

her. I have proposed changes that would make the bill more effective in addressing the serious problem of gang-related violence, and I look forward to passage of the amended bill.

Mr. President, it is not enough to fight for change—you need to lead by example, too. So I will make it my practice to have printed a statement in the RECORD when I object to bringing up legislation or a nomination. And I urge my colleagues to do the same, and to support efforts to eliminate loopholes in the current rule.

REMOVING HOLDS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on April 16, 2010, Senator MERKLEY and I objected to any unanimous consent agreement in connection with the nominations of Sharon E. Burke, to be the Director of Operational Energy Plans and Programs at the Department of Defense; Catherine Hammack, to be the Assistant Secretary of the Army; and Elizabeth A. McGrath, to be the Deputy Chief Management Officer at DOD. At that time, we needed assurance that DOD was taking the appropriate action to address the increasing conflict between national renewable energy policy and national defense.

I am pleased to say that we have dropped our objections to any unanimous consent agreement to consider these three nominations.

I am encouraged with the progress the Department of Defense, along with the Federal Aviation Administration, has achieved to acknowledge the critical nature of our future renewable energy program and its impact to national defense. Both agencies now appear committed to address the systemic process issues associated with siting our renewable energy programs. I hope this commitment continues. Because there is much more work to be done.

I believe we must pursue upgrading hardware and software for all of our radar arrays and adjust the siting permit process so that companies know in advance, not at the eleventh hour, of any DOD objections. But I also believe there is a need for an impartial entity with the authority to consider strategic civilian energy development and national defense needs. I know it won't be easy, but I look forward to working with the administration and Defense Department to establish such an organization.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR LUKE RAVENSTAHL

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, the residents of the city of Pittsburgh and all the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania on Pittsburgh being recognized yet again, this time by Forbes, as the Nation's most livable city.

I have been visiting Pittsburgh every few weeks for over 30 years and I have

witnessed its transformation into a progressive metropolitan area. I am pleased to see people from around the United States and around the globe recognize the unique quality of life in the Pittsburgh region. The region has transformed shuttered factories and brownfields into attractive and bustling riverfront developments and a breathtaking skyline.

People have always been aware of Pittsburgh's rich history from the days of the French and Indian wars to the Industrial Revolution and the birth of Organized Labor, but now people are seeing its transformation into the new economy as well. Steel mills are still here, but the region has also embraced and excelled in life sciences, robotics, green buildings, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing. This advancement has been spurred by world class universities and healthcare institutions, fueled by innovative entrepreneurs, and supported by a vibrant foundation and civic community.

The Pittsburgh region enjoys an abundance of natural resources, outdoor amenities, world class arts and cultural institutions, low cost of living, low crime rates, low housing costs, and of course world champion sports teams.

As many of my colleagues understand, we still face many environmental and infrastructure challenges with our postindustrial "Rust Belt" regions, and we must work together to support their rebirth and continued growth. I am pleased to recognize Pittsburgh and its people who exemplify so well the model for 21st century economic growth and recovery in America.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Forbes article be printed in the RECORD.

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

PITTSBURGH TOPS LIST OF MOST-LIVABLE CITIES IN U.S.

(By Francesca Levy)

Each year Carnegie Mellon's Tepper School of Business attracts some of the brightest master's degree candidates in the country. But the admissions staff occasionally has to sway prospective students with their choice of top schools who wonder why they should relocate to Pittsburgh, Pa. "Pittsburgh has a really great cultural scene. We have a great ballet and a great symphony that travels the world and performs to packed houses, and there's a restaurant scene that's much more diverse than it ever was when I was growing up," says Wendy Hermann, director of student services for master's programs and a Pittsburgh native. "And it's an easier sell, now that the Steelers and Penguins won their respective titles."

Indeed, Pittsburgh's art scene, job prospects, safety and affordability make it the most livable city in the country, according to measures studied. The city has rebounded from its manufacturing past. Disused steel mills have been repurposed into multimedia art centers, and amid a struggling national economy, Google Pittsburgh, a test site for the company's new high-speed broadband network, has expanded its offices to accommodate more hires.

Pittsburgh's strong university presence—the city has over a dozen colleges or campuses—helps bolster its livability. In fact, the key to finding the easiest places to live may be to follow the students. Most of the metros on our list—including Ann Arbor, Mich., Provo, Utah, and Manchester, N.H.—are college towns.

