

outside of these new arbitrary guidelines. The result was the Federal Government missed out on an opportunity to fund promising research, solely due to this arbitrary financial restriction.

The Austin Chamber of Commerce wrote a letter to my office with their many concerns regarding this provision. They stated that the problem is compounded by the fact that the majority venture capitalist-funded companies can house multiple unfunded ideas that are ultimately all excluded from the program. This occurs, even though research shows great promise, only because a business's overall financial structure offends this financial restriction. Their letter states that "Small businesses should not be forced to choose between the SBIR program and venture capital funding. To accelerate American technological innovation, Federal efforts must promote the importance of both public and private sector sources of capital and partnerships."

Yesterday, in front of the House Small Business Committee, another Texan told his story of how these restrictions have hurt innovation. Mr. Glenn Norem cofounded Totus Lighting Solutions, a company that manufactures and markets products that integrate surveillance with sensor monitoring on intelligent lighting platforms. Because of these arbitrary financial restrictions in the SBIR program, Mr. Norem had to choose between venture capital funding and Federal grants. When asked what impact that decision has had on his company and other companies similarly situated, he stated, that it delayed commercialization. Allowing companies to partner with all available options enables innovation, which grows companies and creates jobs.

This amendment is supported by the University of Texas, Austin Chamber of Commerce, Rice University, the Association of American Universities and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

I will be proud to offer this amendment that will improve the underlying legislation and help ensure that absolute best research gets funded by American tax dollars, so that innovation can lead to commercialization as quickly as possible. Our country's job creators need us to do our jobs so they can do theirs.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE—S. 627

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the CBO cost estimate regarding S. 627 be printed in the RECORD.

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

#### S. 627—FASTER FOIA ACT OF 2011

S. 627 would establish a commission to identify methods for reducing delays in processing requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The commission also

would investigate a recent increase in the number of exemptions from FOIA that federal agencies have issued to prevent the release of information. The 12-member commission would have one year to report its findings and recommendations to the Congress. Members would be appointed within 60 days of enactment of the legislation and would serve without pay but would be reimbursed for travel expenses. The commission would terminate 30 days after submitting its final report. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) would provide support to the commission, and the General Services Administration would administer any travel expenses.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 627 would cost about \$1 million, mostly in fiscal year 2012. That estimate includes the cost of preparing the report and paying the salaries and expenses of 10 employees provided by NARA. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 627 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

APRIL 8, 2011.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 627, the Faster FOIA Act of 2011.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

#### PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wanted to take a few minutes to share with my colleagues a success story involving the building of a Federal laboratory project with funds from three separate Federal agencies.

Several years ago, as part of the efforts to remediate some of the excess facilities at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in my home State of Washington, the Department of Energy decided to tear down virtually all of the laboratory facilities in the so-called 300 Area to remediate and make the area available for future industrial uses.

We all shared the goal of cleaning up the 300 Area—it is an important part of the ongoing cleanup work at Hanford. But because the 300 Area was home to approximately 1,000 scientists, engineers and support staff for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, PNNL, we know that we would have to find a new place for them to conduct their work.

As I am sure you know, building a replacement laboratory to accommodate 1,000 people is no easy task under any

set of circumstances. And the broad spectrum of work being done by these scientists—national security, homeland security, science research—both increased the challenge and brought a number of Federal agencies together. This unique situation brought together three agencies—the Department of Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security—to create a unique solution, building the Physical Sciences Facility.

This arrangement—three separate agencies with funding in two separate appropriations bills—isn't common in the Federal Government and isn't easy to accomplish. But with a lot of hard work, the \$225 million Physical Sciences Facility was constructed on time and within budget over 5 years' time. It has allowed the unique capabilities at PNNL to continue to be able to support critical missions for several government agencies.

I appreciate the leadership of PNNL Director Len Peters and Mike Lawrence, followed by Director Mike Kluse, who were determined to make the Physical Sciences Facility a reality. I would also like to recognize Carrie Desmond and Doug Clapp, both of whom used to work on my staff, for helping to make this project happen in the face of odds that were unbelievable at times, including budget requests that were not always sufficient to keep the project on schedule.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the dedication of the new laboratory on April 19, but I will be there in spirit. I congratulate all of the people at PNNL, the Department of Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security who have worked to make the Physical Sciences Facility at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory an important asset for the Federal Government.

#### REMEMBERING KATYN

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the lives lost in last year's plane crash near Smolensk that killed Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, and 94 others who represented the political, cultural, and religious leadership of Poland. Words alone offer little solace before such awesome tragedy, which is one of the reasons people must gather together before monuments and flowers to add a tangible dimension to our shapeless grief. While eloquent remarks can move the heart, we all know a smile, a gaze, or an embrace can often do more to bring comfort to the sorrowful.

Katyn has become a tragedy in three acts—the crime, the coverup, and now the crash. Surely it is fitting for us to meet, comfort each other, and remember those who died. But what lies beyond our tears? Can good come from this evil?

For the loved ones of those 96 souls who perished nearly a year ago, they

must take comfort in knowing that the final act of their beloved was a noble one—that of remembering those martyrs whom Stalin and his henchmen sought to erase from Poland and, indeed, from history.

As Stanislaw Kot, Poland's wartime Ambassador to Moscow, said, "People are not like steam; they cannot evaporate." He was right and it is written, "Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground!" In a haunting twist of fate, a hungry wolf in the Russian winter would scratch at the snow and uncover the hastily buried bones of Poland's best and brightest. And the truth about this unspeakable crime would one day be known.

