

provides limited funding that will permit the Secretary of Transportation to initiate a new Fair Competitive Bid Procedure that the States can utilize. The Secretary will then monitor the progress of this demonstration and make monthly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

I believe this is an excellent idea and was considering offering a similar amendment to this bill. However, I do not wish to delay the proceeding today, and this is already an item to be considered in conference.

I would like to know if the chairman has an opinion on the House State-assisted intercity rail service provision.

Mr. SHELBY. I share my colleague's support of a procedure that will encourage the States to initiate passenger service through a competitive bid process. I believe it is important that Congress examine whether a competitive process can preserve and expand intercity rail passenger service at reasonable prices. I pledge to the Senator from Kansas that I will work with the House conferees to pursue a provision that would introduce a uniform procedure to allow the States the option of providing competitive rail passenger service.

Mr. BROWNBACK. I thank the distinguished chairman and look forward to working with him on a fair bid proposal.

BORDER CROSSING

Ms. COLLINS. I would like to thank the managers of the bill for their leadership on this important legislation, and I greatly appreciate their efforts to improve our Nation's transportation infrastructure.

Mr. SHELBY. I appreciate the Senator's support, and I thank her for her leadership.

Ms. COLLINS. I would like to make my colleagues aware of a project of great importance, not just to my constituents in Maine, but to the rest of the country as well. The existing border crossing connecting Calais, ME to St. Stephen, New Brunswick is heavily congested and therefore causes significant traffic delays and creates serious security concerns for U.S. and Canadian travelers and cross-border commerce. The current crossing is the eighth busiest commercial crossing on the Canadian border and has seen truck traffic double over the last 10 years. Since 199 the Maine Department of Transportation, along with the Federal Highway Administration and the General Services Administration, has engaged in a comprehensive National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, process to determine the location for a new, modern, efficient border crossing. As part of the overall project, the General Services Administration is responsible for designing and constructing a new border station. The Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency, CCRA, will be responsible for the design and construc-

tion of the border station on the Canadian side of the river. The Maine Department of Transportation and New Brunswick Department of Transportation, and the Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency have funding in place for their portions of the design. Therefore, it is crucial that funding for the GSA portion of the project be appropriated so that design and construction work can begin as soon as possible. I would ask that the Senator from Alabama work with me to ensure that this project moves forward as quickly as possible. Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. SHELBY. I acknowledge the Senator's request, and I pledge to work with her on this matter.

TERRORIST FIREARMS DETECTION ACT OF 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I express my support for the Terrorist Firearms Detection Act, a bill introduced earlier this week by Senator KENNEDY. Originally passed in 1988, and sometimes called the "plastic gun" law, this Federal law makes it illegal for any person to manufacture, import, ship, deliver, possess, transfer or receive any firearm that is not detectable by walk-through metal detectors or the type of x-ray machines commonly used at airports.

Since September 11, 2001, the Congress has worked hard to improve the security of our borders, airports, government buildings, and communities. However, in just over 2 months, on December 10, this essential common sense gun safety legislation is set to expire. The Terrorist Firearms Detection Act would permanently reauthorize the plastic gun law. Plastic guns, whose production has been endorsed by the National Rifle Association, should only be used by our military and intelligence agencies and must never find their way back into our communities.

This legislation has the support of every major gun safety organization in the country, including the Brady Campaign to Prevent Violence United with the Million Mom March, Americans for Gun Safety, and the Violence Policy Center.

The overwhelming majority of my colleagues would agree that plastic guns pose a clear and present danger to our nation's aviation security, as well as governmental targets across the country. In fact, Pete Shields, the former president of Handgun Control, the predecessor organization to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Violence, said it well in testimony before the House Judiciary Committee in 1988.

Weapons which evade security devices put us all at risk. Every airport, every courthouse, every public building which relies on screening devices for security will no longer be safe. At a time when our Nation is committing vast resources and energies to stopping terrorism and protecting our citizens abroad, we should not even consider making it easier for terrorists to operate in our own country.

