million, nine hundred ninety-seven thousand, two hundred one dollar and thirty-one cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE QUEST PROGRAM

• Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, today, there is much focus on the problems in our schools but, I would like to bring to your attention the students and citizens in the great State of New Jersey who are doing something to make our schools a better place to learn and grow. The Quest Program is an amazing group of 11- and 12-year-olds who are positively affecting the student body and facilities at Dr. John Howard Jr. Unique School of Excellence in East Orange, NJ.

Noting the rise of suspensions and other discipline issues in their school, a group of 13 fourth and fifth graders gathered under the leadership of their teacher, Ms. Christine McAdams, and created the Quest Program. They developed this program to find ways to improve student behavior. Volunteering more than 400 hours toward the goal of bettering the student body, these young people established 14 enrichment programs through which students could positively direct their youthful energy and exuberance. These exceptional students even successfully bought property to expand their school playground by researching grant and funding opportunities in their community.

The Quest Program placed first in New Jersey in the junior division of the Community Problem Solving Component of the International Future Problem Solving Program. The Dr. John Howard Community Problem Solving Team will represent New Jersey at the International Competition in Athens, Georgia this June.

These 13 students are an excellent example of the creativity and dedication of which America's young people are capable. Joshua Baily, Sabre Burroughs, Teri Jones, Orion Khan, Kamiah Mitchell, Shantea Moore, Chetachi Odelugo, Cory Patterson, Rubi Ramirez, Katiria Torres, Raymond Torres, John Wilson, and Minette Wilson are a credit to their families, their school, and the State of New Jersey.

As a Senator who believes very strongly in the importance of education, I am exceptionally proud of these prodigious young people and their decision to spend their time and

energy making their school a better place to learn. It is my hope that you will join me in wishing them good luck in June and in all of their future endeavors.●

SUPPORTING FARMER EDUCATION

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Farmland Industries for their leadership in educating farmers on the importance of international trade, through the program "Support Trade, for Farmers, For Farmland, For You." I also congratulate them for receiving the 2001 National Agri-Marketing Association's award for Best of Show.

I ask that the letter of congratulations I sent to Farmland Industries be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
Washington, DC, May 2, 2001.

Mr. ROBERT HONSE,
President & CEO, Farmland Industries, Inc.,
Kansas City, MO.

I recently read that Farmland's trade education program, "Support Trade, For Farmers, For Farmland, For You" was selected to receive the 2001 National Agri-Marketing Association's award for Best of Show. Congratulations on this impressive achievement!

Farmland Industries clearly understands the important role of international trade to the agriculture industry. As the only working family farmer in the United States Senate and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, I also appreciate the importance of international trade to America's farmers. International trade has a significant impact on my home state of Iowa, with agriculture exports contributing more than \$5 billion a year to Iowa's economy. Nationwide, approximately \$6 billion in agriculture products, such as grains, oilseed, cotton, meats, and vegetables are processed for export every day. These exports generate more than \$100 billion in total business activity, and sustain nearly a million American jobs.

Trade is vital to the United States economy generally, and to our farmers in particular, as agriculture makes an enormous and valuable contribution as our third largest export. Increased market opportunities in agricultural trade are of tremendous importance to American farmers and to our economy. That is why I applaud your efforts to inform and mobilize the farming community in support of open markets.

The "Support Trade" program sponsored by Farmland Industries, and the communications team led by Sherlyn Manson and David Eaheart, addressed a vitally important issue through a program that has informed and enlightened farmers at the grassroots level on the importance of international trade.

You are to be highly commended for your leadership. Too few companies appreciate the importance of trade education at the grassroots level. Farmland Industries is truly a leader whose example I hope others will emulate.

I look forward to working with you during this session of Congress as we address such important international trade issues as renewing Trade Promotion Authority for President Bush, continuing normal trade relations for the People's Republic of China, passing normal trade relations for Vietnam, and preparing for the launch of a new round of World Trade Organization negotiations this November.