

manner that provides for public accountability, efficient delivery of services, reasonable cost savings, and prevention of unwarranted Government expenses, and for other purposes.

S. 1339

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1339, a bill to amend the Bring Them Home Alive Act of 2000 to provide an asylum program with regard to American Persian Gulf War POW/MIAs, and for other purposes.

S. 1877

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1877, a bill to clarify and reaffirm a cause of action and Federal court jurisdiction for certain claims against the Government of Iran.

S. 2010

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2010, a bill to provide for criminal prosecution of persons who alter or destroy evidence in certain Federal investigations or defraud investors of publicly traded securities, to disallow debts incurred in violation of securities fraud laws from being discharged in bankruptcy, to protect whistleblowers against retaliation by their employers, and for other purposes.

S. 2194

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2194, a bill to hold accountable the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes.

S. 2215

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2215, a bill to halt Syrian support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, stop its development of weapons of mass destruction, cease its illegal importation of Iraqi oil, and by so doing hold Syria accountable for its role in the Middle East, and for other purposes.

S. 2221

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2221, a bill to temporarily increase the Federal medical assistance percentage for the medicaid program.

S. 2246

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2246, a bill to improve access to printed instructional mate-

rials used by blind or other persons with print disabilities in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

S. 2480

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2480, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from state laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

S. 2490

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2490, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the quality of, and access to, skilled nursing facility services under the medicare program.

S. 2513

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2513, a bill to assess the extent of the backlog in DNA analysis of rape kit samples, and to improve investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases with DNA evidence.

S. 2522

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2522, a bill to establish the Southwest Regional Border Authority.

S. 2570

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2570, a bill to temporarily increase the Federal medical assistance percentage for the medicaid program, and for other purposes.

S. 2583

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2583, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the management of health care services for veterans to place certain low-income veterans in a higher health-care priority category.

S. 2608

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2608, a bill to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize the acquisition of coastal areas in order better to ensure their protection from conversion or development.

S. 2611

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2611, a bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2648

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the names of the Senator from New

Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) were added as cosponsors of S. 2648, a bill to reauthorize and improve the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, improve access to quality child care, and for other purposes.

S. 2649

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2649, a bill to provide assistance to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic in developing foreign countries.

S. RES. 242

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 242, a resolution designating August 16, 2002, as "National Airborne Day."

S. RES. 270

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 270, a resolution designating the week of October 13, 2002, through October 19, 2002, as "National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Week."

S. RES. 281

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 281, a resolution designating the week beginning August 25, 2002, as "National Fraud Against Senior Citizens Awareness Week."

AMENDMENT NO. 3936

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3936 intended to be proposed to S. 2514, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3952

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3952 intended to be proposed to S. 2514, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORZINE:

S. 2669. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to toll the 5-year limit for assistance under the temporary assistance to

needy families program for recipients who live in a State that is experiencing significant increases in unemployment; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CORZINE. Madam President, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Unemployment Protection for Low-Income Families on TANF Act, or UPLIFT Act, that will protect low-income families who are transitioning from welfare to work from losing their welfare benefits during periods of high unemployment.

Forcing families off welfare during a recession because they cannot find a job lacks commonsense. In fact, during a weak economy, low-skilled workers and recently employed workers are more likely to lose their jobs, and unfortunately, only 30 to 40 percent of former welfare recipients who become unemployed qualify for Unemployment Insurance.

A single parent receiving welfare assistance while working 30 hours a week who loses her job during a recession should not be penalized. For families like this, welfare is the only unemployment insurance they have. But, under current law, Federal welfare time limits and work requirements continue to apply during periods of high-unemployment.

The Unemployment Protection for Low-Income Families through TANF Act, or UPLIFT Act, would require States to disregard Federal TANF assistance for all recipients when the national unemployment rate reaches or exceeds 6.5 percent or when a State unemployment rate rises by 1.5 percentage points over a three-month period.

Every percentage point increase in unemployment results in a welfare caseload increase of 5 percent. In addition to enacting a strong contingency fund for States experiencing high unemployment and increased caseloads, Congress must act to ensure that welfare recipients are not time-limited off of welfare when the economy is weak and jobs are in short supply. In addition to promoting self-sufficiency, TANF programs should be a safety net for low-income families who are unable to find work or meet their needs.

My legislation will help parents who are trying to transition from welfare to work, but are unable to find work during a weak economy, to provide for their families without the fear of losing cash assistance. The TANF program is not only about moving people from welfare to work, it is also about reducing poverty and helping families in need.

While welfare reform has succeeded at moving thousands of people into work, its success has come in strong economic times. As people reach their 5-year time limits, we can only hope they will be able to find jobs in what is now a more difficult economy. The reality is that many states are experiencing high unemployment right now, making it extremely difficult for welfare recipients to find good paying full-time jobs. We shouldn't penalize people

who are trying to transition from welfare to work just because the economy is bad. We need to continue to help these families build their skills and find employment when times are tough.

