

language, the provision on statistics collection, and a handful of other sections.

But we all know that no bill is perfect and no Senator gets everything he or she wants in a broad, bipartisan bill. I mention these shortcomings, not to criticize the efforts of the authors of the bill, but rather for two important reasons.

First, the shortcomings in the S. 760, as well as the KPCS itself, highlight the fact that Kimberley is an ongoing process and that additional regulations, legislation, and other measures will be necessary in the future. I am very pleased that Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS have included a sense of Congress in S. 760 that says just that.

Second, because the legislation gives the administration a good deal of flexibility, it is imperative that the State Department, Treasury Department, and other agencies follow through and implement the KPCS in an effective and timely manner. I can assure you that those of us who are co-sponsors of this legislation will be working to ensure this happens.

As I have said with countless other pieces of legislation, you can have the best bill in the world, but it is not worth a whole lot if Congress and the administration do not put the resources behind it.

I applaud the authors of the bill for including a Section in the bill that authorizes the President to provide technical assistance to developing nations seeking to implement the KPCS. But, it is up to the Appropriations Committee to make sure this initiative is funded.

As ranking member of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I included a provision in the fiscal year 2003 bill that appropriated \$2 million for this purpose. However, I have been informed that it is unclear if the State Department plans on utilizing these funds for their intended purpose, and that the Department might transfer it to other programs.

This would be a big mistake. In order to effectively implement Kimberley, extremely poor nations, where diamonds are mined, will have to set up viable export-control and law enforcement systems. Many of these nations simply do not have enough resources to do this.

Because of the links between conflict diamonds and terrorism, as well as human rights and humanitarian concerns, it is important that the United States provide technical assistance in order to have the most effective system possible. If providing a small amount of funding helps strengthen the KPCS, we should do it.

Some in the administration might ask how one would go about implementing such a program.

Those who ask those questions need to look no further than two programs that the U.S. Government has implemented in the past.

The United States Agency for International Development supported a suc-

cessful program in Sierra Leone to improve controls associated with the mining and export of diamonds. In addition, the United States provides technical assistance to nations to implement the World Trade Organization agreement. I am confident that these two programs can provide a model for the use of these funds.

Americans buy 65 to 70 percent of the world's diamonds, including rough diamonds, polished stones and jewelry containing diamonds. It is up to the United States to provide leadership on this very important issue. Without us, the world will not make the kind of progress it needs to on this and other human rights related matters.

This should not be hard for us to do. It is in our security interests. It is in our humanitarian interests. It is in our economic interests.

With the passage of the Clean Diamonds Trade Act, Congress will take an important step forward. There is much more work that needs to be done, but I am confident that it can be done.

In closing, I would like to thank some of those involved with this effort, including Everett Eissenstat and Carrie Clark of Senator GRASSLEY's staff, Shara Aranoff of Senator BAUCUS' staff, Randy Soderquist of Senator BINGAMAN's staff, Laura Parker of Senator DEWINE's staff, and last but certainly not least Cara Thanassi of Oxfam America. Without the help of these individuals, this bill would not have made it to first base. I thank them for their hard work.

EMERALD ASH BORER

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, over the past 450 years, more than 6,500 non-indigenous invasive species have been introduced into the United States and have become established, self-sustaining populations. These species—from microorganisms to mollusks, from pathogens to plants, from insects to fish—typically encounter few, if any, natural enemies in their new environments, and as a result they can wreak havoc on native species. Invasive species threaten to biological diversity. Some experts consider invasive species and the ecological damage they cause to be a greater environmental threat worldwide than chemical pollutants. Estimates of the annual economic damage caused nationwide by these species go as high as \$137 billion.

In my home State of Michigan, there is a disaster unfolding which could dramatically increase this cost. For the past few years, scientists have been concerned with the unusually high number of dead and dying Ash trees in the metro-Detroit area. Late last summer, scientists determined that the problem is caused by a beetle which came into the country from Asia: the Emerald Ash Borer. This beetle is indigenous to Asia and has been found in China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Mongolia and Eastern Russia.