I urge my colleagues in the Congress to act quickly to enact this legislation, and I also hope that President Bush will soon sign this important gun safety legislation into law.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

Earlier this month, two men were slain in Stevens County, Washington. Russell Charles Markvardsen, 52, and Matthew Lee Raynor, 32, were shot to death at close range with a shotgun in their cabin in the Onion Creek area. The two men previously lived in a log home that was destroyed in a May 2002 fire that authorities investigated as a possible arson. At the time, the men told the Spokesman-Review newspaper in Spokane that they suspected arson because of possible prejudice against their homosexuality.

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 is 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.

WORLD POPULATION AND WATER SCARCITY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the week of October 20-25 has been designated as World Population Awareness Week with the theme of "Water: Our Most Precious Natural Resource."

Because the world's 6 billion people are dependent on 1 percent of all the water on Earth, many fear a future where water scarcity will undermine political growth and lead to political and social unrest. Over the next 20 years the world's population is projected to increase to 7.2 billion, yet the average water supply is expected to drop by one-third in that same time period. World population is expected to balloon to 9 billion before leveling off.

Despite the looming future of water scarcity, consumption is increasing. The world's population has tripled in the past 100 years, but water use by humans has multiplied six times. Without a global commitment to sustainable water management, the world will see a large majority of its population living in areas where basic water requirements for drinking, cooking, or sanitation will be difficult or impossible to meet.

Acting on the global consensus that water scarcity must be a top development priority, the Population Institute has decided to dedicate the 19th World

Population Awareness Week to the issue of water.

More than 80 nations, 165 organizations, 201 mayors, and 22 Governors have dedicated proclamations of World Population Awareness Week to highlighting the critical issue of water. Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich has made such a proclamation and I wish to call it to my colleagues' attention. I ask unanimous consent the proclamation be printed in the RECORD.

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

Whereas, the world's population of 6.3 billion is projected to rapidly continue to increase to increase to nearly 9 billion before finally slowing down, and

Whereas, the population of the United States currently exceeds 291 million, and it is estimated to increase to nearly 600 million by the year 2100; and

Whereas, the Population Institute, founded in 1969, is an independent, educational non-profit organization, dedicated to achieving a more equitable balance between the world's population, environment and resources; and

Whereas, since 1985, the Population Institute has organized World Population Awareness Week to create public awareness of the startling trends in population growth, the detrimental effects that rapid population growth has on our planet, and the urgent need for action; and

Whereas, the theme of World Population Awareness Week 2003 is "Water: Our Most Precious Resource," and

Whereas, water is fundamental to sustaining life; and

Whereas, 20 percent of the world's population currently faces a water shortage, a figure expected to rise to 30 percent by the year 2025;

Therefore, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 20-25, 2003 as WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK, and urge all citizens to conserve water whenever and whenever they can, and further reflect on ways to ensure adequate safe water supplies for future generations.

Mr. DURBIN. The week will be marked by events taking place at university campuses, community centers and civic institutions throughout the State to teach the residents of Illinois about the effects of a crowded planet.

In many hot spots around the world, there is simply a shortage of water. Some analysts predict that a major war over water is possible sometime in the future. Experts often cite the Middle East as an area where many water disputes could derail peace efforts or lead to another war. But there are critical water disputes the world over, and, as population increases, and potable water becomes yet more scarce, violent disputes over water become increasingly likely.

It is estimated that water shortages plague 20 percent of the world's population in at least 30 countries, and, it is estimated by 2025, as much as 30 percent of the world's population in 50 countries will face water shortages.

Even in places where there is enough water, it often is not clean enough to drink. An estimated 1.2 billion around the world lack an adequate, safe water supply, and 2.3 billion lack adequate

sanitation. It is estimated that as many as 5 to 7 million people die every year from water-related diseases, including 2.2 million children under the age of 5.

