

stalking and child abuse laws for victims and families in rural areas. Transportation is a necessary component of enforcing these laws and protecting vulnerable women. I am concerned, as I know you are, about what women do when they are in a dangerous situation and do not have transportation to get away.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. That is a real problem. Many women initially rely on the police or an ambulance to remove them from unsafe situations, but their problems continue once they reach a shelter or crisis center. They have no way to get to court for hearings related to protective orders, child custody and divorce. One of the directors of the crisis center in Berlin in the North Country of New Hampshire spends at least 25 percent of her time taking women to and from court. Due to recent State budget cuts, the closest courthouse is 45 minutes away. That is a significant investment of time and money.

Mr. LEAHY. It certainly is. And the Violence Against Women Act aims to provide financial support for communities that need it most so they can continue to keep women safe.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I thank the Senator from Vermont for engaging in this colloquy to address the importance of providing transportation services to women and families in need. I thank him, too, for his leadership on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. It has helped so many women over the years, and I know it will continue to save the lives of women in New Hampshire and across the country.

FACEBOOK'S TAX DEDUCTION

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, tomorrow will be a day in tax history—when Facebook goes public, it will get a \$16 billion tax deduction, which is the largest tax deduction ever taken by any corporation exploiting the stock option tax loophole.

Facebook's recent filings in anticipation of its upcoming stock offering provide new facts about its plans to use stock option tax deductions, not only to help it avoid future taxes for years and years to come, but to get a refund of taxes it has already paid.

Facebook's recent registration statement shows that, due to hundreds of millions of stock options handed out to its founders and top executives, it plans to claim stock option tax deductions worth a whopping \$16 billion. That is more than twice as much as estimates a few months ago, and many, many times larger than the stock option expenses shown on Facebook's ledgers.

Facebook is a booming, successful company. Its securities filing boasts of double-digit increases in Facebook's average revenue per user, citing a 32-percent increase in 2010 and another 25-percent increase in 2011, with "growth across all regions." Despite trumpeting those revenue increases to investors,

Facebook is planning at the same time to tell Uncle Sam it has no taxable income, offsetting its revenues with stock option tax deductions.

Facebook's \$16 billion stock option tax deduction is so huge, it will enable Facebook to claim a \$500 million refund of taxes paid over the prior 2 years and wipe out this year's tax bill. The company says it will also use its deduction to create a "net operating loss" that can be used to eliminate its profits and its taxes for up to 20 years into the future.

As with so much of our Tax Code, it is not the law breaking that shocks the conscience, it is the stuff that is allowed. For years, my Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations has identified this stock option tax loophole and tried to explain its cost, its unfairness, and why the loophole should be closed. Facebook's \$16 billion tax deduction brings the issue into sharp focus.

This profitable corporation will stop paying any Federal corporate income taxes, simply because it gave hundreds of millions of stock options to its executives. It will go from a corporate citizen that paid its taxes, to one that not only pays no taxes to Uncle Sam on its profits, but gets a tax refund.

Some Facebook defenders claim the company's nonpayment of taxes is offset by the taxes paid by its executives. But first of all, Facebook demands and receives government services that its executives don't—from patent protection to cybersecurity to trade enforcement. Second, the fact that executives pay taxes doesn't mean corporations shouldn't pay taxes. Facebook should be paying its fair share, and it is only through a tax loophole that it won't be. Adding insult to injury is that one of its founders recently renounced his U.S. citizenship just to avoid paying his taxes.

Facebook is an American success story. Its ability to use a stock option loophole to zero out its U.S. tax bill, despite ample profits, makes no sense. It also isn't fair to the rest of American taxpayers who will have to pay more because Facebook pays nothing.

In these tough economic times, Congress needs to make choices about where to spend taxpayer dollars. The stock option tax deduction, as demonstrated by Facebook, fuels excessive executive pay, shifts the tax burden from corporations to other taxpayers, and enables profitable corporations to get out of paying a dime toward the country that helped make their success possible.

What could our Nation do with the billions of dollars it will lose when Facebook uses the stock option loophole? Well, we could reduce the Federal deficit. Or we could pay for programs to help kids go to college or programs that protect our seniors and veterans, put cops on the beat or teachers in classrooms.

The stock option loophole should have been closed long before

Facebook's stock option bonanza. But surely the case of Facebook illustrates to the Senate, to the Congress, and to the American people why we should close this loophole. If Congress were to enact the Levin-Sherrod Brown bill, S. 1375, it would close an unjustified corporate tax loophole that boosts executive pay at the expense of everybody else.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF USDA

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Department of Agriculture.