Like other invasive species, the Emerald Ash Borer is destroying native species. While scientists believe that the insect came into the country as little as five years ago, it has already left millions of trees in the Detroit area dead or dying. Since there is no economically feasible manner to treat trees, there is concern that all of the Ash trees in the Detroit area will be dead within 5 years.

In order to stop the spread of the Ash Borer, last summer the Michigan Department of Agriculture imposed a quarantine to stop Ash trees, logs and firewood as well as Ash tree nursery stock from being removed from Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw or Livingston countries in Southeastern Michigan. Later in the fall, Monroe country was added. The Michigan Department of Agriculture is currently working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the creation of a program to potentially eradicate the Emerald Ash Borer, yet funds from USDA, for a comprehensive effort, have yet to be provided.

The presence of this beetle has been allegedly reported in other parts of Michigan, and the beetle has recently been positively identified in Toledo, Ohio and Windsor, Ontario. Ohio, Indiana and the Province of Ontario, Canada, are very concerned about the spread of this pest, and the web-sites of their respective Departments of Agriculture have contained warnings about the beetle. Now, with the presence of the beetle in Toledo and Windsor, those fears have increased.

One proposal for stopping the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer would be to create a "fire break" by removing trees in a ring around the affected area. Since scientists believe that this beetle can only fly three miles, such an approach, which is already underway in the area surrounding Windsor, Canada, could be successful. However, doing so would be expensive and money is desperately needed not only for beetle eradication and tree removal but also for research.

While the effects of the Ash Borer on Southeast Michigan have already been devastating, the potential results of the beetle's spreading could be catastrophic. As one of the most popular urban trees, Ash trees are found across much of the country. This invasive pest has the potential to be as destructive as the historic Dutch Elm Disease. The sad irony is that Ash trees were planted in place of many of the Elm trees that our State and Nation lost years ago. Should the Ash Borer spread continue, the Forest Service estimates that the potential impact could affect "up to 2 percent of total leaf area and could impose a value loss between \$20-60 billion." This number is arrived at without including the cost of replanting deforested areas.

This devastation has already crossed state borders and will cross more unless dealt with. State and local governments cannot be expected to deal with

it. They also face budget shortfalls that are necessitating drastic cuts in basic services because of declining revenue, increasing demands and extensive budget constraints. They are having trouble funding existing obligations to schools and police forces even without having to pay to address the new multi-State threat posed by the Emerald Ash Borer. I have received letters from cities in Michigan, civic organizations and from the Southeast Michigan Council of Government, or SEMCOG, which represents 151 local governments in the region all asking that the Federal Government take an active role in stopping the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer. Without such active and timely support, coordination and funding from USDA, it is unlikely that this problem can be adequately addressed.

SEMCOG has stated that "the Emerald Ash Borer is decimating the Ash tree population in a 2000 square mile core area within the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston and Washtenaw." Michigan State Senator Raymond Basham and State Representative Glenn Anderson have written to me about this problem. In his letter to me, Representative Anderson said that "Michigan is facing another round of budget cuts at the local levels and local communities simply will not be able to afford the added burden of removing and replacing these trees." Adding to this burden is the fact that local governments are required to remove these trees from rights of ways and government properties because dead trees create significant public health risks and liability issues for property and personal damage.

Governor Granholm has worked hard to support cooperative efforts that are underway between the State of Michigan and United States Departments of Agriculture. In meetings with her, she has said that USDA funding is essential to address this problem.

If the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer is not arrested, it will cost billions of dollars to pay for the removal of dead Ash trees and the replanting of new trees. The costs associated with the loss of the Ash tree are not merely financial in nature. Habitat will be destroyed, scenic vistas will be denuded and residential streets that were once tree-lined will no longer have needed shade.

