

today. This bill will help see this facility become a reality and help the farming and ranching communities in the valley continue to produce needed food for the state and Nation.

Second, the Colorado Northern Front Range Study Act included in the package will help Coloradans protect the scenic Front Range mountain backdrop in the northern Denver-metro area and the region just west of Rocky Flats.

Rising from the Great Plains, the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains provides a scenic mountain backdrop to many communities in the Denver metropolitan area and elsewhere in Colorado. This mountain backdrop, which includes much of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, is an important aesthetic and economic asset for adjoining communities. It is also part of our unique culture, having beckoned settlers westward before exposing them to the harshness and humbling majesty of the Rocky Mountain West that helped define the region. The pioneers' independent spirit and respect for nature still lives with us to this day.

Yet rapid population growth is increasing recreational use of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest and adding pressure to develop other lands within and adjacent to that national forest. The bill directs the U.S. Forest Service to study the ownership patterns of the lands comprising the Front Range mountain backdrop and identify areas that are open and may be at risk of development. Additionally, it directs the Forest Service to recommend to Congress how these lands might be protected and how the Federal Government could help local communities and residents to achieve that goal.

Third, the bill includes the National Trails System Willing Seller Authority Act. This act will change the current law prohibiting people who own land associated with several units of the trail system from selling those lands to the Federal Government. Because of this act, people who want to sell land for inclusion in certain units of the National Trails System will be able to do so.

Our national trails are a national treasure, and I have enjoyed them for my whole life. We should allow property owners to sell their land along these trails to the Federal Government to be part of our public lands legacy. But we must make clear that these land sales are from willing sellers.

Finally, this legislation includes the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness and Indian Peaks Wilderness Expansion Act. This provision will designate nearly 250,000 acres of Rocky Mountain National Park as wilderness. The provision will guarantee the backcountry of Rocky Mountain National Park will be managed so that future generations will experience the park as we know it today. The legislation will also allow the National Park Service to continue its important efforts to battle the devastating bark beetle infestation and to engage in nec-

essary wildfire mitigation efforts and emergency response actions.

The wilderness designation in this bill will cover some 94 percent of the park including Longs Peak and other major mountains along the Great Continental Divide, glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra and wet meadows, old-growth forests, and hundreds of lakes and streams.

Examples of all the natural ecosystems that make up the splendor of Rocky Mountain National Park are included in the wilderness that will be designated by this bill. At the same time, the wilderness boundaries have been drawn so as to allow continued access for the use of existing roadways, buildings and developed areas, and privately owned land.

In conclusion, the passage of this bill in the Senate and House will mark the culmination of many years of work by a number of Coloradans, and I look forward to it becoming law.

FALMOUTH VOLUNTEER WEEK

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, this week marks the Celebrate Volunteers Week at the Falmouth Volunteers in Public Schools Program, VIPS, in Falmouth, MA. I would like to take this opportunity to commend and thank those that participate in the VIPS Program which fosters interaction between the citizens of Falmouth and their public schools. Through this connection the schools are empowered to enrich their curriculum and the community at large benefits from a greater participation in their children's future.

The volunteers in this nonprofit organization log about 40,000 hours each year in support of the students, faculty, administration, and the community. This incredible effort is also supported by the business community in Falmouth that not only invests in VIPS events but also supports employee participation.

By comprehensively involving all facets of the Falmouth community VIPS enriches the lives of all involved. They provide mentoring and tutoring programs aimed at raising children's self esteem and teaching English as a second language. They have made school to business partnerships that enhance the educational experience of students by sharing resources with local businesses and bringing in guest speakers. Their innovative Cross Age Science Teaching Program matches junior high school volunteers to help elementary school students learn about electricity.

VIPS has grown from its inception in 1982, when they only had a handful of volunteers, to a robust program with over 1,100 volunteers in all 7 schools in Falmouth. When we think about improving our education system, what we need to remember is that community involvement can make a world of difference. When you get folks in the community to volunteer and become a part

of the educational process, they become invested in the success of the students. That is what is happening in Falmouth. I congratulate all of the people who have helped make the Falmouth Volunteers in Public Service a success, and I commend the work that they do.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, due to an illness, I was forced to miss the previous two rollcall votes.