As Congress acts to reauthorize the TANF program I ask my colleagues to support legislation that will protect families transitioning from welfare to work from losing their benefits during a recession.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the legislation be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2669

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Unemployment Protection for Low-Income Families Through TANF Act of 2002" or the "UPLIFT Act of 2002".

SEC. 2. DISREGARD OF MONTHS OF ASSISTANCE RECEIVED DURING PERIODS OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(a)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 608(a)(7)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(H) DISREGARD OF ASSISTANCE RECEIVED DURING PERIODS OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In determining the number of months for which an adult has received assistance under a State or tribal program funded under this part, the State or tribe shall disregard any month in which the State is determined to be a high unemployment State for that month.

“(ii) DEFINITION OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT STATE.—For purposes of clause (i), a State shall be considered to be a high unemployment State for a month if it satisfies either of the following criteria:

“(I) STATE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT.—The average—

“(aa) rate of total unemployment (seasonally adjusted) in the State for the period consisting of the most recent 3 months for which data are available has increased by the lesser of 1.5 percentage points or by 50 percent over the corresponding 3-month period in either of the 2 most recent preceding fiscal years; or

“(bb) insured unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) in the State for the most recent 3 months for which data are available has increased by 1 percentage point over the corresponding 3-month period in either of the 2 most recent preceding fiscal years.

“(II) NATIONAL RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT.—The average rate of total unemployment (seasonally adjusted) for all States for the period consisting of the most recent 3 months for which data for all States are published equals or exceeds 6.5 percent.

“(iii) DURATION.—A State that is considered to be a high unemployment State under clause (ii) for a month shall continue to be considered such a State until the rate that was used to meet the definition as a high unemployment State under that clause for the most recently concluded 3-month period for which data are available, falls below the level attained in the 3-month period in which the State first qualified as a high unemployment State under that clause.”.

By Mr. EDWARDS for (himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2671. A bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to provide for child care quality improvements for children with disabilities or other special needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam President, I rise today to join with my colleague and friend, Senator MIKE DEWINE, to announce the introduction of legislation that will meaningfully improve the lives and well-being of children with disabilities and other special needs, their parents, and the child care providers who care for them.

In recent years our commitment to helping working families afford child care has grown significantly through discretionary and nondiscretionary allocations under the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF, and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF, program. From a total Federal outlay of \$2.5 billion in 1997, spending on child care through CCDF and TANF grew to \$6.5 billion in 2000. When added to state spending, total Federal and State investments in child care assistance reached \$9.0 billion in 2000. This figure represents a historic commitment to affordable, high quality child care in America, and I applaud all of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, whose support made the current levels of child care assistance possible. But the past, as they say, is behind us, reauthorization for CCDF and TANF is looming. It is vitally important for us to understand what our federal and state investments have bought us as we undertake the difficult job of renewing this legislation.

Sadly, despite our historic Federal investments in world-class child care, the services available for too many hard-working families are neither affordable nor of very high quality. Though 1.8 million children received assistance in 1999, the Department of Health and Human Services estimated that 14.75 million children were eligible.

Let me repeat that, in 1999, a little under 13 million children were living in working families poor enough to qualify for assistance under CCDF but got no help because no funds were available. Put another way, only 12 percent of eligible children received assistance. And that 12 percent figure reflects 1999 data at the height of a historic economic expansion that is now long past. The numbers of eligible families have undoubtedly grown, our commitments have not. We need to put the full effect of what we're talking about in context. The average cost of child care in America exceeds \$4,000 per year. That's often more than the cost of tuition at many of our state colleges. \$4,000 per year. For the working families with kids who are eligible, whose family income falls somewhere under 85 percent of the state median income level, but who never receive assistance, how in the world do we expect them to cope? For

most of my constituents, \$4,000 is a lot of money. When I talk to parents in North Carolina about the challenges they face, I can assure you, affordable child care is an issue parents worry a lot about.

Finally, what does "affordable" child care look like? By that, I mean the child care that working parents can actually afford. The data on child care quality is daunting—85 percent of child care in America is rated as poor to mediocre. I invite my colleagues to think about a single young child, someone under 5, say, who they know personally. Perhaps someone in their family.

Would anyone in this body willingly permit a child to spend even one minute in a care setting described as "poor to mediocre"? Think about what that means for a healthy, growing infant or toddler. Young brains are developing, synaptic connections forming. The child's verbal and motor skills are actively expanding, growing, testing limits. Scientists tell us that there is a fairly direct and crucial relationship between the time and quality of interaction with adult caregivers and the healthy social and psychological development of a young child. Enriched early learning is not a luxury. A child who spends its critical early years in "poor to mediocre" care is like a runner who starts the race 20 yards behind the block. For the rest of his or her life, that child will be trying to catch up. And that's not fair. Now imagine if that same child had a disability. If he or she had cerebral palsy, or a sight impairment, or a learning disorder, or autism. A healthy child might be able to overcome a poor to mediocre start in life, but some of our most vulnerable children may not.