I believe Thomas Jefferson said it best in a letter to George Washington in 1787. Jefferson wrote: "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness."

In 1862, the 37th Congress and President Lincoln established the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and 150 years later, agriculture is still a pillar of the American economy.

From wheat fields in Montana, to dairy farms in Wisconsin, to grocery stores in New York City, 1 in 12 jobs is linked to agriculture and forestry. In Montana it is one in five for agriculture alone.

Agriculture is one of the few U.S. business sectors to boast a trade surplus of \$34 billion last year.

Because of our Federal farm policies, Americans have access to the safest and most affordable food in the world. Americans spend less than 7 percent of their disposable income to feed their families, compared with almost 25 percent in 1930 or as high as 28 percent in Russia today.

The farm bill, which is set to expire this September, provides a responsible risk management system that ensures American farmers and ranchers can keep putting food on our tables even in times of drought, flooding, and other disaster. It provides conservation tools to protect the land we love and depend on for generations to come. It focuses resources to help beginning farmers and ranchers get their foot in the door, promotes U.S. products overseas, invests in research, and helps struggling families put food on the table.

Last month, the Senate Agriculture Committee passed the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012 with a bipartisan vote of 16 to 5.

I want to underscore the word "reform." Times are tough. We cannot afford business as usual anymore.

After spending the last year talking directly with Montana farmers and ranchers about their priorities, I can tell you no one understands this better than they do.

So the Senate Agriculture Committee worked directly with producers to strengthen what works and cut out what doesn't. Together we came up with a responsible plan to cut spending by \$23 billion while still providing a strong risk management program for farmers and ranchers. That is right,

the Senate Agriculture Committee's farm bill reduces the deficit by \$23 billion. It eliminates more than 100 duplicative programs to make government leaner and more effective. It strengthens accountability to make sure we are giving a hand up where it is most needed and not wasting taxpayer dollars where it's not. And, perhaps most importantly, this farm bill supports more than 16 million American jobs. That is why I led a letter to leadership with 43 of my colleagues this week urging quick action. Moving this farm bill is the right thing to do for our farmers and ranchers, the right thing to do for American taxpayers, and the right thing to do for jobs.

So as we say happy birthday to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, I think the best gift Congress could give is passing the farm bill.

IMPORTANCE OF SENATE BIPARTISANSHIP

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, over this past weekend, while reading the News Journal, Delaware's only statewide newspaper, I came across a column written by my good friend and our former colleague, Ted Kaufman. He was writing about an issue that is troubling to me and to many of our colleagues—the narrowing scope of bipartisanship in the U.S. Senate today.

As you know, Mr. President, our longtime colleague Senator RICHARD LUGAR faced a difficult primary contest last week in Indiana. While he put up a good fight, he ultimately lost the primary to someone who openly espouses an aversion to bipartisanship. In recent days a number of our colleagues, including Senators DURBIN and KERRY, have stood in this Chamber to lament the parting of Senator LUGAR. Like them, I, too, am disappointed that Senator LUGAR will not be part of the Senate in the future.

Though I haven't always agreed with him on every issue, Senator LUGAR has been and remains a deeply respected colleague and statesman. He understands that national unity and patriotism should always trump partisan bickering, and he believes that working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle is critically important for the welfare of our country.

In his article last weekend, Ted Kaufman wrote, "If candidates like Mike Castle and RICHARD LUGAR are defeated because they are willing to consider bipartisan solutions, the gridlock can only get worse." I couldn't have said it better myself. DICK LUGAR is the type of Senator we need more of, not less of. With his departure, the Senate will lose someone who was willing to put progress ahead of party and willing to favor compromise over conflict.

Senator LUGAR, as mayor of Indianapolis and as Senator from Indiana, you have served your State and your country with distinction. I have no doubt that as this Congress and your time in the Senate come to a close

later this year, you will choose to finish strong. I expect that as you do, my colleagues and I will have the opportunity to work with you, in a bipartisan way, on a number of critically important issues for our country. There will be much work to do, together.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the text of Senator Kaufman's article as a testament to the importance of bipartisan cooperation in the Senate.

