

is hard for them to come up with the resources by themselves. But with Federal assistance it is possible.

Critics of this kind of approach say it is porkbarrel, more earmarks and Federal spending and, you know, these Senators, they are trying to put more money in their States for political reasons. Well, the fact is, this is Federal money earmarked for projects to avoid flooding, to protect homes, to protect neighborhoods, and to protect great national treasures such as Lake Michigan.

The reservoirs not only will help stop sewage overflows, but they are going to save homeowners money. Almost 75 percent of the residential lots in South Holland, IL, are now in a floodplain. That will be removed when the Thornton projects are complete. Completing these projects will save the homeowners in South Holland \$713,000 in annual insurance premiums.

A lot of those homeowners are struggling with property taxes now and getting a break on flood insurance is certainly good news. This is just one of the many examples of how the WRDA bill will save homeowners real dollars and protect their homes.

Another important feature of the bill for Illinois is increased lock capacity and improvements to the ecosystem of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. The Mississippi River, of course, is a beautiful river, and father of all waters, and has many claims to historic and natural significance. But it also is an important avenue of commerce. This is the backbone of the waterway system of America. It transports \$12 billion worth of products each year, including over 1 billion bushels of grain to ports around the world. This efficient river transportation is vital to Illinois. Shipping by barge is inexpensive and helps keep our ports competitive. That is good for producers and good for consumers all over the world.

More than half of the Illinois annual corn crop and 75 percent of all U.S. soybean exports travel along the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. Shipping by barge is not only cost effective, but it has real environmental benefits. Barges operate at 10 percent of the cost of trucks, 40 percent of the cost of trains, they release far less carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide, and hydrocarbons, and barges use much less fuel to operate.

But the system of locks and dams along the Upper Mississippi that make travel possible is in desperate need of modernization. The current system was built 70 years ago and it needs to be repaired. Many of the older locks are only 600 feet in length. Most of the current barges are twice that length. That means these goods take twice as long to go down the river into the marketplace.

The override veto before us today will authorize \$2.2 billion for replacing and upgrading locks and dams, and—this is a critical part of it—\$1.7 billion for ecosystem restoration along the river.

We struck an agreement between those who want to use the river for commerce, and those who value it as a natural resource. We said, if we improve the locks and dams, we will put a comparable amount of money, \$1.7 billion, into restoring the river, the ecosystem of the Mississippi River. So I think that is a fairminded, balanced approach to what our Nation needs.

As we have seen in the tragedy that occurred along Minnesota's 35-W bridge, our country's infrastructure is aging and overburdened. The projects included in this bill are desperately needed to shore up our waterway system, a vital component of our national infrastructure.

Unfortunately, the President vetoed this bill last Friday. After years of trying to put this bill together, this President discovered his veto pen this year and decided he would start vetoing bills one after the other. This is the latest casualty. The WRDA veto override was passed by the House yesterday with an overwhelming vote, 361 to 54.

When the Senate originally considered the bill earlier this year, there were only five Senators who voted against it. In less than 1 week this Congress has come together to send the President a strong message that his fiscal priorities are misplaced and misguided. I do not understand how this President can ask us for \$196 billion to rebuild Iraq, and we ask for \$23 billion to put into rebuilding America's waterways, protecting the levees that could flood communities and doing things that are critical for our future, and the President says it is wasteful spending—wasteful if it is spent in America, not wasteful if it is spent in Iraq?

I fear the President gets up every morning in the White House and looks out the window and all he sees is Iraq. If he looked out that window, he would see America is out here too. It needs investment. A strong America begins at home. The Water Resources Development Act will build the infrastructure which will build the economy, creating good business, good-paying jobs, construction jobs that cannot be outsourced, jobs that will be filled by Americans getting decent wages and good benefits, taking them home to their families, building up the neighborhoods and communities that are the backbone of this great Nation.