As you might expect, it is more costly for child care providers to serve children with disabilities or other special needs. But often, states are under pressure to serve the record numbers of families who need child care assistance, and additional resources for children with disabilities or other special needs are not available. In many instances, providers simply are not able or willing to take on the unique challenges of caring for a disabled child. Children's advocates and parents of children with disabilities have reported significant shortages of affordable, high quality child care for children with disabilities and other special needs. These findings have been affirmed by the General Accounting Office, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Research Council.

Low-income children are particularly at risk. Children in low-income families are more likely to be disabled than children in higher income families. Children who are poor are twice as likely to have a significant disability than their middle and upper income counterparts. A 2000 report based on interviews with California welfare recipients in 1992 and 1996 found that almost 20 percent of the families had at least one child who has a disability or

illness. Low-income children also tend to live in poorer neighborhoods, compounding their lack of resources with the lack of readily available child care for special needs populations. As the GAO reported in 2001, "low-income neighborhoods tend to have less overall child care supply as well as less supply for [special needs kids] than do higher-income neighborhoods."

Finally, many child care providers require additional training and other resources necessary to deliver appropriate care, or to understand or comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, or other applicable state or Federal standards.

The Nurturing Special Kids Act of 2002 would: set aside additional CCDF funding, after the Quality Set-Aside is funded, to expand access to affordable, high-quality child care for children with disabilities or other special needs; support child care programs that accept children with disabilities or other special needs; provide higher reimbursement rates to child care providers that reflect the additional cost of specialized care in the State; fund consultations by providers with licensed professionals to improve identification of children with disabilities or other special needs, and strengthen providers' ability to care for children with disabilities or other special needs; provide a comprehensive system of training and technical assistance to enable child care providers to better care for children with disabilities or other special needs, including compliance with ADA and other regulatory requirements; provide grants for recruitment and retention of qualified staff; and provide grant funding for public agencies and private non-profits for projects that increase the availability of inclusive child care programs, up to 50 percent special needs kids.

Most of us were elected to the Senate for one purpose: to stand for the vulnerable and for the defenseless when we make decisions that shape our society's future. To ensure that, whatever we do, we secure for all Americans, no matter their physical or mental disability or other impairment, the capacity to grow and succeed to the limits of their potential.

I join with my friend, Senator DEWINE, in introducing the Nurturing Special Kids Act of 2002, and I invite my colleagues to share this responsibility in support of affordable, high quality child care for children with disabilities or other special needs.

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, I rise today with my colleague and friend from North Carolina, Senator EDWARDS, to introduce the Nurturing Special Kids Act of 2002. Our bill would expand access to affordable, high quality childcare for children with disabilities or other special needs.

We need this bill, because the reality is that children from low-income families are more likely to have disabilities or other special needs. They are twice as likely as children from higher-in-

come families to have a significant disability, nearly twice as likely to have serious mental or physical disabilities, and 1.3 times as likely to have learning disabilities.

Parents and the disability community continually report significant shortages in affordable, high quality specialized childcare for children with disabilities and other unique needs. Specialized childcare is costly to deliver and often requires additional training for caregivers. Furthermore, many childcare centers simply cannot afford to create a setting that is accessible for disabled children or equipped to meet the physical or emotional challenges of these children.

Our legislation would help remedy this by providing technical assistance to help families locate specialized care. Additionally, the bill sets aside a portion of the Childcare and Development Block Grant funds specifically for special needs care. This funding could be used to increase a special needs child voucher, or enable states to provide specialized training to better understand a child's disability, provide proper care, or set up centers designed to provide specialized care to children with particular conditions, like autism, Down Syndrome, or Cerebral Palsy. Additionally, our bill help disabled children, but it also would help all children with special needs by providing technical assistance to help families locate specialized care.

No one can replace a parent, but parents who work outside the home need to feel confident that the people caring for their children are giving them the same type of love and support that they would provide. In the case of a disabled child, parents also want to make sure that the caretakers of their children are trained to deal with special needs.

This bill is necessary to ensure that when parents work, they have access to quality care. I urge my colleagues to join us in support.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 2672. A bill to provide opportunities for collaborative restoration projects on National Forest System and other public domain lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, today I am introducing legislation to authorize a coordinated, consistent, community-based program to restore and maintain the ecological integrity of degraded National Forest System and public lands watersheds. I am pleased to be introducing this legislation with Senator CRAIG. He has been a true champion for rural, natural resource-dependent communities.

Two years ago, residents of Los Alamos were evacuated to escape the Cerro Grande fire. Many ultimately lost their homes. While the devastation that resulted from the fire will not soon be forgotten, this event also was

significant because it finally focused our attention on a problem that has been brewing for a long time, increasing fire risk due to the degraded condition of our national forests and public lands. Unfortunately, the problem continues as this year's fires continue to threaten numerous communities.

Increasing threats to people and homes as a result of forest fires is only one symptom of the current condition of our national forests and public lands. Water quality, water flows, animal and plant habitats are all adversely affected. Moreover, the health of adjacent communities is at risk when our national forests and public lands are in a degraded condition. Restoration is desperately needed.