We have come a long way—a very long way—from the time when this atrocity was falsely presented as a Nazi crime and from the time when the names of the dead could only be circulated in communist Poland in the form of samizdat publications and whispered around kitchen tables.

Nevertheless, there is still more that must be done to set the record straight. This involves insuring that all the evidence relating to the execution sites, the executioners' identities, the motives for the crime, and the fate of so many Polish families who vanished on the Siberian steppe are publicly available. We must ensure that the fullness of the truth is uncovered and shared for its own sake and for closure. To that end, I welcome recent news of the Kremlin's release of still more documents relating to the massacre.

Further, I believe that finally coming to terms with Katyn is a necessary precondition for a durable Polish-Russian rapprochement, which is itself good insurance for maintaining a Europe, whole, free, and at peace.

Next week Presidents Komorowski and Medvedev will meet before the mass graves at Katyn and, I trust, will continue a dialogue of healing between two great nations that have suffered so much from the elevation of an ideology over a people. I wish them well in their talks and ongoing mission of reconciliation and believe that the only lasting balm for this wound lies in the heart and not in a courtroom or even a legislature.

This is not to say that charges or claims should not be pursued, but to recognize that, in many cases, such actions will fall short and offer little by way of consolation.

It would be most unfortunate for the memory of Katyn to be debased by ideologues of any ilk who would usurp this sacred memory for partisan projects. For too long the truth about Katyn was denied by those on the left who turned a blind eye to the reality of communism and many on the right seemed to view Katyn as just another issue to be exploited in the struggle of ideologies. People and their memory are an end, in and of themselves, and must never be used as a means to advance even a just cause. The only de-

cent relationship to them is that of love and remembrance—our dignity and theirs demands nothing less.

My sincere hope is that Poland and Russia can do better than some countries that have fought bitter diplomatic battles and enacted laws to force or deny recognition of historic crimes. By honestly evaluating a shared past of suffering, Poles and Russians have a real opportunity to build a shared future of friendship and prosperity.

Poland is now free and her traditions support the forgiveness that offers a path out of the valley of this shadow of death. In so many ways, Poland is, and must remain, a light to those nearby who still live in the darkness of oppression and lies.

As we continue to ponder the devastation of last year's catastrophe, I would like to close by putting a couple faces on our sadness; those of Mariusz Handzlik and Andrzej Przewoznik, who both died in last year's crash.

Mariusz was a diplomat and father of three. He was well known and well liked in Washington from the years he spent assigned to the Embassy of Poland. In 2000, he played a fateful game of chess with Polish war hero and Righteous Gentile Jan Karski who narrowly escaped "liquidation" at Katyn. Karski would die in a Washington hospital and Handzlik in a gloomy Russian forest.

Andrzej was a historian, a husband, and father of two. He was the principle organizer behind the conference I cohosted as Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission last year at the Library of Congress to mark the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Forest Massacre. Andrzej hoped to spend time at our National Archives sifting through the papers of the Madden Committee and other relevant U.S. Government documents on Katyn.

The memories of Mariusz, Andrzej, and so many other truly exceptional people on that doomed flight offer much by way of virtue and accomplishment that will inspire Poles for generations to come. Let us take comfort in the truth that is, at last, known and bask in the warmth of heroic memories and do this together with our Polish friends who are second to no one in their love of freedom.

#### TRIBUTE TO MIKE CHAHINIAN

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the good works of a member of my staff who is leaving. Michael Chahinian has served with the Alabama congressional delegation for over 7 years. The first 5 were with Congressman ADERHOLT, and the past 2 have been on my staff.

Michael graduated from Cornell University several years ago with a degree in government and East Asian studies. While at Cornell he learned how to speak Mandarin Chinese. While on my staff, he learned to speak Southern English. During his time on Capitol Hill he enrolled in the Naval War Col-

lege's master's degree program. Michael graduated last year with a master's in national security and strategic studies with highest distinction. His master's program helped revive a childhood dream to become a naval officer. After making application to enter Officer Candidate School, Michael learned late last year he was accepted and will report for duty in a few weeks.

Michael has worked hard on banking, finance, small business and commerce issues while a member of my staff. Most recently he was instrumental in working on the details and negotiations over our Sessions-McCaskill amendment, which would have imposed multiyear spending caps on the Federal budget. The amendment was carefully crafted to get maximum bipartisan support, and with 59 votes, it received more support than any serious budget reform in the past decade.

Michael has also been instrumental on my behalf in supporting domestic manufacturing through his active role working on trade policy in my office. While on my staff, he has helped the domestic sleeping bag industry deal with unfair competition from a loophole in one of our trade laws, known as GSP. On Congressman ADERHOLT's staff, he became known for his good work on behalf of the local sock industry, dominant in the northeastern part of our State.

In each of these situations, Michael demonstrated hard work and a dogged tenacity. Though we hate to lose him, I am confident our loss will be the Navy's gain. I wish him Godspeed.

#### TRIBUTE TO LAURA CAPASSO

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Laura Capasso for her hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Laura is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Kelly Walsh High School. She currently attends the University of Wyoming/Casper College Center where she is majoring in psychology. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the time she has been with us.

I thank Laura for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.

#### TRIBUTE TO LAURA CURRAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Laura Curran for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.