

that has put 100,000 police officers on the street. How wise is it to eliminate the COPS Program when we are subject to terrorist attacks?

These factors have made it virtually impossible for the House and Senate to ever reach agreement on a budget resolution this year.

In June, in the Senate, a group of us, on a bipartisan basis, offered a budget agreement for the next year containing the key elements of what the Budget Committee proposed, including the setting of realistic spending limits and renewing expiring budget enforcement mechanisms so we could maintain fiscal responsibility.

What did the Bush administration do? They engaged in a furious lobbying effort against it—against setting a realistic cap on spending, against extending the budget enforcement procedures to help maintain fiscal discipline. It seems shocking now to hear the President say he is worried about deficits because he and his administration blocked the efforts to protect us against those very events.

The fact is that we got 59 votes for that proposal on a bipartisan basis. We needed a supermajority, which is 60. Even though we had 59, we needed 60. So that spending cap wasn't put in place and we did not get the budget enforcement procedures extended.

The bottom line is that we set a realistic and appropriate spending cap. The administration is opposing it in a desperate attempt to look fiscally conservative given the massive deficits that have returned on their watch. Yesterday, one of my colleagues came to the floor and complained that spending is too high and it is the reason for the return to deficits.

The place where spending has increased is in defense and homeland security, every penny of which the President asked for, every penny of which passed here with huge, bipartisan majorities. Those measures that are still pending will pass with huge bipartisan majorities.

While it is true that defense and homeland security spending has gone up, it is very important to put into context what has happened to overall Federal spending over the last 20 years. What one sees is overall Federal spending—going back to 1980, it was 22 percent of GDP. In the previous Bush administration, it was close to 22 percent of gross domestic product. It has come down to 18.4 percent. Federal spending has been coming down as a share of our national income.

It is true we have now had a blip up. We have had that blip up because of the attack on America. Yes, we have increased defense spending; yes, we have increased homeland security spending—at the request of the President of the United States. He was right to do so. Even with that, we see—looking ahead—a decline in the share of national income coming to the Federal Government.

Federal spending, while certainly a part of this calculation and a contrib-

utor to the increased deficits because of the increases for national defense and homeland security, is not the major reason for the return to deficits and the increasing debt. It is a reason, but it is a relatively small reason.

The same can be said of discretionary spending, which is for all of the things that are not mandatory. Mandatory spending is Social Security, Medicare, farm program—that is mandatory spending. Discretionary spending is for things such as parks, roads, law enforcement, and defense. You can see that discretionary spending has come down quite sharply since 1981.

Again, we see a blip up because of homeland security and national defense. It is also quite remarkable to see members of this administration complaining about the discretionary spending cap we proposed when they are coming out at the same time estimating that a war against Iraq could cost literally hundreds of billions of dollars.

Just this Monday, we saw the President's chief economic aide say the cost of the war with Iraq may top \$100 billion. More than that, Mr. Lindsey dismissed the economic consequences of such spending, saying, "It wouldn't have an appreciable effect on interest rates or add much to the Federal debt, which is already about \$3.6 trillion."

I am from North Dakota. In North Dakota, \$100 billion is still real money. That is big money. The President's Chief Economic Adviser—maybe it is part of the reason we are in such financial straits as we are, because this man doesn't understand the significance of \$100 billion. He said it really makes no difference. On the other hand, they say \$9 billion more so that we don't cut the Federal highway program by 27 percent, so we don't eliminate the COPS program, so we don't cut education—that \$9 billion is a disaster, but \$100 billion doesn't matter. That is a policy that does not add up.

So where has the Bush fiscal policy left us? The fact is that the surplus is gone. The Federal debt has come roaring back. You will remember that last year the President promised us he would have maximum paydown of the Federal debt. Now we see that that is not true either. The debt held by the public in 2008, he told us last year, would be virtually eliminated. Now we see, instead of having virtually no debt, we are going to be stuck with \$3.8 trillion of debt. That has serious consequences for the country.

