

the future, and show what all the players must do to meet the telecom needs of their community for today and tomorrow.

These plans take resources to develop. This amendment would provide those funds.

Providers say they're more likely to invest in an area if it has a plan that makes a business case for the costly infrastructure investment. Communities want to provide them with that plan, but they need help developing it.

Unfortunately, many communities get stuck on that first step. They don't have the resources to do the studies and planning required to attract service.

So the members of my Working Group came up with a solution: have the Federal Government provide competitive grants that local communities can use to develop their plans.

I took that idea and put it into a bill that I introduced in June 2001, S. 1056, the Community Telecommunications Planning Act of 2001. The basic structure of that amendment was incorporated into the Farm Bill.

When you think about it, it just makes sense. Right now the Federal Government already provides money to help communities plan other infrastructure improvements, everything from roads and bridges to wastewater facilities.

The amendment would provide rural and underserved communities with grant money for creating community plans, technical assessments and other analytical work that needs to be done.

With these grants, communities will be able to turn their desire for access into real access that can improve their communities and strengthen their economies. This amendment can open the door for thousands of small and rural areas across our state to tap the potential of the information economy.

I will work to ensure this provision is included in the final bill along with the other critical telecommunications initiatives that passed the Senate yesterday.

#### BUTTER/POWDER TILT

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, sets a price for the purchase of non-fat dry milk and the economic impact of USDA's decision is very important to California dairy farmers. On May 31, 2001, USDA made a decision to drop the price at which it will purchase non-fat dry milk as part of the dairy price support program.

USDA did not provide the dairy industry with an opportunity to provide information or comment on the Department's recommended decision. There was no advance notice or public hearings.

USDA conducted an economic analysis and all of the options may have been analyzed. But this information has not been released to the public, even though it was requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

In the first 6 months after USDA's decision to lower the price for non-fat

dry milk took effect, California's dairy farm families lost tens of millions of dollars. In meetings with USDA, California farmers learned that another drop in the price is under consideration, which would result in millions more lost to dairy farmers. California produces 40 percent of the nation's supply of non-fat dry milk and so California could be hit hard yet again.

Transparency is a critical part of a fair and equitable decision-making process and it does not currently exist in the USDA process for setting the non-fat dry milk price. The Secretary is currently required to make a decision that includes factors such as cost reduction to USDA. The Secretary also must consider other factors that the Secretary considers appropriate. I believe additional steps should be taken during the conference to assure transparency in the Secretary's decision-making process.

Factors that may be important to a decision to change the prices for butter and non-fat dry milk include: whether the decision will result in an intended change in milk production, whether the change will actually reduce government purchases and related costs, whether it will change producer milk prices, and whether other market factors, such as imports, have an effect.

Milk Protein Concentrate, MPC, is of particular concern. A recent GAO study documented significant increases in MPC imports that may be displacing domestic milk protein products. Since USDA is not releasing its economic analysis, we cannot know whether this important issue is being properly considered.

I would like to ask the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Senator HARKIN, if he would be willing to work with me on additional language to address this issue during the conference?

Mr. HARKIN. I would be pleased to work to address the concerns of the Senator from California regarding USDA procedures for the dairy support program.

#### PRESIDENT BUSH'S CHINA VISIT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, later this month President Bush will be visiting the People's Republic of China. Clearly this is going to be an important visit. The issues the President will discuss with China's leaders are among the most important of our national agenda, including the following:

The war on terrorism, where we need China's continued support and cooperation.

The global economy and our bilateral economic relations with the PRC, a new member of the WTO.

Security relations in Asia where both of our countries have important interests and long-standing and close ties to other regional powers.

Among all these issues, though, one that will undoubtedly be raised by the PRC is Taiwan. It is a pretty safe bet that the PRC's leaders will try to use

the President's visits to win some concessions on issues relating to Taiwan. They will probe for any signs that the United States is willing to compromise some of our interests in a strong U.S.-ROC relationship in exchange for real or promised strengthening of our ties with Beijing.

I know the President will be ready for this gambit, and will be fully prepared and determined to turn back any such efforts by Beijing. The President has already made it clear how important our ties with Taiwan are to the United States, and he has made it equally clear that he will not compromise our interest in regard to Taiwan in any way.

I am confident he also knows that as he pursues this strong, principled and sensible stand, he will have the full backing of the U.S. Senate. He will not stand for any Beijing attempts to undermine U.S.-ROC relations, and he knows the Senate of the United States won't, either.

The fact is, the Republic of China is one of our best friends in the region. It is also one of the region's strongest economies and most vibrant democracies. We have extensive ties to Taiwan, which are both articulated and protected in the Taiwan Relations Act. We are not going to do anything to compromise those ties.

I know I speak for all Senators when I express the wish that the President's visit to the PRC will be productive and advance our interests in Asia and the world, and when I express the confidence that U.S.-ROC relations will continue to be strong and to prosper, even as our relations with Beijing evolve.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in keeping with my policy on public disclosure of holds, today I placed a hold on further action on the Clean Diamond Trade Act, legislation reported out by House of Representatives.

Although this bill is very important to the continent of Africa's efforts to rid itself of rebels that use the sale of rough diamonds to overthrow legitimate governments, the measures in this legislation fall within the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee.

The proposed legislation calls for prohibiting diamond imports and should be discussed thoroughly before any rash decisions are made. With this in mind it is necessary for this bill to be referred to the Finance Committee to be heard and debated by our members before we send this legislation back to the floor.