Three years ago, I introduced the Community Forest Restoration Act, a bill to establish a cooperative forest restoration program in New Mexico to begin addressing this problem in a collaborative way. Ultimately, the legislation was enacted into law. Implementation has been very successful to date.

Through my work on the Community Forest Restoration Act and other similar efforts, it has become clear to me that new and creative approaches to the management of our forests is critical to ensure a meaningful future for both our federal lands and the communities that depend on these lands. A major, multi-year investment in restoration work on our national forests and Federal lands is a critical component of achieving our desired result. Senator CRAIG and I, as well as other Members, have worked to secure increased funding for such an investment. The additional funding that Congress has approved for the last few years for hazardous fuels reduction near communities is one example of our success.

However, an investment alone is not enough. An investment in our natural resources must occur in a way that benefits the rural communities located within and adjacent to our national forests and public lands. I grew up in Silver City, New Mexico, a forested community adjacent to the Gila National Forest. I learned firsthand that if the forest is in good shape, the community is in good shape.

The Federal land managers need to respect local and traditional knowledge by including it in project planning. Community forestry represents a way to integrate local knowledge and science in order to make the best decisions about how to take care of the land.

Communities are coming together to restore the ecological integrity and resiliency of our public lands. In New Mexico, groups such as Las Humanas Cooperative, the Truchas Land Grant, the Catron County Citizens Group, and the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps are working to restore watersheds and build a high-skill, high-wage workforce in rural communities. In the Pacific Northwest, groups such as Sustainable Northwest, Wallowa Resources, and

Partners for a Sustainable Methow are seeking ways to increase the stewardship role of local communities in the maintenance and restoration of ecosystem integrity and biodiversity. In California, the Watershed Research & Training Center is striving tirelessly to include communities in the Forest Service's planning, restoration projects, and follow up monitoring of restoration. At the national level, American Forests and the National Network for Forest Practitioners are important partners that are seeking changes in policy to ensure that community benefits are an integral component of national forests and public land management.

The legislation that Senator CRAIG and I are introducing today is meant to help facilitate these types of approaches nationwide. Communities cannot create collaboratively restore our national forests and public lands alone. The Federal government is an important partner in this effort and this legislation will provide much needed new authority and programs to assist communities.

A few years ago, representatives from the Forest Service's Forest Product Laboratory visited my State to make recommendations on how to find new markets for products created from small trees that need to be removed to reduce fire threat. They noted that a lack of entrepreneurs and micro-businesses was a barrier to increasing the number of natural resource-based economic opportunities in rural communities. New Mexico needs these stimuli in the private sector, as do communities across the West, and this legislation will help create rural economies that depend on maintaining the ecological resiliency of the National Forest System and public lands.

Finally, I want to emphasize that, because what we are talking about is new and in many ways untested, we all will need to closely monitor implementation. Everyone now agrees that past policies, such as systematically suppressing all wildfires, were misguided and contributed to the problems we face today. But how do we avoid repeating similar mistakes? Meaningful and open monitoring processes using ecological and social indicators will help to ensure that the right policies are in place for both the land and the communities.

I would like to thank all of the individuals and groups who provided data, input, and comments on earlier drafts of this bill. Senator CRAIG and I sought to ensure that this bill was a comprehensive approach to the issue and we received a lot of assistance from many communities across the country in this endeavor.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill, as well as letters of support we have received for the bill, be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2672

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Community-Based Forest and Public Lands Restoration Act".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to create a coordinated, consistent, community-based program to restore and maintain the ecological integrity of degraded National Forest System and public lands watersheds;

(2) to ensure that restoration of degraded National Forest System and public lands recognizes variation in forest type and fire regimes, incorporates principles of community forestry, local and traditional knowledge, and conservation biology; and, where possible, uses the least intrusive methods practicable;

(3) to enable the Secretaries to assist small, rural communities to increase their capacity to restore and maintain the ecological integrity of surrounding National Forest System and public lands, and to use the by-products of such restoration in value-added processing;

(4) to require the Secretaries to monitor ecological, social, and economic conditions based on explicit mechanisms for accountability;

(5) to authorize the Secretaries to expand partnerships and to contract with non-profit organizations, conservation groups, small and micro-businesses, cooperatives, non-Federal conservation corps, and other parties to encourage them to provide services or products that facilitate the restoration of damaged lands; and

(6) to improve communication and joint problem solving, consistent with Federal and State environmental laws, among individuals and groups who are interested in restoring the diversity and productivity of watersheds.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

(1) The term "public lands" has the meaning given such term in section 103(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1702(e)).

(2) The term "National Forest System" has the meaning given such term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (16 U.S.C. §1609(a)).

(3) The term "Secretaries" means the Secretary of Agriculture acting through the Chief of the Forest Service and the Secretary of the Interior acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(4) The term "restore" means to incorporate historic, current, and new scientific information as it becomes available, to reintroduce, maintain, or enhance the characteristics, functions, and ecological processes of healthy, properly functioning watersheds.