The President, who said he would have maximum paydown of the national debt, came and asked for a maximum increase in the debt limit. In fact, the only larger request for an increase in the debt limit came from his father when he was President. He asked for a \$915 billion increase in the debt. This President asked for \$750 billion. The consequences of this enormously increased debt—increased from what we were told last year—is that the interest costs to the Federal Government

have tripled, from \$620 billion, over the next 10 years, to \$1.9 trillion. These policies have real consequences, and real effects, and real impacts on our national economy.

Last year, the President said maximum paydown of the debt. Now what we see under his policy, instead of maximum paydown of debt, is that we will have maximum taking of money from the Social Security trust fund to pay for other things. In fact, the remarkable reality of what we confront is that the President, under his plan, will take every penny of the Social Security surplus over the next decade to pay for his tax cuts and other things. This is the time when we are on the brink of the retirement of the baby boom generation.

This is what we face in the longer term. Right now, the trust funds of Social Security and Medicare are throwing off large surpluses. But that money is being taken under the President's plan to pay for other things, including his tax cut. And we know that, starting in the year 2016, these trust funds go from cash positive to cash negative, and they do it in a very big way. We need to get ready for this reality. That is why we proposed less of a tax cut, more money to paying down debt, more money to secure the long-term solvency of Social Security. The President rejected that plan in a reckless way and has put us on a fiscal course that means more deficits, more debt, more economic insecurity, higher interest rates, lower economic growth, lower employment.

It is critically important that there be a balance in what we do in Washington. It is not healthy to have only one side to a debate. That is what we have seen in the last week. It is time for our side to speak up, to stand up, and to fight back because much is at stake for our Nation.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise to address a forest issue, but since Senator WYDEN and I have worked closely on this, I ask unanimous consent that his remarks directly follow mine.

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, for some time now, Senator WYDEN and I have been working together to try to put forward a compromise amendment on two amendments which are on the Interior appropriations bill. One amendment is by Senator BINGAMAN; the other by Senator CRAIG.

At present, both amendments need 60 votes. Neither amendment has 60 votes. Both amendments deal with a very real emergency in American forests today. It would be a tragedy if we could not use this appropriations bill as an opportunity to move a plan forward to do

the emergency work we need to do to protect our people, our property, our forests, and our endangered species from the risk of catastrophic fire.

Right now, 190 million acres of public lands are at high risk of catastrophic fire. That is 190 million acres, and 73 million of these are in the highest fire risk category, called class III. Of that class III, 23 million acres have been designated by both the Forest Service and the Department of Interior as in vital need of emergency treatment. Those are the strategic areas that need hazardous fuels taken out of the forests to avoid catastrophic fire.

Today in America, moderate to severe drought covers 45 percent of the Continental United States. It is predicted that El Nino is returning, which means we can expect volatile weather patterns, more pronounced rainfall, more pronounced drought. All of this will only exacerbate the risk of catastrophic fire.

It is estimated that this is the third hottest summer on record in the United States. To this fact, we are adding that 2002 looks as if it is going to turn out to be the worst fire season on record in the United States.

This year, 6 million acres of land has burned. That includes nearly a half a million acres in California, and because we have an Indian summer, we are not out of the forest fire season yet.

More property will be lost, more vital habitat for endangered species will be destroyed, and more people will be in greater danger if we do not do something. We have firefighters laying down their lives on these fire lines in some of the worst fires we have ever experienced.

Today, fires burn hotter, faster, and more intensely than ever, and there is a reason for this. The reason is because of forest policy which is what has been called fire suppression. That means you go in and suppress the fires as soon as they begin. Of course, that takes a lot of money, and we have used over \$1 billion just fighting these fires. It does not prevent a future fire from happening, but I believe fire suppression has to become the policy of the past rather than the policy of the future because what is happening in our forests is that we have an unprecedented buildup of materials on the ground, so-called biomass, fuels in plants and bushes.

We have a lot of nonnative species now springing up where certain ancient trees are fire resistant, such as the giant sequoias, for example. If other trees grow up among them, they become fire ladders so that when a fire starts, it has the fuel on the ground. It has the new young trees to use as ladders, and the fire whooshes up, hits the canopies of the old trees which are, for the most part, the habitat of endangered species and the greatness of our ancient forests.