"Universities are large employers in their cities," says Alexander Von Hoffman, senior fellow at the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University. "In the long term, not only do you have that employment, but you have an educated population, and you have a large youthful population which tends to be a consuming population."

In compiling our list, we measured five data points in the country's 200 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas: unemployment, crime, income growth, the cost of living, and artistic and cultural opportunities.

To find out where jobs were available and incomes were steadily growing, we ranked cities both by their rate of income growth over the past five years and the current unemployment rate, based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The stronger the income growth trend and the lower the unemployment, the higher each city ranked. Jobs don't mean everything, though: A city is more livable if a family's income goes further. Using cost of living data from Moody's Economy.com, we ranked cities higher that had lower costs for everyday goods.

Some places are inexpensive, but still not desirable, so we included a measure for crime, using the Federal Bureau of Investigation's and Sperling's Best Places reports on the number of crimes per 100,000 residents, ranking low-crime cities higher. We also considered a thriving local culture crucial to livability, so we gave higher rankings to cities that scored highly on the Arts & Leisure index created by Sperling's Best Places. We averaged the rankings for each of these metrics to arrive at a final score.

Ogden, Utah, No. 2 on our list, is home to Weber State University. Unemployment in the metro is below average, and incomes have increased by 3.4 percent over the last five years. Provo, Utah, a city 80 miles away and our No. 3 most livable, is home to Brigham Young University, the country's largest private college. The metro has the highest five-year income growth, 5.2 percent, of all the cities measured. Lincoln, Neb., (No. 9), home to the University of Nebraska's main campus, boasts the lowest unemployment rate, 4.9 percent, of all the metros we surveyed. Unemployment is also at a low 5.9 percent in Omaha, Neb. (No. 5) home to a University of Nebraska campus and roughly a dozen other colleges.

Cities once driven by jobs in steel manufacturing, railroads and textile mills suffered as those industries dried up in the 1970s. But it's a mistake to write off places like Pittsburgh, Pa., Harrisburg, Pa., and Manchester, N.H., Nos. one, five and seven on our list, respectively. Manchester, once dominated by textile mills, is revitalizing itself, converting its maze of mills and foundries into medical centers, museums and apartment buildings that now drive the local economy. The city has the second-lowest crime rate of all the metros we surveyed, incomes have grown 3 percent in five years, and at 7.7 percent, its unemployment rate is below the national average.

In only a few of our most livable cities does population growth match prospects for employment and inexpensive living. Provo saw an 8 percent population boom between 2000 and 2006, and the head count in Omaha rose by 7.2 percent over the same period. In most of the cities on the list, however, the population has shrunk, or grown only by meager percentages, suggesting that word

about the quality of life there hasn't yet gotten out. Being a well-kept secret is just fine for some residents.

"I'm a big proponent of Pittsburgh," says Hermann. "But I don't want to spread the message too much."

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN MCGHEE

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to one of the most widely respected professional staff members in the Senate—Kathleen McGhee. She recently marked her 30th anniversary with the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and has been serving here longer than I have been serving as a U.S. Senator.

Kathleen joined the committee staff on April 7, 1980, in order to assist the committee's arms control expert. She subsequently provided administrative support to the committee's budget director, minority counsel, and minority staff director. In 1987, Chairman David L. Boren appointed Kathleen as the chief clerk of the Intelligence Committee, a position she has held ever since. She has served 11 chairmen, 12 vice chairmen, and 278 staff members since joining the staff.

Kathleen is the longest serving staff member and the longest serving chief clerk in the committee's history, but you would not know it by looking at her. I have it on good authority that she is just as bright and energetic today as she was more than 20 years ago. If only we all were so fortunate.

In a world where politics often seems to define who we are and with whom we associate, Kathleen transcends those barriers. She has earned the deep respect of Members and colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Her work ethic—as evidenced by long hours and ready availability—and her attention to detail are admired by all.

During my tenure on the Intelligence Committee, and in particular, since becoming the vice chairman, I have benefited from Kathleen's behind-the-scenes orchestration of committee activities. She supervises the administrative support staff of the committee, manages all of the day-to-day operations, and is responsible for the preparation and implementation of the committee's operating budget. Simply put—the committee would cease to function without Kathleen at the helm; she has kept the place running like a Swiss watch. We all know that the demands of working in Congress often take the greatest toll on those who support us and sustain us in life—our families. For selflessly giving Kathleen to us for so many years, her husband Mike, son Luke, and daughter Molly deserve our gratitude. We thank them for their sacrifices.

