

U.S. manufacturers and agricultural producers. U.S. consumers will clearly gain from it as well. This agreement will also further cement our friendship with Australia, a long-time ally and our strong partner in the war on terrorism.

The U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement is an example of the importance of Trade Promotion Authority. It has been almost 2 years since Trade Promotion Authority was signed into law as part of the trade act of 2002. During this time, the United States has signed free trade agreements with Chile, Singapore, and now Australia. The implementing bills for each of these agreements passed the Congress with strong support, so Congress clearly recognizes the benefits of trade promotion authority.

Many people worked hard to see that this vote became a reality. First and foremost, this would not have happened without the leadership of President George W. Bush. President Bush is committed to building the U.S. economy by opening the world's markets to U.S. goods and services, and the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement is just the latest of the trade accomplishments he has made possible.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick deserves strong commendation for his efforts in negotiating this agreement. His commitment to expanding U.S. trade opportunities is steadfast.

I would also like to thank chief U.S. agricultural negotiator Allen Johnson for his willingness not only to listen, but also to act, upon the concerns of U.S. farmers and ranchers during the negotiations. Many others at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative deserve my thanks as well.

I commend my colleagues on the Finance Committee for their interest in seeing that the agreement was concluded and that the implementing bill was passed. I would like to extend a special thanks to the ranking member of the Committee, Mr. BAUCUS. We have worked together over the years to expand trade to the benefit of U.S. workers, farmers, and consumers, and I am pleased with the outcome of our current efforts with the passage of this implementing bill.

My staff on the Finance Committee has worked diligently over the past weeks on the implementing bill and other materials connected with it. My goal was to have this legislation passed prior to the August recess, and they were instrumental in making this happen. Moreover, my Finance Committee staff was engaged in consultations with officials from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative throughout the negotiations, which began way back in March 2003, so this has been a long process for them. I greatly appreciate their hard work.

My Chief Counsel and Staff Director, Kolan Davis, deserves recognition. His talent in managing many legislative issues, including trade, is readily apparent.

The Chief International Trade Counsel of the Committee, Everett Eissenstat, worked tirelessly to see that the passage of this legislation would actually occur, so today's vote is yet another testament to his skills. I would also like to thank the rest of my trade staff—David Johanson, Stephen Schaefer, Dan Shepherdson, and Zach Paulsen—for all of their hard work and dedication to the Finance Committee's work and to the people of Iowa.

Mr. BAUCUS's Finance Committee staff also deserves recognition. Russ Sullivan and Bill Dauster, respectively staff director and deputy staff director of Mr. BAUCUS's Finance Committee staff, worked well with my staff throughout the process.

I also appreciate the efforts of Tom Punke—Mr. BAUCUS's chief international trade counsel—and Sara Andrews, Shara Aranoff, John Gilliland, Pascal Niedermann, and Brian Pomper.

Finally, I would like to thank Polly Craighill of the office of the Senate Legislative Counsel for the many hours she put into drafting the implementing bill. Without her patience, hard work, and skills, today's vote would not have been possible.

I look forward to the signing of this legislation into law by President Bush.

RESOLVE, THE NATIONAL INFERTILITY ASSOCIATION

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to commend RESOLVE, the National Infertility Association, on its three decades of accomplishment and for the many activities it has planned to observe National Infertility Awareness Week, which will be celebrated this year during the week of September 26 to October 2, 2004.

For 30 years, RESOLVE has compassionately and effectively served the needs of the nearly seven million Americans comprising our Nation's infertile community, and has been a leading force in efforts to educate the broader public about this devastating condition. Infertility is recognized as a disease and medical condition that has devastating physical, social and psychological consequences.

RESOLVE, the National Infertility Association, was incorporated by Barbara Eck Menning, in 1974, to aid and support individuals with infertility. RESOLVE is a nonprofit organization, governed by a volunteer board of directors, many of whom are individuals with first-hand personal experience with the physical, emotional, and social challenges accompanying infertility. They are citizens who have overcome these challenges through assisted reproductive technologies and adoption or determined that their lives would be childless. Regardless of their resolution, RESOLVE helped them to reach it with information, education, and support. RESOLVE's leaders are also members of the professional community who address these issues including National Institutes of Health funded

researchers, attorneys, physicians, nurses, and other representatives from the health care industry and related businesses. RESOLVE has a database of more than 40,000 individuals and providers, and a network of more than 40 chapters providing support services, information and grassroots advocacy in local communities nationwide.