The question comes up: How do we work at this? Senator WYDEN and I have chosen to see if we can put to-

gether a compromise between the Craig amendment and the Bingaman amendment which will allow us to move for the 1 year that is the life of the fiscal year 2003 Interior appropriations bill vigorously to treat some of those areas.

The areas that we would treat really is very small. Our recommendation would be up to 7 million acres out of the 24 million acres. We know the forest departments are going to try to do at least 2 million acres. What we are saying to them is: This next year triple your activity, move rapidly. Then we try to set the parameters of that emergency movement.

For a moment, I wish to share some of those parameters.

We make a number of findings in our amendment that document and reflect the emerging conditions we find in our forests, and I will talk about that in a moment. But the amendment establishes a 1-year pilot project to enable the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service to move rapidly to treat up to 7 million of the 24 million acres in those strategic areas.

Our amendment would have directed all of the work to be only on those lands at the highest danger level of catastrophic fire. It would stipulate that 70 percent of hazardous fuels reduction projects be done either within one-half mile of a community—that is what is called urban wildland interface—or within municipal watersheds. Those are the watersheds where the fire risk to the ecosystem is the greatest. So 70 percent of the program would be concentrated in the areas where we know there is the greatest risk. The urban interface has been broadly agreed to. There is some question on the watershed areas.

Having said that, for many States, rural States in particular, the only way they are going to get any emergency treatment is if we include these watershed areas because this is where they generate the big fires. These are, obviously, the more rural States. California can certainly use all of its funds just within urban interface, but that is not true for more rural States.

Our amendment would also allow the administrative appeals process to be truncated for these areas. What we are trying to do is speed things along, and we estimate this would save at least 135 days. Any fuels reduction projects, such as thinning or brush removal, within a half mile of any community would be excluded from what is called NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act, thus preventing these projects from being stalled indefinitely. I think there is broad agreement about that.

I think the environmental community understands the need to work quickly in areas very close to communities and very close to property.

Additionally, any temporary injunctive relief, whether it is a TRO, which is limited in days, we know, or a preliminary injunction, which can go on

for a substantial period of time—this is a big give on our part. This is, I think, for Senator WYDEN—and he will speak for himself—but certainly for me this is the last best offer to try to get an accommodation with the other side of the aisle. What we did was say that any temporary injunctive relief, preliminary injunction, or TRO, would be limited to 60 days with the authority to renew each temporary injunction without limitation.

What we believe it would do is cause the judge to reflect on our findings in the legislation, on the emergency situation, and on the problems directly on the ground at the time.

I understand my time is up. I ask unanimous consent for an additional 5 minutes.

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. This means in situations where the risk of fire is absolutely the greatest and projects are being held up in the courts, a judge must consider changing circumstances and whether to renew a preliminary injunction. Anybody filing an administrative appeal to a hazardous reduction project would be required also to raise the issue before the close of notice and comment; in other words, to have some standing to bring an appeal, not just to be able to jump in after all the periods have closed and go to court.

These were two of our biggest gives in the interest of trying to gain 60 votes. I truly do not think there is anything else we can do. These are very big concessions, at least as far as I am concerned, and I think that is echoed by Senator WYDEN as well.

I will quickly outline some of the additional safeguards in our amendment. There would be no road construction in any inventoried roadless area. An ecologically sufficient number of old and large trees would be maintained for each ecosystem; and for fuels reduction projects, agencies would be required to do all thinning from ground level up. This means that thinning would start with small trees and brush at ground level and act as a safeguard against the cutting of larger trees. And in special, or what is called extraordinary circumstances, such as areas with endangered species or tribal issues or where archeological findings may lie, the exclusions from the normal process do not apply.

Additionally, I will speak for one moment about the four findings in our amendment because they underlie the problems we are facing.