(5) The term "local" means within the same region where an associated restoration project, or projects, are conducted.

(6) The term "micro-enterprise" means a non-subsidary business or cooperative employing 5 or fewer people.

(7) The term "small enterprise" means a non-subsidary business or cooperative employing between 6 and 150 people.

(8) The term "value-added processing" means additional processing of a product to increase its economic value and to create additional jobs and benefits where the processing is done.

(9) The term "low-impact equipment" means the use of equipment for restorative, maintenance, or extraction purposes that minimizes or eliminates impacts to soils and other resources.

(10) The terms "rural" and "rural area" mean any area other than a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretaries shall jointly establish a National Forest System and public lands collaborative community-based restoration program. The purposes of the program shall be:

(1) to identify projects that will restore degraded National Forest System and public lands; and

(2) implement such projects in a collaborative way and in a way that builds rural community capacity to restore and maintain in perpetuity the health of the National Forest System and other public lands.

(b) COOPERATION.—The Secretaries may enter into cooperative agreements with willing tribal governments, State and local governments, private and nonprofit entities and landowners for protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, forests, and other resources on the National Forest System and public lands.

(c)(1) MONITORING.—The Secretaries shall establish a multiparty monitoring, evaluation, and accountability process in order to assess the cumulative accomplishments or adverse impacts of projects implemented under this Act. The Secretaries shall include any interested individual or organization in the monitoring and evaluation process.

(2) Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit a report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives detailing the information gathered as a result of the multiparty monitoring and evaluation. The report shall include an assessment on whether, and to what extent, the projects funded pursuant to this Act are meeting the purposes of the Act.

(3) The Secretaries shall ensure that monitoring data is collected and compiled in a way that the general public can easily access. The Secretaries may collect the data using cooperative agreements, grants, or contracts with small or micro-enterprises, or Youth Conservation Corps work crews or related partnerships with State, local, and other non-Federal conservation corps.

(d) The Secretaries shall hire additional outreach specialists, grants and agreements specialists, and contract specialists in order to implement this Act.

SEC. 5. FOREST RESTORATION AND VALUE-ADDED CENTERS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to subsection (d), the Secretaries shall provide cost-share grants, cooperative agreements, or both to establish Restoration and Value-Added Centers in order to improve the implementation of collaborative, community-based restoration projects on National Forest System or public lands.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Restoration and Value-Added Centers shall provide technical assistance to non-profit organizations, existing small or micro-enterprises or individuals interested in creating a natural-resource related small or micro-enterprise in the following areas—

(1) restoration, and

(2) processing techniques for the byproducts of restoration and value-added manufacturing.

(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The Restoration and Value-Added Centers shall provide technical assistance in—

(1) using the latest, independent peer reviewed, scientific information and methodology to accomplish restoration and ecosystem health objectives,

(2) workforce training for value-added manufacturing and restoration,

(3) marketing and business support for conservation-based small and micro-enterprises,

(4) accessing urban markets for small and micro-enterprises located in rural communities,

(5) developing technology for restoration and the use of products resulting from restoration,

(6) accessing funding from government and non-government sources, and

(7) development of economic infrastructure including collaborative planning, proposal development, and grant writing where appropriate.

(d) LOCATIONS.—The Secretaries shall ensure that at least one Restoration and Value-Added Center is located within Idaho New Mexico, Montana, northern California, and eastern Oregon and that every Restoration and Value-Added Center is easily accessible to rural communities that are adjacent to or surrounded by National Forest System or other public lands throughout the region.

(1) The Secretaries may enter into partnerships and cooperative agreements with other Federal agencies or other organizations, including local non-profit organizations, conservation groups, or community colleges in creating and maintaining the Restoration and Value-Added Centers.

(2) The appropriate Regional Forester and State Bureau of Land Management Director will issue a request for proposals to create a Restoration and Value-Added Center. The Regional Forester and State Bureau of Land Management Director will select a proposal with input from existing Resource and Technical Advisory Committees where appropriate.

(3) The Secretary of Agriculture shall provide cost-share grants, cooperative agreements, or both equaling 75 percent of each Restoration and Value-Added Center's operating costs, including business planning, not to exceed \$1 million annually per center.

(4) Within 30 days of approving a grant or cooperative agreement to establish a Restoration and Value-Added Center, the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives and identify the recipient of the grant award or cooperative agreement.

(5) After a Restoration and Value-Added Center has operated for five years, the Secretary of Agriculture shall assess the center's performance and begin to reduce, by 25 percent annually, the level of Federal funding for the center's operating costs.

(e) REPORT.—No later than five years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit a report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives, assessing the Restoration and Value-Added Centers created pursuant to this section. The report shall include—

(1) descriptions of the organizations receiving assistance from the centers, including their geographic and demographic distribution,

(2) a summary of the projects the technical assistance recipients implemented, and

(3) an estimate of the number of non-profit organizations, small enterprises, micro-enterprises, or individuals assisted by the Restoration and Value-Added Centers.