National Infertility Awareness Week focuses attention on the fact that infertility affects approximately 6.6 million people in the United States, a figure which represents 1 in 10 couples in which the woman is of reproductive age. These are only the reported cases. Millions go unreported because of the stigma attached to infertility and recent surveys suggest that nearly three-quarters of those who can be helped do not seek medical or other assistance because of, among other things, their fears and lack of awareness of the resources available to them and the limited insurance coverage to assist them. The National Institutes of Health, most particularly the National Institute for Child Health and Development, spends approximately \$300 million a year on biomedical research focused on reproductive health, treatments, and cures of reproductive disorders. This important research will advance our understanding of infertility-associated diseases and the availability of more effective and affordable treatments that will be respected by insurers and employers as a routine benefit for all those insured.

I am proud that my state of Hawaii and 14 other states have enacted laws that require insurance companies to provide some level of coverage for infertility treatment. Like the thousands of individuals working as part of the RESOLVE network, a dedicated community of Americans, I am committed to helping to ensure that those struggling with the multiple challenges of infertility have regular access to appropriate and affordable health care coverage to address their health care needs.

I applaud the work of RESOLVE, The National Infertility Association, and commend the many ongoing efforts and special activities throughout the country aimed to educate and inform the public about the issue of infertility, during National Infertility Awareness Week, September 26 to October 2, 2004.

"FOUR TRIALS"

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as we approach the end of this Congress, we will reach a point when a number of us will make statements reflecting on those who will not be returning to the Senate next year. I will miss a number of Senators who have chosen not to seek reelection. Today, I want to focus on a Senator who is responding to the country's call by joining with another extraordinary American leader, JOHN KERRY, in this year's national campaign. I speak, of course, of JOHN EDWARDS, whose energy, optimism and good sense have been a great asset to the Senate over the last 6 years.

I read that political partisans at corporate business and insurance organizations have established a "November Fund" of \$10 million to seek to smear JOHN EDWARDS. I hope that before the American people or the media fall prey to these attacks, they consider the facts. In that regard, I urge Americans to read "Four Trials". This extraordinary book is an autobiographical account of JOHN EDWARDS's life and some of the cases in which he represented ordinary citizens who had suffered grievous wrongs. JOHN is rightly proud of his hard work as the lawyer representing E.G. Sawyer, Jennifer Campbell, Josh Howard, Valerie Lakey and so many other middle class and working class families against powerful interests that both harmed them and then refused to acknowledge responsibility for causing that harm.

I wish that those preparing to launch attacks against JOHN EDWARDS and other trial lawyers would read "Four Trials." It has recently been released in paperback, so now for only \$13 they may save themselves millions in negative attack ads. No one who knows the story of JOHN EDWARDS's legal career can have anything other than admiration for what he was able to achieve through hard work, persistence and belief in the American people who serve on our Nation's juries. That faith in ordinary Americans and commitment to justice is what he is now bringing to American voters across the Nation.

My plea may be futile when addressed to the rabid partisans who, again this year, will apparently stop at nothing. Those who will foster and promote attacks on JOHN KERRY's military service and on JOHN EDWARDS's representation of injured, ordinary citizens in need of a voice have likewise savagely attacked JOHN MCCAIN during the Republican primaries 4 years ago and MAX CLELAND 2 years ago.

They promote attacks to divide us. They lessen America by fostering squabbles for partisan gain. I was pleased to see JOHN KERRY and JOHN EDWARDS issue a call at the Democratic nominating convention in August for the Republican ticket and its supporters to abandon negative attacks. I am disappointed that Republican partisans have not risen to that challenge but continue to engage in what is rightfully termed a "smear and fear" campaign. George Bush could have and should have called a halt to the scurrilous attacks upon JOHN KERRY's heroic military service but seems more than willing to see Karl Rove's well-known smear tactics dominate this fall's campaign.

