

trillion last year—it's more difficult for the private sector to borrow and invest. When businesses can't grow their operations, they can't afford to hire new employees.

Congress can also ameliorate the uncertainty that is preventing new hiring by not raising taxes and costs on employers. Unless they are extended, the lower tax rates that have been in place since 2001 are set to expire at the end of this year, triggering a \$2 trillion tax increase over the next decade. Businesses will remain timid about hiring if they think new taxes will add to the cost of their business and consume the capital that could be used to pay new employees.

There are other steps Congress can take—promoting our Nation's exports by passing free-trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea, and increasing production of domestic energy resources, for example.

Passing bills that increase our Nation's debt and create disincentives to work will not encourage investment in the economy. If we want business owners and entrepreneurs to start creating jobs, Congress should act so that it does not become harder and more expensive to do business.

TRIBUTE TO MARY MCBRIDE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize Mary McBride for her years of service to the U.S. Senate and the people of Washington State. Mary served on my staff for the last 9 years of her distinguished public career. Prior to her service in my office, Mary served as the Washington State Director of USDA Rural Development during the Clinton administration. As of March 1, 2010, Mary is assuming yet another role in the Federal Government as Region X Administrator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mary is a thoughtful and dedicated public servant. She covered three diverse regions in Washington State on my behalf: central Washington, the Olympic Peninsula, and South Puget Sound. The issues facing each of these regions differ greatly, and Mary was able to immerse herself in the concerns facing my constituents and build lasting relationships in each community. Whether working on farm worker housing, economic development or gang violence, Mary approached each topic with an outstanding knowledge of the Federal process and resources and with a strong commitment to solving problems and creating opportunity.

I would like to thank Mary for her years of service to me and the people of Washington State. Her career is a tremendous example of public service, and her dedication to her work is truly appreciated. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors and know that her many talents will continue to serve the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Obama administration.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY OLSON

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize Judy Olson for her years of service to the U.S. Senate and the people of Washington State. Judy served on my staff for 11 years prior to becoming the Washington State Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency in August of 2009.

During her many years on my staff, Judy served as my eastern Washington regional director. Covering a region that spanned 13 counties and 24,239 square miles, Judy brought a tireless dedication to the needs of my constituents in this vast region. A longtime resident of Whitman County, Judy and her husband farmed wheat, dried peas, and lentils. This gave her deep understanding and firsthand knowledge of the challenges facing our farmers and agricultural communities. Over the years, Judy continuously worked to ensure that the people of Washington State, whether they lived in Spokane or in Omak, were well served by the Federal Government.

I would like to thank Judy for her years of service to me and the people of Washington State. Her career is a tremendous example of public service, and her dedication to her work is truly appreciated. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors and know that her many talents will continue to serve the Farm Service Agency in the Obama administration.

REMEMBERING KENT M. RONHOVDE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn that Kent M. Ronhovde of the Congressional Research Service died on February 19. Mr. Ronhovde devoted a 36-year career at CRS to serving both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol, Senate and the House.

Mr. Ronhovde was a senior leader and an adviser to Director Daniel P. Mulholland. For the last 7 years as Associate Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs and Counselor to the Director, he brought astute judgment and keen insight into some of the most sensitive issues facing the Service.

CRS provides members of Congress authoritative, objective and non-partisan analysis. All of us appreciate CRS experts' solid advice untainted by advocacy, hidden agendas or personal biases. Kent Ronhovde was instrumental in preserving those core values of CRS.

Mr. Ronhovde was the primary liaison between CRS and its Senate and House oversight committees. He managed the CRS Review Office in which all CRS written work is judged for conformance with CRS policies.

Mr. Ronhovde was a native Washingtonian who received his JD at Georgetown University Law Center and served in Vietnam. He subsequently earned a master's in public administration while

at CRS. CRS hired him in 1974 as an attorney and he rose progressively through the American Law Division and CRS senior management.