The President does not see that. Oh, he can see \$196 billion for Iraq. He cannot see \$23 billion for America. I think he is wrong. By the vote yesterday in the House of Representatives, overwhelmingly they told him he was wrong. I hope we reach the same conclusion when this matter comes before us tomorrow. What was intended to be reauthorized every 2 years is now 5 years too late.

If we follow the President's lead, we will postpone this again, we will see locks and dams continue to deteriorate, bridges continue to fail, and people wondering why in the world this great Nation of America is not making

certain its infrastructure and backbone are strong enough to sustain economic growth.

It is time the President stopped using his veto pen for essential projects, programs like those in this bill, and in the appropriations bills that will be sent his way. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill to override the President's veto.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

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

EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, this great Nation has long stood for a commitment to justice and equal rights for all Americans. Opening the doors of opportunity to all who have something to contribute has been a key to America's success as the world's strongest economy, and as the world's most successful democracy. Our cultural diversity is a pillar of our strength, and the promise of equal rights is a fundamental freedom of our democracy. Today, the House passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2007, which would further promote and protect our country's diversity and every American's civil rights by further protecting Americans from discrimination in the workplace.

This important legislation would prohibit workplace discrimination by making it illegal to fire, refuse to hire, or refuse to promote employees simply based on a person's sexual orientation. Currently, Federal law provides basic legal protection against employment discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin or disability but not sexual orientation. Discrimination on the basis of certain personal characteristics has no place in any workplace or in any State, and it is long overdue for Congress to extend American employees these protections. This legislation has broad support not only from civil rights groups but also from leading American corporations, because they understand that there is no place for discrimination in our workplaces.

I commend the House for passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2007, and I look forward to the Senate taking up this measure without delay.

NATIONAL METHAMPHETAMINE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I am pleased to join my colleague, Senator BAUCUS, in sponsoring the National Methamphetamine Awareness Month resolution of 2007. As a senior Member of the Senate representing a State confronting an epidemic of methamphetamine abuse and as cochairman of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, I have often been confronted with heartbreakng stories of the destructive nature meth abuse has on families and children. All too often, meth abuse not only ruins the life of the user, it disrupts the lives of the users family, friends, and the community at large. That is why Members of Congress must do everything we can to ensure that communities across the country have the tools and support they need to stop meth in its tracks.

Since the passage of the Combat Meth Act in 2005, an act that restricted the sale of a main ingredient of meth known as pseudoephedrine, or PSE, the number of home-grown meth labs has dramatically decreased throughout the Nation. In spite of this encouraging development, the National Association of Counties reports, in its recent survey of county sheriffs, that meth remains the No. 1 drug problem in almost half the counties across the country. In some cases, sheriffs reported, in this survey, that not only has the rate of meth abuse stayed the same, it has actually increased. The Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA, estimates that over 80 percent of the meth in this country is smuggled in from Mexico by drug cartels who produce this poison in superlabs.

Senator BAUCUS and I have held hearings to examine ways in which the Government could break the meth supply chain while helping to reduce the number of people suffering from meth. One of the areas discussed, to help achieve these goals, was to boost our efforts to educate and raise awareness among the public. We have to do a better job to reach those who don't view meth as a deadly drug, and we have to ensure that our children never try meth. Studies show that the longer you keep a child drug-free, before the age of 20, chances are very good that they will never try or become addicted to drugs.

In my State of Iowa, we have 22 community based organizations that are designed just for this purpose. One of these organizations, that I founded, called Face It Together, or FIT, encourages parents, educators, businesses, religious leaders, law enforcement officials, health care providers, youth groups, and news organizations to work together to come up with new and creative ways to confront drug abuse within their communities. While some of these community coalitions receive some financial support from the Federal Government, the real difference is made by all of those who volunteer within their communities to ensure they remain drug-free.

Although much remains to be done to eradicate meth from our communities, this resolution is part of a vast, ongoing effort to ensure meth abuse does not expand further into our society. I am pleased that this resolution is supported by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, CADCA, and I urge my colleagues to join us in support of our efforts against meth abuse.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Detroit Repertory Theatre, one of Michigan's oldest, continuously operating professional theatre companies. Located in the heart of Detroit, this theatre company has made significant contributions to the arts landscape in Detroit and across Michigan, forging an enduring legacy over the last half century.