Ensuring our great Nation's security is a high calling and one of tremendous responsibility. Through her service to the Intelligence Committee, the U.S. Senate, and the United States of America, Kathleen McGhee has answered this call with outstanding profes-

sionalism, integrity, and perseverance. Although I will be retiring at the end of this Congress, it is my hope that Kathleen will continue to honor the Senate with her service for many years to come. May God bless Kathleen and her family.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NEW MEXICO'S NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL WINNER

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I congratulate a group of middle school students from Albuquerque Academy in Albuquerque, NM, for winning the top prize at this year's National Science Bowl. This is an outstanding and well-deserved achievement after all their hard work throughout this competition, both in Albuquerque and here in Washington, DC.

Every year since 1991 the U.S. Department of Energy has sponsored the National Science Bowl to encourage high school students to excel in mathematics and science. In 2002 a contest was introduced for middle school students, which now involves more than 5,000 students nationwide. This year there was an academic question and answer competition as well as a model hydrogen fuel cell car challenge. By encouraging math and science education, competitions like these are helping to create a technically trained and diverse workforce for this generation and the next.

Teammates Andy Chen, Jason Frank Hou, Ben Zolyomi, Eric Li, Raya Koreh, and their coach Barbara Gilbert came to Washington, DC, to compete against 37 middle school regional Science Bowl champions in the National Finals. On Monday, May 3, they answered many challenging questions pertaining to biology, geology, and other areas of science. They even answered a few bonus questions from First Lady Michelle Obama, who later awarded them their trophy, along with Secretary of Energy Stephen Chu. I realize how much studying it takes to prepare for a competition as rigorous as this, and I commend them on their hard-earned reward. It has certainly paid off. Their success should be applauded as this truly is a remarkable feat.

When they return home to New Mexico, I hope their fellow students and teachers are as encouraged as I am by their accomplishment. It is vitally important that talent like this doesn't go unnoticed as these young students will likely be among those helping to find solutions to some of the future's most challenging problems. I believe this team's success demonstrates how the United States, and New Mexico in particular, has potential to produce some of tomorrow's scientific leaders and innovators. That is why I hope these students will continue to pursue their intellectual interests and one day join a critical sector within our workforce.

I have always believed that investing in science and technology in our schools is essential in ensuring that the United States maintains a competitive edge to provide for our nation's economic strength and security. Our students' success depends on the quality of their educational opportunities today, and the talent demonstrated by these students makes me very optimistic about the future.

Again, I commend them on this outstanding achievement and wish them the best of luck in the future.●

RECOGNIZING EL CAMINO REAL HIGH SCHOOL

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the great work and remarkable accomplishments of El Camino Real High School's Academic Decathlon team for winning the 2010 Academic Decathlon and its sixth National Championship. Members of the National Championship team include: Vivian Cheng, Daniel de Haas, Evan Edmisten, Andrew Fann, Audrey Goldbaum, Jessica Lin, Daniel Moreh, Adriana Ureche, Michael Walker, and team coaches John Dalsass, and Stephanie Franklin.

With this win, El Camino Real High School has earned the distinction of becoming six-time Academic Decathlon National Champions and nine-time State Champions. This milestone gives El Camino Real High School the distinction of being the Nation's all-time leader in national academic decathlon championships.

Competing in an Academic Decathlon is a daunting task. The Academic Decathlon's intense two-day national final competitions include multiple-choice testing in seven different events, speeches, essay writing, and interviewing exercises. Students spend many hours studying, practicing, and competing, often away from their family and friends. I invite all of my colleagues to join me, the Woodland Hills community and the State of California in congratulating California's El Camino Real High School Academic Decathlon team for becoming 2010 National Academic Decathlon Champions.●

NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER NURSING GRADUATES

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the graduation of the first 100 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander nurses from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. As a proud supporter of the nursing profession, I am pleased to recognize IKE AO PONO, the Workforce Diversity Program for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander nursing students at the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene.

On May 7, 2010, IKE AO PONO will commemorate a historic achievement in celebrating the graduation of the first 100 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander nurses from its program in