Firstly, in 2002, we find that approximately 6.5 million acres of forest land have burned, 21 people have died, and 3,079 structures have been destroyed. We find the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have spent a billion dollars fighting these fires. We find 73 million acres of public lands are classified in the highest risk of catastrophic fire. We find that forest management policy of fire suppression has resulted in an accumulation of fuel

load, dead and dying trees, infested trees, nonnative species, creating fuel ladders that allow fires to reach the crowns of large old trees and cause catastrophic fires. Fourthly, we find the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior should immediately undertake an emergency program to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. Obviously, the emergency program is confined to those areas I spoke about.

In closing, I thank, first, Senator WYDEN. I also thank Senator BINGAMAN, Senator DASCHLE, Senator CRAIG, Senator DOMENICI, Senator KYL, and Senator BURNS, all of whom have spent an inordinate amount of time trying to reach some agreement.

I restate my belief that the forest fires raging throughout the Western United States represent one of the most severe crises facing our Nation. The devastation has and will continue to be immense. It is the greatest human and ecological threat now facing virtually every Western State. This is a crisis that transcends the issue of party politics, and I deeply regret our inability to reach a meaningful compromise, at least at this time. Because the Interior appropriations bill will be on the floor at least for the next few days, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to continue to seek a consensus and I, for one, remain open to one.

I am sorry we do not have an agreement to report, but I want to end by thanking Senator WYDEN for his leadership. He has a State that has glorious forests, as do I. He has been wonderful, and I hope there is a change and we may be able to work something out together.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, let me begin by expressing my thanks to Senator FEINSTEIN. I still hope the Feinstein wisdom will prevail upon the Senate and we can get to common ground on this contentious issue. I want my colleague to know how much I appreciate the many hours and nights we have been at this, shuttling back and forth between our offices and the offices of Senator CRAIG and Senator BINGAMAN.

I share the Senator's commitment that, despite the news we have to deliver that there is no compromise today, we are not going to give up and we expect to revisit this issue in the Senate again soon. I thank my colleague for all her leadership, and particularly for her passion on this issue.

When I came to the Senate, I never felt very comfortable when the news media said I was elected to fill the seat of Senator Morse or Senator Packwood. That is because I do not think the people of Oregon send someone to the U.S. Senate just to fill a seat. The people of Oregon send someone to the Senate to work for what is right. That is what they expect of their Senators:

to do what is right and take your lumps. They can live with that.

With that in mind, Senator FEINSTEIN and I have now spent certainly 6 or 7 weeks trying to help find the common ground in the Senate for a balanced, narrowly focused bill to address the fire threat in our forests. We knew it would be a difficult task when we took it on, and it has certainly lived down to that promise.

This is what the Senate faced, as Senator FEINSTEIN and I tried to move forward. On the one hand, there is one camp of considerable passion that, unfortunately, would be willing to use this summer's horrendous fires to deny citizens the right to seek justice in a court of law or to severely limit those rights. In another camp, there have been many who have said we will accept no changes in these laws whatsoever, even changes that will benefit the environment. Their position, as far as I can tell, is that there is practically a constitutional right to a 5-year delay on forest management decisions.

Given these two camps, Senator FEINSTEIN and I, optimists by nature, said we know there are Senators who want to try to come together to find the common ground. We set out to do it. Unfortunately, as of this afternoon, it seems the Senate is not willing to seize the common ground which Senator FEINSTEIN and I believe is within the Senate's grasp.

Today, in a front page article of the Oregonian newspaper it was suggested that the Bush administration does not think it needs congressional authorization to pursue a solution to the forest health problem. My sense is they agree with Senator FEINSTEIN and myself that the use of, for example, what are called categorical exclusions offers a way to expedite the process required to reduce fire threats and restore diseased and damaged forests. The administration plans to pursue categorical exclusions though history shows there have been successful court challenges to administratively created categorical exclusions in the past. We believe the American people and the forests would have been better served with narrow specific congressional authorization of categorical exclusions—but, due to the lack of a compromise, that congressional action, as of this afternoon, will not happen on this bill.

Though, as we worked over the last few weeks, it seemed a core group Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator CRAIG, Senator BINGAMAN, Senator DOMENICI, and others—were very close to a compromise, we did not get there.

Instead, the result has been so many pieces of stray paper floating around Washington, the country, and the internet, as well as a whole host of poorly informed rumors. So much misinformation is out there that I have posted our joint Feinstein/Wyden proposal on my Web site so that people will see what it is we have sought to do to try to bring the Senate and our constituents together. I will touch on that proposal just briefly.

First, we allow the use of broad categorical exclusions to thin and salvage in the most fire-prone areas within the urban-wildland interface and allow the use of somewhat narrower categorical exclusions to manage fire-prone lands in other areas.

Second, we require people who may want to file an administrative appeal on a project at a later date to participate in the public comment process on that project.

Third, we require judges to periodically review temporary injunctive relief granted and to review those injunctions with updated information every time a project is brought before the court.

My sense is the administration could have accepted the proposal Senator FEINSTEIN and I have pursued—but not enough Senators could see their way there.

If Members want to get something done, they are going to have to take some political risk. I am not here to blame anyone. Senators have worked in good faith. However, I do not think it is too much to ask Senators to take a political risk to solve this critical problem so that families and forests are not facing the ultimate risk of devastating fires summer after summer.

There should be no confusion on this point. Unless there is some willingness on the part of the Senate to take the kind of political risk necessary to find common ground, we will see these devastating unnatural fires summer after summer, as sure as night follows day.

There were a host of obstacles to a compromise today, though in the past we have been able to find common ground. Senator CRAIG and I, for example, led an effort in this body to write the county payments law, a critical law that is used to offer billions of dollars for rural communities to pay for services and schools. People said that could not be done. The Forest Service now calls it the most important law for that agency in 30 years. Senator CRAIG and I came together more recently to try to advance an old growth protection proposal for the Pacific Northwest, though we have a lot more work to do in that arena. My point is, it is possible to find common ground.

I am going to try again, probably a lot sooner than some people think or may want, on this issue. But I do know that two Democrats, despite all the pushing and pulling, do not make a winning hand in the Senate.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I faced some big challenges. I opposed those who hold out for a major overhaul of the judicial process on this bill, though, due to its controversial nature, that approach is not going to allow us, any time soon, to address the risk of fire. We opposed others who may want to grant very broad forest management exemptions for projects conducted within municipal watersheds. That will also make it impossible to find common ground and a compromise.

But like I said earlier, I don't want to blame anyone today. Certainly, with all the misinformation out there about what I have done and supposedly not done or said during the last few weeks—and I am sure other Senators feel the same—this is not a time to offer a litany of charges with respect to any Member of this body.

My bottom line is this: I hope these efforts, laborious though they have been, can someday soon yield fruit. Toward that end, I thank a number of colleagues. Senator CRAIG has worked in good faith, and certainly closely with me. I hold him in the highest regard. Senator FEINSTEIN, as I have already mentioned, was there night and day working on this issue and I appreciate her efforts. Senator DASCHLE and Senator BINGAMAN went out of their ways to try to accommodate Senator FEINSTEIN and me. For their efforts, I am appreciative, as well.

I chair the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management. In Oregon, we have had tragic fires. I have been consumed by this day after day after day. I wish we were in the Senate today saying we had found the common ground. I think it is possible to do it. The Senate cannot leave this subject for too long and will return to it after this bill is done in some form or another. Too many lives and too many communities will be devastated if the Senate washes its hands of this issue. I am committed to working with all my colleagues, on a bipartisan basis, day after day after day, until this gets done.

I hope one day soon I will be able to come to the floor of the Senate and participate with my colleagues on something that all Members can believe is a positive step forward to make sure these treasures, our forests and lands across this country, are managed properly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

FORESTS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I congratulate my colleague from Oregon and my colleague from California for the effort to try to reach a rationalization relative to the decimation of the forests in the Pacific Northwest.

I am frustrated with regard to the extended negotiations associated with forest health. Any Member, if we are stricken, seeks the very best advice. We do not hold a townhall meeting. We seek out a specialist, a specialist who obviously is well trained, a specialist who bears the brunt of a suit if there is malpractice associated with the care given.

If I may draw a parallel, we have very sick forests. They are sick as a consequence of well-meaning environmental pressures to basically terminate access into the forests, which has always been provided by logging. Many people assume that old growth has al-

ways been. They overlook the reality that a forest is similar in many respects to a field of wheat. If it is harvested, it regenerates.

Depending whether selective logging is used or clearcut logging, the appropriate procedure is reforestation. Reforestation occurs by individually planting trees or it can be done by natural reseeding, which is much the case in my State. But we prolong this argument and take it beyond the realm of addressing in a timely manner the necessary correction. The necessary correction associated with our forests as a consequence of the tremendous exposure of fires is the management of underbrush that is predominant in the second growth. If that is not cleared, why, clearly we expose ourselves to complications associated with a huge fire moving through an area very rapidly and the inability to go in and fight it because we have eliminated access in much of our national forest.

So I beseech my colleagues to consider the ramifications. Let's make these decisions not on emotion; let's make them on the best forest management practice. We have foresters who spend a lifetime in the area of forest health. We have to listen to those people; otherwise, we are kidding ourselves and we are kidding the public. We should be taken to task by the public for not directing this corrective result.

While well-meaning environmental groups say let nature take its course, that is not, if you will, in the opinion of many of us, the appropriate procedure. We can help nature. We can help our forests. The forests are there, and we should recognize that we use the forests. They are a place of recreation; they are a place of productivity. If we have fires, we should take what the salvage capabilities are in the forests and move that timber out while it still has some value.

It is very frustrating to the Senator from Alaska. We have fires in the interior. The Tongass is a very wet area and we have few fires. But to see this debate go on and on with no conclusion, no recognition that decisions should be made on the basis of forest health, is extremely frustrating. I hope my colleagues will consider the bottom line. Let's make a decision on what is good for forest health.

DRAFT JOINT RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF U.S. ARMED FORCES AGAINST IRAQ

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I am going to briefly turn to another matter, and that is the recognition that today OPEC announced they were not going to increase the production of oil from the OPEC nations. What does this mean? It simply means that as we look at going into a showdown with Iraq, the Mideast nations that control oil—basically OPEC—are not going to increase production. That means to the American consumer a continuation of

high gasoline prices, high oil prices, perhaps well beyond \$30 a barrel.

We have seen the development of that cartel over a period of time. It initiated a program that said, in effect, if the price fell below \$22 a barrel, they would reduce supply to stabilize the price. They wanted a price structure of \$22 to \$28. That puts a tremendous burden on the structure of our society and our economy.

It is rather revealing to recognize that as we continue to address our situation with Iraq, we also continue to import oil from Iraq. I think currently we are importing about 600,000 barrels from Iraq each day.

We have delivered from the White House to the Speaker, majority leader, minority leader, as well as the House minority leader, a transmittal, which is the consequences of discussions with the President, identifying a suggested form of resolution with respect to Iraq. I ask unanimous consent this be printed in the RECORD.

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

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, September 19, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. THOMAS A. DASCHLE,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. TRENT LOTT,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT, LEADER DASCHLE, LEADER LOTT, AND LEADER GEPHARDT, As a follow-up to your discussion yesterday morning with the President, we enclose a suggested form of resolution with respect to Iraq. We stand ready to meet with you or your staffs to discuss our proposal.

As the President indicated to you, it is our hope that we can reach early agreement on the proposal at the leadership level to allow you to proceed to consider the resolution in your respective chambers as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

NICHOLAS E. CALIO,
Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

ALBERTO R. GONZALES,
Counsel to the President.

JOINT RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AGAINST IRAQ

Whereas Congress in 1998 concluded that Iraq was then in material and unacceptable breach of its international obligations and thereby threatened the vital interests of the United States and international peace and security, stated the reasons for that conclusion, and urged the President to take appropriate action to bring Iraq into compliance with its international obligations (Public Law 105-235);

Whereas Iraq remains in material and unacceptable breach of its international obligations by, among other things, continuing to possess and develop a significant chemical and biological weapons capability, actively seeking a nuclear weapons capability, and supporting and harboring terrorist organizations, thereby continuing to threaten the national security interests of the United States and international peace and security;