The first vote was on the nomination of Elena Kagan to be the Solicitor General of the United States. The second vote was on cloture on the motion to proceed to national service bill. Had I been present for these two rollcall votes, I would have voted aye.

Elena Kagan has the qualifications and intellect to be an outstanding Solicitor General. I am proud that she is the first woman to hold this important position.

I also support the motion to proceed to the national service bill and am disappointed that it is necessary to invoke cloture to break the filibuster against this bipartisan legislation. It is important that we act to expand opportunities for Americans who volunteer their time and talents in service to their communities.●

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

REMEMBERING FALLEN POLICE OFFICERS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is with deep sadness that I discuss one of the deadliest attacks against California law enforcement in my State's history—an attack that took the lives of four Oakland, CA, police officers, and has left our community reeling from the shock of this terrible and senseless loss.

Every day, our law enforcement officers selflessly and bravely put their lives on the line to protect our families and our communities. If anyone, anywhere, needed a reminder of that, this tragedy puts a spotlight on the risk our police officers face every day.

On Saturday, March 21, what should have been a routine midday traffic stop for Oakland PD officers Mark Dunakin and John Hege quickly turned into a murder scene.

After fatally wounding both officers, the suspect fled the scene, leading to a frantic manhunt that involved more than 200 officers from Oakland PD, Alameda County Sheriff's Office, BART Police and the California Highway Patrol. The suspect was quickly tracked down to an apartment. But when the SWAT team entered the apartment, he fired a series of shots from inside of a closet, fatally wounding officers Daniel

Sakai and Ervin Romans, and injuring a third, before he was shot and killed.

In the days and weeks ahead, we will have important debates about the problems with our justice system that allowed a violent offender to be on the streets in clear violation of his parole. And we will debate the issue of powerful weapons in the hands of dangerous criminals.

As these debates move forward, I will work to give our law enforcement officers more support and more resources to adequately protect our communities and protect themselves.

Now I want to pay tribute to these four fallen officers.

Sergeant Mark Dunakin, age 40, was an 18-year veteran of Oakland PD. He was no stranger to violent crime, having worked homicide cases in the criminal investigation division. But he later transferred to the motorcycle traffic division where his days focused on patrolling our streets on his beloved Harley Davidson, cracking down on drunk drivers and trying to always enforce our State's seatbelt laws. Sergeant Dunakin is survived by his wife Angela Schwab and their three children.

Officer John Hege, age 41, had been with the Oakland PD for 10 years and had only recently started his dream assignment of becoming part of the motorcycle traffic division. Respected by his colleagues and well liked by his neighbors, Officer Hege was often known to lend a helping hand, and even found time to umpire high school baseball in his free time. After being gunned down this weekend, Officer Hege was declared brain dead. And true to the heroism he exhibited in his life, his organs are being donated to help save other lives. Officer Hege is survived by his father and his beloved dog.

Sergeant Ervin Romans, age 43, had been with the Oakland PD since 1996. As a member of the elite SWAT team, Romans was in charge of entering the most dangerous situations to confront and arrest barricaded suspects. Known as just "Erv" to his friends and colleagues, he was among a group of officers awarded the department's prestigious Medal of Valor in 1999 for helping to evacuate residents during a fire. His captain, Ed Tracey said he "had an exterior image of being the tough, rugged guy, but everyone knows he has a soft heart." Sergeant Romans is survived by his three children.

Sergeant Daniel Sakai, age 35, had recently been named a leader of the entry SWAT team, and was known to all as a rising star. Before joining the SWAT team, Sergeant Sakai worked in the K-9 division, responding to calls with his dog, Doc. He studied forestry at UC Berkeley, where he was a member of the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity. He also worked as a community service officer at Berkeley, escorting students around campus at night. He is survived by his wife Jennifer, a UC Berkeley police officer, and their daughter.

My thoughts and prayers are with the families, friends, and colleagues of these fallen officers in this tragic time.