#### NATIONAL DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY AWARENESS WEEK

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, as we commemorate National Duchenne Awareness Week, I express my gratitude to my colleagues and to the Bush administration for their support late last year in passing H.R. 717, the Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance Research and Education Act.

Sadly, at this time, there is no cure for DMD. Little boys with DMD are most often not diagnosed before the age of 2 or 3 years. Most boys with DMD walk by themselves later than average, and then in an unusual manner. They may fall frequently, have difficulty rising from the ground, or experience difficulty going up steps. Calf muscles typically look over-developed or excessively large, while other muscles are poorly developed. Use of a wheelchair may be occasional at age 9, but total dependence is usually established in the teen years. Most boys affected survive into their twenties, with relatively few surviving beyond 30 years of age.

I have heard from the parents and family of two little boys in Maine who have DMD. Their names are Matthew and Patrick Denger, and their family members are desperately hoping for a cure so they don't have to watch their sons suffer the long-term impacts of this debilitating disease. While we are far from finding a cure for DMD, I am hopeful that the MD CARE Act, signed into law by President Bush on December 18, 2001, will help Matthew and Patrick and the thousands of other young boys suffering from DMD. Specifically, the act authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and increase coordination of the activities by the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on muscular dystrophies, including DMD.

Efforts to improve the quality and length of life for thousands of children suffering from Duchenne muscular dystrophy are valuable beyond measure, and I commend all of my colleagues and all of the families who have worked so hard to raise awareness about this devastating disease.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred October 28, 1994 in Fall River, MA. A gay high school student was beaten by another teen who was heard shouting anti-gay epithets. The assailant, a minor, was charged with a hate crime and assault and battery.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### U.S. COMMISSION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HEALTH FACILITY NEEDS FOR SENIORS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am following with great interest the work of the U.S. Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Facility Needs for Seniors in the 21st Century, a Congressionally established panel co-chaired by Nancy Hooks of New York and Ellen Feingold of Massachusetts. Through a series of coast-to-coast field hearings, the "Seniors Commission" has launched an important nationwide dialogue on senior housing and health care issues, and the public policy challenges America is facing with the aging of the baby boom generation.

The Seniors Commission is due to deliver its recommendations to Congress by June 30, 2002. I am hopeful that the work of this panel will help to produce a more effective, coordinated and efficient approach to housing and health services for seniors. Americans—young and old—can learn more about the commission and share their views with the commissioners by viewing the Seniors Commission's website—[www.seniorscommission.gov](http://www.seniorscommission.gov).

#### PRESIDENT BUSH'S CLEAR SKIES PROPOSAL

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the President Bush's Clear Skies proposal that he announced earlier today. The president's proposal is a plan that would use our nation's greatest resource, the ingenuity of our private industries, to ensure our children and grand children can inherit, not just a healthy environment, but a healthy economy as well.

The President has made this possible by giving industries a clear target to reduce emissions but will allow them to find the means and the method to reach those targets without following the traditional command and control environmental policies that have proven to be such a big failure in the past.

The goals are not going to be easy to reach. His proposal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 18 percent over the next ten years is going to require industry stretch if it is going to measure up to the President's yardstick. But the goals are attainable, and, more importantly can be reached without bankrupting rural communities that rely on energy development, or by hurting those people who will suffer most by rising energy prices—people like seniors or low income families who could be forced to choose between paying their heating bills or buying food.

I also want to applaud the President for his willingness to reach out to developing nations to help work with them in developing a truly global effort to address global warming.

I have had the privilege of representing the United Senate at a number of Global Warming Conferences, starting with Kyoto, Buenos Aires, Se-

attle and more recently at the Hague. Those meetings provided me an opportunity to meet with global warming experts and representatives from other nations to discuss the role of the U.S. Senate in ratifying any treaty signed as a result of the United Nations negotiations.

Based on a 1997 Byrd-Hagel resolution, that passed the Senate on a final vote of 95 to 0, my message at each conference has included two important mandates that the Senate feels must be present in any global agreement affecting the United States. First, developing countries currently excluded from the framework protocol must be included in any final agreement; and second, the agreement could not result in serious harm to the United States' economy.

This is an issue that I have also been privileged to work on in my new capacity as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where last year we passed an amendment proposed by my distinguished colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. KERRY, to the Department of State Reauthorization Act that encouraged the President to do exactly what he has done today. The President's new proposal reengages the United States as major player in the international global warming debate, this time not as the country that will bank roll all of the programs, but as a leader that will show other nations the way to improve the environment without destroying the economy.

Under the President's proposal, US companies will be able to invest in technologies to offset greenhouse gas emissions without fearing that they will not get credit for their innovations, or that they will have even greater or more difficult requirements imposed on them because of their voluntary effort. They will no longer have to worry that they will be penalized for having done the right thing.

Once again, Mr. President, I applaud the President Bush for his proposal and for his vote of confidence in the people of the United States. American know-how and ingenuity has fueled the technological advances we are already using today to make steady improvements in air and water quality. The President hit the nail right on the head when he said that it is our strong economy that makes it possible for us to make those necessary technological advances.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO BOB KRICK

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, today I salute the retirement of Bob Krick, Chairman of the Civil War Preservation Group and Chief Historian at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. Throughout his long career, Bob has been a dedicated advocate for the preservation of American Civil War battlefields.