It is critical that we address the Emerald Ash Borer before it is able to spread across a greater area. It is essential that the United States Department of Agriculture complete its efforts to provide much-needed emergency funding to address the Emerald Ash Borer. The Michigan delegation has written twice to Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman about this matter. In these letters, the Michigan delegation has stated that without "swift and sure action, the entire ash tree population will be lost. To avoid this tragedy, we asked that USDA provide funds to "determine the problem's ex-

tent," and "for combating and eradicating this invasive species."

It is imperative that the USDA provide \$17 million in Fiscal Year 2003 emergency funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation to combat the Emerald Ash Borer and that the Office of Management and Budget approve these funds as expeditiously as possible. Additionally, USDA should provide research monies that would enable USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service and the Forest Service's North Central Research Station to work with Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University and other world-class schools of forestry to fund vital research into this problem. The beetle's larvae hatch in the Spring, and while it may not be possible to kill this year's hatch of beetles, time remains of the essence if the Emerald Ash Borer is to be eradicated. Addressing the matter now will be costly, but delays in addressing the matter will only increase the costs and diminish the likelihood of success.

The Emerald Ash Borer's spread can be halted, but action must be taken quickly. It is for that reason that I urge Secretary Veneman to immediately provide the emergency and research funds that will be a vital component of any effort to address the problems created by this persistent pest.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I will be speaking on leader time over the next few minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

THE CARE ACT

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I rise to speak on the CARE Act. I applaud my colleagues, Senators SANTORUM, LIEBERMAN, GRASSLEY, and BAUCUS, for bringing this bipartisan bill to the Senate floor.

The CARE Act comes none too soon. Charities across America are indeed facing tough and challenging times. A sluggish economy, which we all feel in our communities, is hampering in many ways their ability to secure funds to operate. This bill, which we will pass shortly, will help change that. It is not a total solution but will help move in the direction to change that.

I take a moment and ask the question, Why are we doing this bill? This

bill is about recognizing that Washington does not have all of the answers; that we in this body do not have all of the answers; that our Government does not have all of the answers to America's problems. But America, her people, and her spirit, all throughout this land do have the answers.

Some in Washington, on the right and on the left, prefer to address social problems with legislative solutions. But many of our Nation's problems simply do not reduce themselves to a solution that can be devised in the U.S. Congress, in the legislature itself. What they need are neighborhood solutions, solutions that begin to address problems that are identified in local communities, that are addressed locally, that are addressed by communities and neighborhoods, solutions that are not delivered by a form letter from a government bureaucrat, but from the hand of somebody in that neighborhood—a local neighborhood, someone who really cares, who understands the problem locally.

I am thinking of a wonderful charity down the street from here. For 20 years the volunteers of the Neighborhood Learning Center at the corner of 9th and Maryland have been tutoring at-risk children. They do so without fanfare, without a lot of publicity, without Federal funds. They are faith-based and their service is motivated by their love of God. They are making a difference—yes, one child at a time.

I think of LeSharon, who herself was tutored when she was a girl from a broken family. A few years later, LeSharon was back at the center but this time as a college graduate and one of their instructors. That is exciting. Or I think of the Room in the Inn program in my hometown of Nashville, TN. Over 125 congregations provide nightly housing for homeless adults and children. This is a tangible and compassionate response to human need.

These charities, like the Neighborhood Learning Center, like the Room in the Inn program, are only small rays of light in our American landscape. Their service is only part of what makes us a strong and a vibrant Nation. Almost 200 years ago Alexis de Tocqueville warned: The morals and intelligence of a democratic people would be in as much danger as its commerce and industry if ever a government wholly usurped the place of private associations.

What de Tocqueville understood was that the house of a democratic nation does not stand by just government. A healthy nation needs vigorous private associations, charities, and civic clubs all coming together. The CARE Act recognizes this vital fact. That is why it helps to foster private charity in our Nation. It encourages more charitable giving—of money, of food, of art, or securities. It provides incentives for low-income people to begin saving for a house, a business, or education. And it