Some of us here today may remember Mr. Ronhovde's excellent work as a legislative attorney in the American Law Division in the 1970s and 80s. He served senators, committees and their staffs in such areas as criminal law, intelligence activities, gun control and terrorism. He wrote extensively on legal issues raised in connection with the reports of the Senate Select Committee to Study Government Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities—Church Committee—and of the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

His distinguished performance led to his selection as section head in 1985 and assistant chief of the division in 1986. As assistant chief, he managed the Federal Law Update, a twice-yearly series of seminars on important issues of law and policy related to the legislative business of Congress. In 1996, he was promoted to a senior management position in CRS and in 2003 assumed the duties of associate director and counselor to the Director. Throughout this illustrious career, Mr. Ronhovde guarded and exemplified CRS's core values: authoritativeness, confidentiality and objectivity. He honored and respected CRS's role in serving the Congress and he ensured the role was undertaken judiciously and wisely. His astute counsel, sound judgment and devotion to the institutions of CRS and Congress will be sorely missed.

Mr. President, I extend my sincerest condolences to Mr. Ronhovde's wife Juliet, daughters Kristen and Brooke, their families, and to all his many friends and colleagues at CRS.

RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, last week, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the *McDonald v. City of Chicago* case.

Despite much of the rhetoric surrounding this case, *McDonald v. Chicago* isn't a case about gun control. It is a case about our constitutional, fundamental rights as Americans.

Our freedoms in the Bill of Rights—including those of speech and religion and the press—are incorporated by the 14th amendment. They cannot be infringed upon by the states. The Supreme Court ruled on that issue long ago.

The issue in *McDonald* is whether an individual's second amendment right to keep and bear arms must be protected against State infringement. The case follows the Court's landmark 2008 ruling in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. In *Heller*, the Court—for the first time—ruled that the second amendment protects an individual's right to keep and bear arms.

There is precedent dating back more than 100 years that reaffirms that the second amendment applies only to the

Federal Government. However, in 1873, the Court began to develop modern incorporation doctrine principles. These principles were used to determine if amendments apply to the States through the due process clause of the 14th amendment.

The Court in *McDonald* is likely to use the modern incorporation doctrine, rather than simply uphold precedent from its previous second amendment cases.

The Supreme Court in *Duncan v. Louisiana* summarized the modern incorporation doctrine, stating, “the question has been asked whether a right is among those fundamental principles of liberty and justice which lie at the base of all our civil and political institutions . . . whether it is basic in our system of jurisprudence . . . and whether it is a fundamental right, essential to a fair trial.”

I believe the second amendment right to bear arms is a fundamental, constitutional right of law-abiding Americans. And, like most of the Bill of Rights, it must also be protected from unreasonable state restrictions.

Since the *Heller* decision, three appellate courts have addressed whether the second amendment applies to the States. Two of the courts, the Second and Seventh Circuits, followed Supreme Court precedent. They held that the second amendment only applies to the Federal Government. This was not because the judges were in favor of gun control—as many tried to state during Justice Sotomayor’s confirmation hearing. Instead, it was because they showed judicial restraint. They recognized that only the Supreme Court should overturn its own precedent. In the third case, the Ninth Circuit failed to follow Supreme Court precedent. Instead, it applied modern incorporation principles. It held that the second amendment is incorporated by the 14th amendment and protected against State infringement. Although I think the Ninth Circuit should have followed precedent, I agree with their analysis.

I would emphasize this: Even if the Court decides that the second amendment does not apply to the States, citizens do not need to worry that people are going to start taking away their firearms.

Forty-four State constitutions contain provisions addressing the right to bear arms. Most of these are much clearer than the Federal Constitution. They were adopted more recently and address specific issues such as concealed carry laws.

New Mexico’s Constitution states: No law shall abridge the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms for security and defense, for lawful hunting and recreational use and for other lawful purposes, but nothing herein shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons. No municipality or county shall regulate, in any way, an incident of the right to keep and bear arms.

