

But depending on how you count it, the answer is 2 percent. So it is a fraction of what Europe is spending and one-fifth of what China is spending. Thus, we are barely able to repair the infrastructure we have, let alone build the infrastructure for the economy of tomorrow.

Now here we are, spending our time awaiting the opportunity to have the highway and transit bill here on the floor of the Senate so that we can direct resources to build that infrastructure. But instead of debating, we wait.

So I say to my colleagues across the aisle, who somehow have lost sight of the fact that infrastructure is essential for building America, who have lost sight of the fact that the construction industry is flat on its back and ready to go to work, who have lost sight of the fact that right now with low interest rates and an unemployed construction business this is the best time to be investing in infrastructure, the most cost-effective time to be investing in infrastructure, I say to my colleagues who have lost sight of the fact that there is a responsibility to spend a dollar wisely, in construction and infrastructure, now is the time when you get the biggest bang for the buck, now is the time when it is wise.

This is not just about the infrastructure that makes our economy work better, it is about creating jobs. Maybe some folks in this Chamber say: Well, we want to play politics with jobs. We do not want people to go back to work. We want America to be broken so we can promote our Presidential candidate over someone else's Presidential candidate.

I say that is irresponsible. It is absolutely irresponsible to be playing these political games with the livelihood of working Americans.

The bill that came out of the House or the bill that was proposed in the House was a 35-percent reduction in highway spending, infrastructure spending. What would that mean for my State back home? Well, it would mean projects all over the State that address critical chokepoints in transit and transportation will not get addressed.

I have a 36-county tour. Every year I go and listen to folks in every one of my 36 counties, and I talk, and I have a special meeting with the county and city officials beforehand. Inevitably, they say: Here are our infrastructure challenges. Please go back and fight to do something so that we have the resources to tackle these challenges and make our economy stronger.

So I am here on the floor awaiting the embargo imposed by my colleagues who are not so concerned about infrastructure, who apparently have not talked to their city and county officials who are desperate to take on these chokepoints in their local economy. So I say to them: Stand aside. If you cannot get on board with making America work, stand aside so the rest of us can put America to work.

In Oregon, this is also 7,000 living-wage jobs—the difference between the vision the House had on the other side of this building and the vision the Senate had. The Senate vision is not, quite frankly, that ambitious. The Senate vision simply says that we are going to maintain the fiscal 2011 support for the transportation process, for the transportation infrastructure. It is not building beyond that. It should be, but it is not. So it is a modest vision. But compare it to the vision on the other side of the Capitol and the other side of the aisle which says: Let's not only not spend 2 percent, let's cut the entire budget by one-third—let's put 7,000 people out of work in Oregon who are not only building a foundation for their families, they are building the foundation for the future economy. I know that in every State there are similar portions of workers who want to be at work, getting up with a mission in their life to go out and do something useful for their society, to build something useful, and to have a paycheck to put the foundation under their family.

The time has long passed for us to be fully debating this bill. I urge my colleagues to come and do the work the American citizens expect of us all.

RECOGNIZING INDIANA UNIVERSITY CHEERLEADERS

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Indiana University Crimson All-Girl Cheerleading Team in honor of their being named the 2012 Division I UCA College National Champions.

This national distinction has brought well-deserved attention and accolades to these young women, whose hard work and dedication helped them rise to the top. This is the first national championship for IU's all-girl team, and their hard-earned victory lays the foundation for many future successes.

I congratulate these young women on their outstanding achievement and wish them every continuing success in their academic and athletic endeavors. I am pleased to submit for the record the names of the championship team members and coaching staff.

2012 NATIONALS TEAM MEMBERS

Abby Markowitz, Adina Johnson, Alex Martin, Angela Stilwell, Brooke Carlin, Caity Hinshaw, Chelsea McMullen, Chrissy Day, Courtney Byrne, Elizabeth Cross, Halle Hill, Hannah Cox, Heather Barton, Jena Hecht, Kari Hellman, Kari Swartz, Kirby Lynch, Kristen Fischer, Natalie Skizas, Samantha Dewling.

Coaching Staff: Julie Horine, Chuck Crabb, Hank Light, Jeff Cox, Tony Nash.

REMEMBERING FRANK MARTIN CUSHING

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I come to the floor concerning the passing of Frank Cushing, one of the true public servants that the Congress has known. Frank served as a legislative aide to

Senator Jim McClure of Idaho prior to joining the Appropriations Committee staff as director of the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies in 1981. In 1984 he became the staff director of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, a post he held until 1991. Although he left briefly for the private sector, public service remained an integral part of his commitment to the Congress and this Nation. His expertise, command of the appropriations, authorizing, and budget processes, and his exceptional talent and ability to work with others was missed, and he returned to the Congress as staff director of the House Appropriations Committee under Congressman LEWIS.

It takes exceptional abilities to be a good staff director, especially with the strong personalities that come with the experts who serve on the staff of our committees. Frank had the ability to work across the aisle and with other committees as few have ever done. His knowledge of the appropriations process and budgeting provided a unique depth to the consideration of authorizing legislation. He was able to challenge the staff, improve the work product, and set a high standard for quality and substance that we still strive to maintain. Much of the work of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee is bipartisan and often nonpartisan, reflecting regional interests and concerns, and Frank understood how those interests and concerns could fit within the overall policies that we tried to set for our energy, public lands, and resource goals.