The upcoming wave of attacks against JOHN EDWARDS will be one financed by those who oppose lowering drug prices for seniors, oppose a real patients' bill of rights and oppose accountability for misconduct that shatters the lives of ordinary Americans. Let them tell David and Sandy Lakey that JOHN EDWARDS, and lawyers like

him who fight for victims, should not be allowed to seek justice in America.

I urge fair-minded Republicans and independents as well as Democrats to consider JOHN EDWARDS's life and work and to read "Four Trials." It will make you cry. It will remind you that good-hearted people like JOHN and Elizabeth Edwards do the right thing and seek to help their neighbors. It will make you proud to live in a country where ordinary Americans can take on the powerful with the help of a committed legal advocate and achieve some measure of justice.

I look forward to the days and weeks ahead when more and more of the country will have the opportunity to get to know JOHN EDWARDS. I have every confidence that come the inauguration in January, JOHN will return as President of the Senate as a part of his duties as Vice President of the United States. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve with him, and I look forward to working with him on behalf of the American people in the years to come.

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE U.S. COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise to note the April 20th release of the Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. This comprehensive report, the first of its kind in 35 years, lays out an ocean blueprint for the 21st century for implementation by the Congress and the Administration. The Ocean Commission, led by former Chief of Naval Operations and Secretary of Energy, Admiral James D. Watkins, USN (Ret.), is to be congratulated for its diligence and dedication to its mandate to make recommendations for a comprehensive and coordinated national ocean policy for the United States.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has always had a strong connection to the ocean. From the arrival of settlers in Jamestown in the early 1600's, to the current day when the ports of Norfolk, Portsmouth and Newport News play a vital role in our Nation's economy and security, Virginia has always depended on the oceans. While the Commonwealth has long recognized the importance of the oceans, one of the most valuable contributions of the Ocean Commission's report is its finding that oceans and their resources are important to all States, and that we all have a role to play in their protection and management.

The Ocean Commission's preliminary report represents the culmination of 2½ years of work, including 15 public meetings around the country, 17 site visits to gather more detailed information, and input from 445 witnesses, resulting in nearly 1,900 pages of testimony. The report is over 400 pages long and contains almost 200 recommendations designed to improve the Federal governance structure, enhance and in-

crease ocean science and research, improve coastal water quality, sustain our Nation's fisheries, and improve the stewardship of our oceans through an expanded education and outreach program.

An overarching theme of the report is the need at the Federal, regional and State levels to move toward an ecosystem-based management approach that acknowledges the complexities of both ecosystems and human needs. This approach recognizes the relationships among all ecosystem components and requires fundamental changes in governance and greatly improved science and education. Through its active participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program, Virginia understands the many advantages to be gained by developing regional, ecosystem-based approaches to address the complex interrelationships of activities in many States that impact the Bay.

As the former Chief of Naval Operations under President Reagan, Admiral Watkins well knows the role oceans have played in protecting United States national security interests. The Ocean Commission's preliminary report, while not focused primarily on national security issues, contains recommendations on ports and marine transportation, vessel operations, increased ocean research and exploration, improved management of our ocean resources, and accession to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea—all of which will contribute to our Nation's security and future well-being.

As the Commission finalizes its report I look forward to working together with the administration and my associates in this body and in the House as we take advantage of the opportunity presented by the work of the Ocean Commission to implement a new vision for the future of our Nation's oceans.

POSTAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I take a few moments to comment on S. 2468, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, which will reform the postal laws of the United States to guarantee its success into the 21st century. The United States Postal Service faces several long-term financial challenges unless something is done. In the last 5 years alone, the first-class mail, which accounts for over half of all postal revenue, has dropped dramatically. The continued downward spiral of the Postal Service is linked to the increased use of faxes and e-mails to communicate. As these different ways of communicating and doing business increase, it is important to preserve delivery to every address—making it a universal service—which this bill guarantees. As a rural State, Montana is a primary example of a State that needs this assurance. The Postal Service is the only service provider available in