SEC. 6. COMMUNITY-BASED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM AND PUBLIC LANDS RESTORATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) and notwithstanding federal procurement laws, the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977 (31 U.S.C. 6301

et seq.), and the Competition in Contracting Act, on an annual basis, the Secretaries shall limit competition for special salvage timber sales, timber sale contracts, service contracts, construction contracts, supply contracts, emergency equipment rental agreements, architectural and engineering contracts, challenge cost-share agreements, cooperative agreements, and participating agreements to ensure that the percentage of the total dollar value identified in paragraph (2), but not to exceed 50 percent in any year, is awarded to—

(A) natural-resource related small of micro-enterprises;

(B) Youth Conservation Corps crews or related partnerships with State, local and other non-Federal conservation corps;

(C) any entity that will hire and train local people to complete the service or timber sale contract;

(D) any entity that will re-train non-local traditional forest workers to complete the service or timber sale contract; or

(E) a local entity that meets the criteria to qualify for the Historically Underutilized Business Zone Program under section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a).

(2) In the first year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall ensure that 10 percent of the total dollar value of contracts and agreements are awarded pursuant to paragraph (1). In the second year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall ensure that 20 percent of the total dollar value of contracts and agreements are awarded pursuant to paragraph (1). In subsequent years, the percentage shall increase by 10 percent each year.

(b) NOTICE OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM PLAN.—At the beginning of each fiscal year, each unit of the National Forest System shall make its advanced acquisition plan publicly available, including publishing it in a local newspaper for a minimum of 15 working days.

(c) BEST VALUE CONTRACTING.—In order to implement projects, the Secretaries may select a source for performance of a contract or agreement on a best value basis with consideration of one or more of the following:

(1) Understanding of the technical demands and complexity of the work to be done.

(2) Ability of the offeror to meet desired ecological objectives of the project and the sensitivity of the resources being treated.

(3) The potential for benefit to local small and micro-enterprises.

(4) The past performance and qualification by the contractor with the type of work being done, the application of low-impact equipment, and the ability of the contractor or purchaser to meet desired ecological conditions.

(5) The commitment of the contractor to training workers for high wage and high skill jobs.

(6) The commitment of the contractor to hiring highly qualified workers and local residents.

(d) LIMITATION.—The Secretaries shall ensure that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Memorandum of Understanding on the Small Business Set-Aside Programs shall not be reduced below the Small Business Administration shares prescribed in the Small Business Set-Aside Program as a result of this Act.

SEC. 7. NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM RESEARCH AND TRAINING.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a program of applied research using the resources of Forest Service Research Station and the Forest Product Laboratory. The purposes of the program shall be to—

(i) identify restoration methods and treatments that minimize impacts to the land,

such as through the use of low-impact technologies and equipment; and

(2) test and develop value-added products created from the by-products of restoration.

(b) **DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH TO COMMUNITIES.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall disseminate the applied research to rural communities, including the Restoration and Value-Added Centers, adjacent to or surrounded by National Forest System or public lands. The Secretary of Agriculture shall annually conduct training workshops and classes in such communities to ensure that residents of such communities have access to the information.

(c) **COOPERATION.**—In establishing the program required pursuant to this section, the Secretary of Agriculture may partner with nonprofit organizations or community colleges.

(d) **MONITORING.**—In designing the multiparty monitoring and evaluation process to assess the cumulative accomplishments or adverse impacts of projects implemented under this Act pursuant to section 4, the Secretaries shall use the expertise of Forest Service Research Stations.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

WALLOWA RESOURCES,
Enterprise, OR, June 20, 2002.

Hon. JEFF BINGAMAN,
Hon. LARRY CRAIG,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATORS BINGAMAN AND CRAIG: The Community Based Forest and Public Lands Restoration Act that you are introducing on Monday is yet another indication of your true commitment to the health of rural communities and the ecosystems in which they reside. I applaud your foresight into the issues that forested communities are facing, not only in the West, but also in the Nation as a whole.

Wallowa Resources is a non-profit, community based organization that is focused on blending the needs of the land and community in an area where public land issues have had an incredibly negative impact on the livelihoods of people and the health of the resources. Our experience with collaboration, the need to build community capacity, and the benefit of performing adaptive management driven by monitoring have highlighted the importance of legislation that is focused on restoration of our public lands. It is imperative that restoration be performed with the economic and social well being of communities in mind. This legislation is a vehicle to address many of the most challenging concerns we face.

Thank you again for your interest and commitment to resource health and the well being of rural communities. If I can be of assistance or provide additional information, please feel free to contact me. I am eager to help in any way possible.

Sincerely,

DIANE SNYDER,
Executive Director.

WALLOWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
State of Oregon, June 21, 2002.