We must come together to support those suffering, and in the coming days we must come together, firmly resolved to end the violence that has for too long eaten away at the fabric of our communities. ●

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

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

I certainly feel the impact of huge and unpredictable increases in all the necessities: gas/fuel, household energy costs, food, clothing, travel, etc. All of these have risen rather dramatically, sort of like dominoes. I am spending a lot more for a lot less. As I am deciding not to go do something or go buy something, I think of all the merchants and businesses that will, if they are not already, suffer from this (all of us not going places, and buying so much less). I have almost totally quit eating out. Movies are out of the question. I have greatly cut down on my driving. I will just not visit places that I do not absolutely have to (and, truth be told, there are not really that many places one absolutely has to go). I go to the closest grocery store, as they are all expensive. I go to the closest gas station. There is no public transportation between my place of work and my home, which is a real hardship. In fact, our bus service is not bad in Boise, but it is cumbersome and limited. I find this to be a problem. I will not be doing the traveling and vacationing this year that I usually do. I will not be able to visit family members that do not live in Boise. This is not good for business, or morale and attitude (mine). Because I have much less disposable income now, my charitable donations will be, and already are, less. It is so expensive to drive to any of the organizations where I like to help out ("volunteering") that it has had to be cut out. Driving to attend the civic and fun groups that I am a member of and the activities that I like to participate in is now too costly to continue attending. Shopping? Out of the question, with the exceptions listed above. By the way, did you know that the average fuel usage in Ford's (last, I believe)

cars—in his day—was 25 mpg. Do you know what it is in this country today? 21 mpg. We all know that this is ridiculous. Clearly, the only entity that benefits from this is fuel companies, and automakers that have not had to retool their factories for decades. And even with that "savings", they're hurting, too, now.

My suggestions, wishes, and hopes?

More public transportation, more types of public transportation, more coverage, more frequent times that public transport goes by, at a minimal cost to riders. And we could use the money that we would save on highways to fund it! Trains are wonderful, both for passengers and goods.

Laws that insist that all parts of the automobile industry quickly get cars ready for market that are lighter, safer, and much more fuel efficient; that include speedily implementing the roll-out of vehicles (all vehicles, including commercial and military) that some of them are already developing, that are outstanding in design and are environmentally responsible. I should say, that are already in development, although perhaps not by the mainstream auto makers. The use of fossil fuels should be seriously lessened. Oil and gas companies should pay their rightful taxes, and should not be subsidized. New "green" fuel sources should be subsidized at the rate that oil and gas companies currently are, and should get breaks on their taxes for the early years. These should include, but be not limited to: wind, solar, geothermal; and research into new, unknown possible energy sources (with low environmental impact) should also be encouraged with subsidies and whatever helps, within limits. And the whole "alternate fuel" scenario should have some honesty, reality, and integrity infused into it. Specifically: ethanol is in no way environmentally responsible or viable. It is just a give-away for the corporate farm industry. Nuclear fission energy should be banned. There is no way to ensure safe use now, or of the spent fuel in the future, and it misuses precious water resources. I am okay with working towards trying to make nuclear fusion work.

No new drilling—anywhere! Americans can come up with better ideas—let us go back to that "good old American ingenuity and know-how." We used to be on the cutting edge for creativity, inventiveness, and new ideas—and the development of them. Let us "Be The Best We Can Be."

And, lastly, and strongly related to the energy problems we are experiencing: land and soil should be nourished and protected. It should be used in an honest and responsible way. That means, for example, that corn should actually have nutritional value, should have lowered sugar levels, not continue to be genetically and artificially altered so as to be useless for actually providing nutrition for people, because it is nothing but sugar that makes the creation of corn syrup, which is destroying the health of our kids, among other unhealthy products, easy and cheap to produce for greedy and/or corporate "farmers." The land should be cherished, not over-used, misused, and abused. It should be mindfully used to produce food for people—good, nourishing, healthy food to nourish healthy children, mothers, and all of us.

The health, safety, and financial benefits of changing our practices and policies are so extensive that it would take too much space to enumerate here. We could be at the world leaders of industry, development, inventiveness, and productivity if we, as a country, were willing to look at things in a fresh way, rather than stubbornly clutching at "doing things the same old way."

We are supposed to be conservatives—let us actually practice conserving.

SUSAN.