Former Senator—and my friend and mentor—Paul Simon, has been a leader in the Senate and beyond in highlighting the need for better, cheaper ways to desalinate salt water. This is an area where improved technology has the potential to benefit millions of people and to help defuse brewing conflicts.

Many nations have begun to depend on desalinated water. For example, a number of Middle Eastern nations have come to depend in part on desalination, and the city of Los Angeles obtains a significant percentage of its water from desalination plants. But the technology is still expensive and out of reach for many nations, States, and municipalities.

But there are many "low tech" approaches that could conserve water in to promote the sustainable use of underground water aquifers, including drip irrigation or other agricultural practices that conserve water, water distribution systems that reduce leakage and evaporation, sewage systems that reduce water use, and many other solutions. Some of these solutions are expensive, but others require more changes in thinking and habits and a commitment of political determination than money.

That is why I want to bring this critical problem to my colleagues attention today. It is not hopeless. Awareness of the issue is the first step to implementing solutions, small and large, to be sure our descendants inherit a peaceful world with an adequate and safe supply of our most basic necessity—water.

PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET ACCESS ACT

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, while the pharmaceutical industry is the most profitable industry in the world, millions of uninsured and underinsured Americans continue to struggle to afford medicines they need when prices are out of reach.

The facts paint a disturbing picture. According to a 2002 Families USA report, the pharmaceutical industry has been the most profitable industry in the U.S. for the past 10 years, being five-and-one-half times more profitable than the average Fortune 500 companies. A Public Citizen June 2003 report found that in 2002, the top 10 drug companies netted profits of \$36 billion, or more than one-half of all profits for Fortune 500 companies. While drug companies claim that their high prices support research and development one study found that eight major American pharmaceutical companies spent more than twice as much on marketing and administrative costs than on research and development.

And while powerful drug manufacturers continue to bring in high profits,

American consumers continue to pay the highest prices in the world—three to ten times more than other developed countries pay. South Dakotans cross the border every day to go to Canada in the hopes of purchasing lower-priced drugs that will prevent them from having to make the tough decision of choosing between buying groceries or life-saving medications.

And the recent actions of many of our State leaders indicate that Americans are fed up with paying by far the highest dollar prices in the world for prescription drugs that often times their tax dollars helped to develop. State governments have resorted to taking matters into their own hands: Maine now allows the State to negotiate fairer drug prices for all residents using the buying power of its Medicaid program, several States including Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota are exploring the possibility of importing prescription drugs from Canada for State employees, and Minnesota's Attorney General filed a lawsuit against GlaxoSmithKline alleging that the pharmaceutical company is violating antitrust laws by "spearheading an industry-wide conspiracy" to prevent U.S. residents from reimporting U.S.-made prescription drugs at a lower cost from Canada.

The American people are fed up. They are demanding that Congress end the "sweetheart deal" that gives the powerful pharmaceutical industry a captive market. A recent poll taken by the Washington Post and ABC News found that two-thirds of Americans support the legal importation of FDA approved prescription drugs and I have joined several of my colleagues to introduce the Pharmaceutical Market Access Act which will do just that. I thank Senators DORGAN, STABENOW, DAYTON, PRYOR, LEVIN, FEINGOLD, SNOWE, JEFFORDS, and MCCAIN for staying committed and working with me on this very important issue.

This bill, which is the companion to House reimportation bill H.R. 2427 that passed with broad bipartisan support, will finally provide American consumers with immediate access to FDA-approved medicines in Canada, as well as other industrialized nations. It contains strong safety protections that will ensure that the U.S. drug supply remains safe. Innovative techniques such as counterfeit-resistant packaging and drug wholesaler pharmaceutical shipment testing will ensure this safety.

American consumers are already importing \$500 million to \$1 billion in prescription medicines from Canada and elsewhere. This is on top of the already \$13 billion U.S. made prescription drugs already being reimported by pharmaceutical manufacturers under the authority found in the Prescription Drug Marketing Act of 1988. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the reimportation provisions found in this bill could provide approximately \$40 billion over 10 years in savings to