Hon. JEFF BINGAMAN,
Hon. LARRY CRAIG,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATORS BINGAMAN AND CRAIG: As an elected official in Wallowa County, I struggle every day with the economic realities for public land communities in the Northwest. We continue to see high unem-

ployment rates, high poverty levels, decreasing school enrollment, changing demographics as traditional employment opportunities dwindle. We are fortunate here in Wallowa County to have had the foresight to begin collaborative processes in the early 1990's with the creation of the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plain.

I am proud to tell you that the remaining citizens of Wallowa County are resilient and have begun to embark on a restoration-based economy. We long for the day that many contractors will be active in the forest performing a myriad of restoration activities, valued-added processing centers will be buzzing with activity, and entrepreneurs will be financially rewarded for innovation with small diameter wood. We must retain the skilled workforce and their families and we must ensure that they have the opportunity to benefit economically for the work that they do.

Introduction of the Community Based Forest and Public Lands Restoration Act is a step toward reinvigorating rural communities and restoring health to the ecosystems in which they live. On behalf of my community and many, many others across the nation, thank you for recognizing our needs and working to address them.

I urge you to forward this legislation as expeditiously as you can and escort it through the appropriations process. Adequate funding for this legislation is critical to its success. If I can be of service in this endeavor, please feel free to call upon me.

Sincerely,

MIKE HAYWARD,
Chair.

THE WATERSHED RESEARCH AND
TRAINING CENTER,
Hayford, CA, June 20, 2002.

Hon. JEFF BINGAMAN,
Hon. LARRY CRAIG,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATORS BINGAMAN AND CRAIG: I am writing to express our support for the bill you are introducing today, the Community Based Forest and Public Lands Restoration Act. There is a great need for stronger and more consistent annual investment in programs that protect, restore, and maintain public lands and resources. We applaud your bipartisan effort to develop community-based programs to meet these objectives. We are especially pleased with the focus on implementing projects in a way that promotes collaboration, builds community capacity, and establishes multi-party monitoring. These emphases are consistent with the principles of community-based forestry that we and our community partners have developed over recent years.

The Watershed Center has been working with USFS/BLM partners for over 10 years to try to build the local workforce for restoration on public lands. We are ecstatic that you are providing congressional leadership for building a new vision for community stewardship and a new reality for forest restoration.

We believe your bill is an excellent vehicle for addressing some of the most challenging concerns facing resource managers and resource-dependent communities in the United States. Hazardous fuels build-up, insect-infestation, and the degradation of fish and wildlife habitat are among key concerns on the land. Collaborative projects involving communities present promising means to address these problems while building community capacity. The American public depends on public and private organizations and the workers in resource-dependent communities to do ever-more-critical restoration work on our federal lands. The technical and finan-

cial assistance, opportunities for partnerships, innovative contracting mechanisms, program of applied research, and monitoring activities in your bill are critical to achieving the restoration and maintenance of our public lands ecosystems and to sustaining the rural economies dependent upon them.

We stand ready to help provide information and education regarding your bold and exciting effort.

Sincerely,

LYNN JUNGWIRTH,
Executive Director.

AMERICAN FORESTS, PEOPLE CARING
FOR TREES & FORESTS SINCE 1875,
Washington, DC, June 20, 2002.

Hon. JEFF BINGAMAN,
Hon. LARRY CRAIG,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS BINGAMAN AND CRAIG: I am writing to express our support for the bill you are introducing today, the Community Based Forest and Public Lands Restoration Act. There is a great need for stronger and more consistent annual investment in programs that protect, restore, and maintain public lands and resources. We applaud your bipartisan effort to develop community-based programs to meet these objectives. We are especially pleased with the focus on implementing projects in a way that promotes collaboration, builds community capacity, and establishes multi-party monitoring. These emphases are consistent with the principles of community-based forestry that we and our community partners have developed over recent years.

American Forests is the oldest national nonprofit organization in the U.S. Since 1875, we have worked with scientists, resource managers, policymakers, and citizens to promote policies and programs that help people improve the environment with trees and forests. We partner with public and private organizations in communities around the country providing technical information and resources to leverage local actions.

We believe your bill is an excellent vehicle for addressing some of the most challenging concerns of facing resource managers and resource-dependent communities in the United States. Hazardous fuels build-up, insect infestation, and the degradation of fish and wildlife habitat are among key concerns on the land. Collaborative projects involving communities present promising means to address these problems while building community capacity. The American public depends on public and private organizations and the workers in resource-dependent communities to do ever-more-critical restoration work on our federal lands. The technical and financial assistance, opportunities for partnerships, innovative contracting mechanisms, program of applied research, and monitoring activities in your bill are critical to achieving the restoration and maintenance of our public lands ecosystems and to sustaining the rural economies dependent upon them.

We appreciate your leadership in calling attention to the need to increase support for collaborative, community-based restoration projects. If we can be of any assistance with respect to your new bill, we stand ready to help.

Sincerely,

DEBORAH GANGLOFF,
Executive Director.

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, today I am introducing legislation to authorize a community-based forestry program aimed at ensuring small businesses in small rural communities have the ability to participate in all land management programs that the Forest

Service and the Bureau of Land Management undertake through contract services. I am pleased to be introducing this legislation with Senator BINGAMAN. His persistence in working on this legislation is a testament to his interest in sound forest management that is good for the environment, as well as good for thousands of small rural communities.