The arts play an important role in building and sustaining communities by bridging cultural, ethnic, economic differences, and by being an important economic catalyst. Since its inception in 1957, the Detroit Repertory Theatre has been at the forefront of this effort and has provided world-class theatre productions for the greater Detroit community. Its ongoing emphasis on racially and ethnically diverse casting and its focus on theatrical relevancy have allowed it to carve out an important niche in the grassroots theatre world.

The Detroit Repertory Theatre's golden anniversary is particularly impressive considering the myriad challenges grassroots theatre companies face. This theatre company has not only weathered and adeptly overcome every challenge but continues to provide quality performances, while focusing on making their productions both relevant and accessible to the community. Integral to the theatre's mission is reaching out to a broader theatre audience through various successful outreach efforts, including Arts in Education Programs, Free Acting Workshops, the New Playwrights' Program, and the Charitable and CMO Partnerships.

True to its bold tradition of forging ahead, this anniversary not only celebrates past achievements but concurrently looks forward and embarks on new challenges. On Saturday, the Detroit Repertory Theatre will hold a black tie benefit to formally celebrate its golden anniversary and to kickoff its 50th Anniversary Challenge. This effort seeks to raise the funds necessary to execute its operational and community development initiatives, seeking to position the theatre to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

When an organization enjoys the type of success the Detroit Repertory Theatre has over the years, there are many who have sacrificed much and deserve acknowledgement and our heartfelt gratitude. It is in this spirit that I

know my colleagues join me in recognizing and congratulating all those who have contributed to the Detroit Repertory Theatre's many successes over the last 50 years, in particular Bruce Milan, an original cofounder and the theatre's artistic and managing director, as well as his fellow cofounders, Barbara Busby and Dee Andrus. The community looks forward to an equally impressive record of success over the next half century. Break a leg!

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR

• Mrs. CLINTON. Madam President, I am honored to recognize Mr. Bernard Rader of Freeport, NY, for his selection as one of just seven Americans—along with my colleague, Senator INOUYE—to receive the French Legion of Honor from President Nicolas Sarkozy on his first official visit to Washington. Bernie, who is also a recipient of the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, is deservedly being recognized for the heroism and courage he displayed in the service of our Nation as a soldier in the 301st Regiment of the 94th Infantry Division during World War II.

The Legion of Honor was established by Napoleon in 1802 to honor both military and civilians who have made significant contributions to French life. With this recognition, Bernie Rader joins Legionnaires including Dwight Eisenhower, Winston Churchill, Neil Armstrong, and Queen Elizabeth II.

Bernie Rader was born in the Bronx on December 12, 1923. In 1943, Bernie heeded his country's call to service and joined the Army as a rifleman assigned to the 94th Infantry Division. On September 8, 1944, just over 3 months after D-day, Bernie's regiment landed on Utah Beach in Normandy, France. The 94th ID subsequently moved into Brittany, where it was responsible for containing and taking on remaining pockets of German resistance in the English Channel ports of Lorient and Saint Nazaire. During the Siege of Lorient, in October 1944, Bernie's platoon was ambushed, and he was wounded and taken captive as a prisoner of war. Thinking quickly, Bernie asked one of his comrades to bury his dog tags to keep the Nazis from discovering his Jewish faith. Bernie was held for 6 weeks as a POW before being released during an unprecedented prisoner exchange organized by Andrew Gerow Hodges of the Red Cross.

Bernie's 94th Infantry Division went on to help liberate several small French towns. They also trained and armed 29 French infantry battalions to aid them in the war against Germany. In early 1945, the 94th ID launched an attack across the Saar River, which separated France and Germany. By March of 1945 the division controlled a 10-mile front, where it repelled German attacks. On March 13, 1945, they drove to the Rhine River, eventually taking