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

[From the News Journal, May 12, 2012]

LUGAR PROVED 'BIPARTISANSHIP' SERVES
PRINCIPLES WELL
(By Ted Kaufman)

I have spent the last 40 years of my life working in and teaching about the U.S. Senate. Right after then-Senator Biden and I came to Washington, he told me something I have always kept in mind when dealing with its members. "There is a reason the citizens of each state picked each individual senator," Senator Biden said, "and it is worth looking for what that is."

The Senate has always been a partisan place. The arguments are fierce. Strongly held beliefs collide. No matter how much I disagreed with the positions taken by senators on the other side of the aisle, I could respect and even admire nearly all of them.

One of the senators I disagreed with on many issues but came to greatly admire was Richard Lugar. Last week, in the Indiana Republican primary, he lost his bid for a sixth term. He will be sorely missed in the next Senate.

For many years, I watched as he and Senator Biden passed the gavel back and forth on the Foreign Relations Committee, where they traded positions as chair or ranking member. As partisan a conservative Republican as he was on most domestic issues, Senator Lugar deeply believed in the approach to foreign policy articulated in the early 1940s by Michigan's Republican Sen. Arthur Vandenberg: "To me, bipartisan foreign policy means a mutual effort, under our indispensable, two-party system, to unite our official voice at the water's edge so that America speaks with one voice to those who would divide and conquer us and the free world."

Throughout his Senate career, Senator Lugar was a driving force in maintaining this approach to foreign policy. He did not grandstand. In his quiet, intelligent way, he became one of our most knowledgeable experts on an issue that wins few votes but is literally a matter of life-and-death for the planet—nuclear proliferation.

Perhaps his greatest accomplishment was the joint effort with former Democratic Sen. Sam Nunn that established the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which provides U.S. funding and expertise to help former Soviet countries safeguard and dismantle their nuclear and chemical arsenals. The program has deactivated thousands of nuclear warheads, chemical weapons, and their delivery systems. It has eliminated all the nuclear weapons in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus. Senator Lugar, as much as any single person alive, is responsible for greatly reducing the threat of nuclear proliferation into the terrorist world.

There were many reasons why Senator Lugar lost his bid for re-nomination. But among the criticisms raised against him by his opponent was that he supported the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. It is hard to

understand how this vote could be characterized as anti-Republican when Lugar was joined in his support of START by the Secretaries of State for the last five Republican Presidents.

I smile when I see Senator Lugar being portrayed in the media as a "moderate." His voting record on domestic issues has been consistently conservative. The American Conservative Union gives him a 77 percent lifetime rating. But that, it seems, is not conservative enough. His victorious opponent, Richard Mourdock, ran a campaign that was openly dismissive of any kind of bipartisanship. Right after Mourdock won the nomination, he explained, "I have a mindset that says bipartisanship ought to consist of Democrats coming to the Republican point of view."

Wherever I go, the most common thread in talks I have with many different groups of people is their frustration with the lack of compromise and gridlock in Washington. If candidates like Mike Castle and Richard Lugar are defeated because they are willing to consider bipartisan solutions, the gridlock can only get worse.

I could not agree more with what Senator Lugar said in his typically thoughtful concession speech: "Bipartisanship is not the opposite of principle. One can be very conservative or very liberal and still have a bipartisan mindset. Such a mindset acknowledges that the other party is also patriotic and may have some good ideas. It acknowledges that national unity is important, and that aggressive partisanship deepens cynicism, sharpens political vendettas, and depletes the national reserve of goodwill that is critical to our survival in hard times."

INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my enthusiastic support for our efforts to elevate international food security commitments through the G8, which is being held this weekend in Maryland.

I understand that President Obama has invited the Presidents of Benin, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Tanzania to participate in the summit and strategize on ways in which we can all work together to accelerate progress on food security. With over 1 billion poor and hungry people around the world, there is no time to wait.

Just 3 years ago, in L-Aquila, Italy, G8 leaders committed to support developing-country plans for agriculture to the tune of \$7 billion a year over 3 years. African governments also committed to allocating 10 percent of their budgets to support agriculture, because they recognize that three-fourths of Africans make a living from agriculture.

This week we expect the G8 leaders to focus on private sector investment, donor coordination, innovation, and partnership. I see this as a natural next step in which we strive to amplify the truly historic commitments that we have made to ending world hunger.

As Secretary Clinton said in 2009, "We have the resources to give every person in the world the tools they need to feed themselves and their children. So the question is not whether we can end hunger. It's whether we will."

We must harness the good will of the private sector, do a better job of coordinating among ourselves in the