Senator BINGAMAN and I both understand that we have fundamental problems with the management of many of our public lands. We both have seen the devastation that catastrophic fires are imposing on our Western forests. Two years ago as a result of the Cerro Grande Fire that consumed portions of Los Alamos, New Mexico, many Americans had to face up to the deplorable forest health conditions and the devastating impacts of these catastrophic fires. The recent fires in Colorado, New Mexico and now Eastern Arizona are re-enforcing the message that we simply cannot stand back and ignore the deplorable health conditions in our public forests.

While many in the West, including Senator BINGAMAN and myself, have long understood the challenge of poor forest health followed by these conflagrations, nothing focuses your attention like a community in your State consumed in a raging forest fire. As a result of this watershed event, Congress put together the funding for the National Fire Plan.

Having grown up near Cascade, ID, I know that large forest fires are not new to our community. But when in the space of three years a third of two national forests were consumed in large intense fires, such as those that occurred on the Boise and Payette National Forest in 1994 and 1996, you are forced to conclude something has gone haywire with our public land's management.

For a number of years I watched the implementation of the Pacific Northwest Forest Plan. I watched to see if the community assistance funding would trickle down to the small communities and to the workers that were displaced as a result of the plan. Sadly, the evidence is that in the smaller more rural communities many of the displaced workers did not benefit from those programs.

In 2000, with the help of Senator BINGAMAN, Senator WYDEN and I introduced and passed the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. This legislation includes provisions to empower rural communities to work with the federal land managers to undertake consensus-based projects designed to help meet the resource needs of the agency and to develop projects that will generate the economic activity so desperately needed in many of our small rural communities. In spite of our success Senator BINGAMAN and I knew that more had to be done.

We understood that we needed to construct more opportunities for our Federal land managers to work cooperatively with the people living in these rural communities. We understood that we needed to change dynamics so the knowledge, logic and wisdom harbored within the citizen of these small rural communities could be tapped to improve our public lands.

The legislation that we are introducing today will authorize the establishment of Restoration and Value-Added Centers designed to help small communities and business be better prepared to help our Federal land managers complete the forest management work that our forests so desperately need.

When Congress directed the Forest Service, BLM and other land management agencies to develop the National Fire Management Plan, and then increased funding for fire prevention, suppression, and restoration activities, many of the proponents expected much of the work would be funneled to smaller communities to take advantage of the expertise that exists in these communities, as well as to help stabilize the economies of these areas. Sadly most of the Federal agency's funding and efforts have been consumed with fire fighting and by the looks of this fire season that is not going to improve any time soon. Very little restoration work to reduce the risk of intense fires before they occur has been undertaken. Thus, we have not seen sufficient efforts made to take advantage of the human resource located in these small rural communities.

I believe the legislation Senator BINGAMAN and I are introducing today will help the Federal land managers take advantage of the local and traditional knowledge as well as take advantage of the under utilized woods workforces that have been put out of work over the last decade. This legislation will help small community and consensus-based groups who are eager to undertake work designed to improve our public lands. It will help our federal land managers reestablish a close working relationship with these communities and it will be very good for the public land.

Like any new experimental program we have included a number of provisions that first are designed to phase into these new relationships and secondly, designed to ensure that the Restoration and Value-Added Centers will not become a long term financial burden to the American public. We have included provisions to shift away from federal financing and toward private funding sources five years after the opening of the centers. Additionally, we have included monitoring provisions so we can track these new programs and make corrections as needed.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the coalition who helped to form and clarify the thinking of Sen-

ator BINGAMAN and myself as we developed this proposal. We held lengthy hearings to which many in the coalition traveled long distances to participate. They have been inspirational in their willingness to think outside the box and to work with our staff to refine this proposal.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 289—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT A COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP SHOULD BE ISSUED TO CELEBRATE THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. BREAUX) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 289

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT A COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP SHOULD BE ISSUED TO CELEBRATE THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) The Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase occurs in 2003, 200 years after the United States, under the Presidency of Thomas Jefferson and after approval by Congress, paid \$15,000,000 to acquire the 800,000 square mile territory stretching from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains.

(2) The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States and still remains the largest peaceful land transaction in history.

(3) The Louisiana Purchase, following exploration by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, allowed an unprecedented age of settlement and achievement by the people of the United States in the Nation's heartland.

(4) The land acquired in the Louisiana Purchase comprised all or part of the States of Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.

(5) Commemoration of the Louisiana Purchase and the subsequent opening of the American heartland through the issuance of a United States postage stamp would—

(A) heighten public awareness of the impact of the Louisiana Purchase on the American society through the expansion and development of the West; and

(B) benefit the American public by providing a lesson for continued democratic governance in the United States.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that a commemorative postage stamp be issued in 2003 to celebrate the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.

SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL TO CITIZENS' STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the chairperson of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee.