

only the increased fire risk, but the drought that this legislation addresses. While the proposals vary, forest health is an issue that needs to be dealt with immediately. Further delay in the Senate does not serve Montanans or anyone in the West that is trying to make a living and a life under these conditions.

Because we need to deal with all three of these issues as soon as possible, I fully support cloture on Senator BYRD's amendment. I am disappointed that it did not pass.

With regards to the amendment proposed by my colleagues from Connecticut, Senators DODD and LIEBERMAN, I am forced to disagree with the basis of their amendment. My colleagues from Connecticut have represented their amendment as only codifying existing procedures. But, from what I understand based on the hearing held in the Indian Affairs Committee on September 18, this amendment in fact requires the implementation of new procedures, including adversarial hearings at the request of any interested party, raises the burden of proof that a petitioning group must satisfy in meeting the seven mandatory criteria, and requires the Department to provide notice to officials of every State and local government and municipality where a tribal group may have ever been historically located or any geographic area a tribal group may have ever occupied.

In my home State of Montana, the Little Shell Band of the Chippewa Indians have been battling for over a decade for their Federal recognition. They have had to jump through many hoops as it is and they have yet to receive their official recognition. My Colleague's amendment would not only prolong the Little Shell's recognition, but would only add to the burden they have already carried for over a decade. Based on the outcome of the Indian Affairs hearing and the impact on my tribe at home, I respectfully disagree with my colleagues on this matter and believe it is in the best interest of the recognition process that their amendment was rejected.

Moving on to the Homeland Security votes, I would like to address the amendment introduced by my esteemed colleague from West Virginia once again. Senator BYRD has urged that the Senate take its time to thoroughly debate and analyze the proposed legislation to create the Department of Homeland Security. He has introduced an amendment to ensure that the Congress continues to play a role in the creation of a new Federal Department of Homeland Security. I agree with the good Senator that Congress should debate and analyze this proposal, but I disagree with his proposal on how that debate should proceed.

The Byrd amendment would require that the department be established in three phases. Each phase would be initiated by a proposal sent to the Con-

gress by the President. Each proposal sent to Congress would be referred to the appropriate congressional committees. The appropriate Congressional Committees should be involved in this process. But there are no deadlines or fast track procedures for legislative consideration and no guarantee the proposals would ever emerge from Congress and be signed into law.

This amendment would force Congress to reopen every battle over which agencies should be transferred into the new Department and on what terms they would be transferred. Moreover, by dividing the development into five separate legislative proposals, this amendment makes it impossible for legislators to consider the Department as a whole.

I regret to say that I cannot support my colleague's amendment and believe it was in the Nation's best interest that the amendment was not agreed to.

Finally, ever since the devastating attacks of September 11, Americans have been asking how the attacks happened, why they weren't prevented, and what corrective measures could be taken to prevent similar tragedies from ever occurring again. The American people deserve answers to these very legitimate questions. It's important that we find out just what happened through a non-partisan commission.

The amendment introduced by Senator LIEBERMAN represents a bipartisan initiative to help answer the many remaining questions in a constructive, methodical, and nonpartisan way. I support the amendment and am pleased that it passed.

SALUTE TO TAIWAN'S FIRST LADY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I take great pleasure in welcoming Taiwan's First Lady, Wu Shu-chen, to Capitol Hill. Madam Wu Shu-chen is a unique and remarkable woman. She is the Republic of China's youngest first lady, yet she has the poise and charm equal to those much older than she is. Men and women of all political parties admire her as a genuine person, totally unaffected in manners. When she addresses an audience, she speaks from her heart and writes her own speeches in a simple and direct style. She is what you see, a natural gem, without artificial polish.

Like her husband, Chen Shui-bian, Madame Wu, has overcome a great deal of adversity. And like her husband, they have both been strengthened by their struggles. In 1985, Madame Wu was struck by a hit and run driver. Her injuries left her permanently paralyzed from the waste down and confined to a wheel-chair. Soon after Madame Wu was tragically wounded, her husband was imprisoned for political reasons. Madame Wu did not shrink from her duties to her family or her country. While her husband was in jail, she not only served as a pillar for her family, but she ran for a seat in the national

legislature and won. No obstacle affecting her body or her heart could deter her.

Such a woman deserves our praise. Madame Wu is a natural leader; a matriarch in her family; and a matriarch to her country. I salute her for her selfless devotion to the people of Taiwan. We can all take strength from Madame Wu, and she is a role model for young women everywhere.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I extend my warmest welcome to the First Lady of Taiwan, Chen Wu Sue-jen, wife of President Chen Shui-bian, who is in Washington this week to visit with some of her and her husband's many friends here.

I am among the many admirers of President Chen. He is a courageous leader of his country at a very difficult time. The courage of his wife has earned for her great respect. In 1985, while supporting one of her husband's campaigns, Mrs. Chen Wu was hit by a vehicle that left her paralyzed from the waist down. That regrettable episode, believed by many to have been politically motivated, left this dear lady permanently confined to a wheelchair.

The following year when her husband was imprisoned by his political foes, Mrs. Chen Wu sought election on his behalf for a seat in the national legislature. She won and served in the legislature in spite of her serious injury. This courageous lady thereby kept Chen Shui-bian's political cause in the public eye.

Both before and after these events in their lives, Mrs. Chen Wu provided indispensable encouragement and support as Chen Shui-bian progressed from legislator to Taipei Mayor to President. He has called his wife his "most important source of strength."

First Lady Chen Wu Sue-jen was instrumental in building Taiwan's early, unequivocal and generous support for the United States and American people following the attacks on September 11, 2001. She comes to the United States this week with a message of Taiwan's continuing strong support in the war against terrorism.

I know that Senators will share my appreciation for her country's friendship and solidarity. I also hope they will join in welcoming Taiwan's First Lady on the occasion of her historic visit to the United States.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize Madame Chen We Sue-jen, the first lady of Taiwan, and welcome her to Washington, DC.

Madame Chen We Sue-jen has displayed exemplary character and strength in her endeavors to promote justice, human rights, and democracy in Taiwan. Overcoming both personal and professional hardships with grace, she has remained steadfast in her support of these principles.

Although Madame Chen We Sue-jen has overcome obstacles throughout her public career, never has she let it overcome her. She is described as optimistic, cheerful and friendly-noted for

her sense of human and laughter. She continues to act as a strong and effective advocate for Taiwan's physically challenged citizens. Throughout all her trials, she has remained solid in her support for her family and the people of Taiwan. This strength of character has contributed much to the First Lady's greatness.

First Lady Chen Wu is here today to bring a message from her husband and the people of Taiwan. Her message is one of cooperation and support from the Taiwanese in our joint antiterrorism campaign. Already, with support of Madame Chen We Sue-jen, Taiwan has demonstrated charity and humanitarian assistance to the victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. As mentioned in the House Resolution, the Government and people of Taiwan have consistently provided tremendous support and generous contributions to the United States after those attacks.

Madame Chen We Sue-jen is a woman of great character and strength. I wish to offer my warmest welcome to her as she visits the Capitol. I extend my gratitude to her for all the important work she has done and I wish her well in her pursuits of justice and democracy.

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 January 17, 2001 in Helena, MT. A gay college student was beaten unconscious in his dorm room. The attacker struck the student in the head with a bottle, beat him while he was unconscious, and wrote "Die Fag" on his body with an ink marker. The victim withdrew from school two weeks after the attack.

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 and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

CRANE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2002

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for S. 2847, which I recently joined as a cosponsor.

Cranes, the tallest flying birds on Earth and among the most graceful, inhabit wide expanses of wetlands and grasslands and exert a charismatic appeal reflected in many cultures.

Our Whooping Crane, the rarest of the world's cranes, is shared with Can-

ada and has survived only because of close cooperation between the United States and Canada. If the species is to survive, however, those magnificent birds need more intensive conservation efforts. This bill would provide such help, all up and down the Mississippi River Flyway, while also applying our conservation techniques on behalf of nine more endangered species of cranes in Africa and Asia.

This bill would support organizations with expertise in crane conservation by funding projects in areas such as habitat protection and restoration, research and monitoring of crane populations, community participation and outreach, and reintroduction of cranes to the wild. The projects will be asked to promote long-term conservation by eliciting matching funds from government agencies, local communities, NGOs or others in the private sector.

Whether in Louisiana, elsewhere in the United States, or overseas, protecting cranes' ecosystems benefits thousands of other animal and plant species at the interface between aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

Louisiana is important to cranes because of the spectacular wetlands along our southwest coast. Sandhill cranes, which had disappeared from the state, already have returned as a wintering species. In a natural area near New Orleans, the Audubon Nature Institute has established a Species Survival Center which is rearing the endangered Mississippi subspecies of the sandhill crane, for release in the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge near Biloxi. That Center also recently received eight Whooping Cranes and plans to expand to ten breeding pairs as the core of a plan to restore Whooping Cranes to Louisiana's coast.

Funding would flow through a new "Crane Conservation Fund" in Interior's Multinational Species Conservation Fund. In covering cranes, this bill would for the first time provide such protection for a species of bird.

I ask other Senators to join me in supporting the Crane Conservation Act of 2002.

FALUN GONG

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the determination and perseverance of the Falun Gong, a peaceful movement seeking the basic freedoms to think as they wish and believe as they choose that we as Americans hold so dear.

Three principles of Truth, Compassion, and Tolerance lie at the core of Falun Gong. Those who practice Falun Gong do so to become better, healthier people through living by these principles.

Despite Falun Gong's peaceful principles and teachings, violations of human rights have occurred in China against Falun Gong practitioners. Human rights is an important goal as recognized by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

which sets forth certain basic rights such as the right to life, to liberty, and to the freedom of expression. The Senate has ratified a series of international treaties such as International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, 1976, and the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1987. The Senate's approval of these and other treaties highlights the progress made towards human rights.

In direct response to the recent human rights violations against Falun Gong practitioners, the Senate, on November 19, 1999, unanimously approved Senate Resolution 217. This resolution, "recognizing the plight of many Chinese citizens," calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to: 1. release all prisoners of conscience and put an immediate end to the harassment, detention, physical abuse, and imprisonment of Chinese citizens exercising their legitimate rights to free belief, expression, and association; and 2. demonstrate its willingness to abide by internationally accepted norms of freedom of belief, expression, and association by repealing or amending laws and decrees that restrict those freedoms and proceeding promptly to ratify and implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

We must embrace the opportunity to continue to support the principles of Falun Gong to realize freedom and I wish them well in their quest for freedom and justice.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NEW JERSEY TASK FORCE ONE

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of the Senate the outstanding efforts and contributions of the New Jersey Task Force One Urban Search and Rescue Team.

On September 11, 2001 at approximately 9:00 a.m. New Jersey Task Force One was activated and deployed to the World Trade Center Attack. Requested by New York City's Office of Emergency Management, New Jersey Task Force One had an advance team in New York City by 11:15 a.m. The team's entire equipment cache, along with 140 members was set up at the Jacob Javits Center by 2:00 p.m. that same day. They deployed search assets to search for survivors during the afternoon and evening of the 11th and for the next 10 days, they worked continuously as part of the urban search and rescue effort.

In a short period of time, New Jersey Task Force One became an integral part of the rescue efforts. The team was integrated into the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue System and was included in the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Action Planning. The well-equipped New Jersey Task Force One had the ability to lend critical equipment to some of the responding FEMA