I am confident that our citizens’ right to bear arms will continue, re-

gardless of the *McDonald* decision. However, I believe that the Court will hold that the second amendment is incorporated by the 14th amendment.

When the Court asks whether the right to bear arms is “among those fundamental principles of liberty and justice which lie at the base of all our civil and political institutions . . . and is deeply rooted in this nation’s history and tradition,” I have no doubt in the conclusion they will reach.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING DAMARISCOTTA RIVER GRILL

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I honor a small restaurant in my home State of Maine that has taken a creative approach to bringing people together by hosting a number of community-oriented events. Located in the charming and quaint town of Damariscotta, the Damariscotta River Grill has become a well-known name in the midcoast Maine dining scene by providing diners with a comfortable and welcoming environment to enjoy a good meal while meeting local artists.

The Damariscotta River Grill opened in late 2003 and has quickly become a recognized name throughout Maine’s burgeoning restaurant scene. Noted for its fresh and diverse menu, the Grill offers customers an eclectic mix of local seafood, meats, and produce. For lunch, the restaurant makes a wide array of sandwiches, and on Sundays the restaurant prepares a delectable brunch complete with an incredible number of options for landlubbers and seafood lovers alike.

The restaurant has quickly caught the attention of critics from far and wide, who all agree that the Damariscotta River Grill is not to be missed when visiting Midcoast Maine. Publications as divergent as the *Boston Herald*, *New York Times*, *Portland Press Herald*, and *Fodor’s* have praised the consistent and mouthwatering cuisine that chef-owner Rick Hirsch cooks up year round. Cape Cod Today went as far as to say that the restaurant offers “. . . as original and appealing a menu as any in New England”—a ringing endorsement given the number of superb establishments throughout the six-state region!

On March 30, Chef Rick Hirsch will be acknowledged for his hard work and dedication in producing such a high-caliber restaurant when he receives the Maine Restaurant Association’s 2010 Chef of the Year award at a ceremony in Portland. A graduate of the renowned Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island, Mr. Hirsch is extraordinarily deserving of this prestigious award, which recognizes Mr. Hirsch’s more than two decades of culinary experience as the owner of two restaurants in Maine—the Damariscotta River Grill, as well as the Anchor Inn Restaurant in Round Pond—and his Red Plate Catering business.

Additionally, since its inception, the Damariscotta River Grill has been an engaged participant in the local community. The Maine winner of the National Restaurant Association’s 2008 Restaurant Neighbor Award, the Damariscotta River Grill contributes regularly and generously to numerous regional organizations and initiatives, including the Boys and Girls Clubs’ wreath sale each year. The restaurant is also involved in the annual Chocolate Fest, which was just held last month, to support “Healthy Kids!,” a program that helps prevent child abuse and neglect in Lincoln County through educational outreach to families.

Beyond fundraisers for charities and other organizations, the Damariscotta River Grill hosts inventive gatherings to attract the restaurant’s loyal following. To highlight its Wine Spectator award-winning wine list, the restaurant’s Wine Club features at least six wine and food tastings with a wine expert, as well as door prizes and discounts on wine purchases. Additionally, the Grill’s “Art At the Grill” series, presently in its 5th year, shines a significant spotlight on area artists. The restaurant displays an artist’s work for a period of time, and hosts a reception, open to the public, where guests can speak with the artists about their work. In 2010, the restaurant plans to host over 15 artists, including painters, potters, photographers and fabric artists through this unique project.

The Damariscotta River Grill has become a favorite of locals and tourists alike because of its wide-ranging menu and unique character and charm. Chef Hirsch, along with his wife and business partner, Jean Kerrigan, has created something truly special in downtown Damariscotta. I congratulate Mr. Hirsch on his well-deserved award, and wish everyone at the Damariscotta River Grill a remarkable and successful year.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4573. An act to urge the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti’s debts to such institutions, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) reported that he had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 3433. An act to amend the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to establish requirements regarding payment of