During his tenure on the committee, Frank in many ways was responsible for the close working relationship between Senator McClure and Senator Johnston as they switched from their roles as chairman and ranking member. Frank was extraordinarily helpful when Senator McClure was chairman in resolving the budgetary issues that threatened to hold up the Compacts of Free Association that, when finally enacted, led to the termination of the Trusteeship of the Pacific Islands the last of the U.N. Trusteeships. When Senator Johnston announced at the beginning of one Congress that he thought the committee should consider and report legislation dealing with Puerto Rico as well as national energy policy, Frank was in large measure responsible for negotiating and constructing the framework and process that enabled the committee to successfully report both measures with bipartisan support, although I should mention that there were also bipartisan concerns as well.

Those are details, however, and do not convey what a warm and generous person Frank was. They do not convey the respect and admiration that those who worked with him had for his ability to negotiate without rancor and without being disagreeable. They do not tell of his concern for his staff and their problems or his interest in their

welfare and future or how the friendships that developed during his tenure continued and grew and deepened over the years since he left.

There is one other aspect of Frank's service to the Senate as staff director of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee that should be mentioned. If Frank always put public service and the willingness to respond to calls to return to public service above the lures of the private sector, there was one passion that surmounted everything else and that was his love for his family. Frank met his wife Amy while he served on the Energy Committee, and anyone who ever met Frank understood that Amy and his children, from his first marriage and with Amy, were the center of his life.

Our hearts and thoughts in these times go out to Amy and Frank's children and to all their family and to those who were close to him. His presence remains with the institutions he served; and his humor, compassion, and commitment will continue to be a marker for not just our committee, but for public service generally. His family and multitude of friends lost a good and faithful man, but they all remain the richer for having known him for the many years, both in and out of government, that they shared with him.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THOS. MOSER CABINETMAKERS

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in his famous essay titled "Courage," Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote that he most admired those "who can organize their wishes and thoughts in stone and wood and steel and brass." In our time, when so much is mass produced and temporary, we have a special regard for the craftsmen and women who turn the materials provided by nature into objects of beautiful form and lasting function.

I rise today to congratulate the craftsmen and women of Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers of Auburn, ME, as they celebrate the 40th anniversary of this remarkable company. With skill and creativity, they transform black cherry, maple, ash, and walnut into fine furniture that is recognized worldwide as the pinnacle of the woodworkers' art.

This story of success driven by the pursuit of excellence began in 1972, when Tom Moser left the secure life of a college professor to follow his dream to revive the craftsmanship of woodworkers of the past. With his wife Mary, they set up shop in an old Grange Hall in New Gloucester, ME.

They met the challenges faced by all entrepreneurs with determination. Soon, their sons joined them in the growing business. Today, 70 skilled men and women work in their modern woodshop in Auburn and another 50 in other aspects of the operation, includ-

ing showrooms in major American cities, from New York and Washington, DC, to Los Angeles and San Francisco.

When Tom and Mary Moser founded this company, they did more than revive quality woodworking—they were pioneers in Maine's thriving creative economy. From cutting-edge technology to the arts, these visionaries are moving our State forward, building new industries and new opportunities.

This segment of the creative economy truly defines Maine. The resurgence of furniture making, cabinetry, pottery, and textiles bring the past alive and remind us of the special quality of something made by hand in Maine. The talented designers and woodworkers of Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers create objects that bring pleasure today and will be treasured heirlooms for generations to come. I congratulate the Moser family and all their employees for 40 years of success.●

RECOGNIZING PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

• Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Portland Community College in Portland, OR on its 50 years of delivering high-quality education. Portland Community College has consistently demonstrated its devotion to an accessible education for everyone, serving more than 1.3 million college-age residents in a five-county area in Northwest Oregon.

Simply put, the education offered at Portland Community College creates a pathway to the middle-class for so many Oregonians. Students of all ages and backgrounds rely upon this college to improve skills for either career or personal reasons, explore opportunities, complete a high school degree or GED, work towards a bachelor's degree, or complete a certificate or technical degree. Portland Community College's mission has always been to create a foundation of long term vitality by supporting a broad range of needs in northwest Oregon.

Fifty years of commitment to accessible life long learning opportunities has produced more than 1.3 million educated members of the Oregon community and our Nation—members who, thanks to PCC, are prepared to attain the American dream. To Preston Pulliams, the district president of Portland Community College, and to the faculty and students of PCC, congratulations on a half century of academic excellence.●

RECOGNIZING THE ALASKA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Alaska Sports Hall of Fame. Since the body's inception in 2006 and its first class of inductees in 2007, the Alaska Sports Hall of Fame has educated Alaskans and visitors, honored and preserved memories in Alaskan sports, and pro-

moted a healthy youth population by providing activities that will inspire children to strive for success in their own lives. The Hall's mission is to teach, honor, and inspire.

Beyond that core mission, the Alaska Sports Hall of Fame has done much to promote the accomplishments of the world-class athletes in the great state of Alaska. The 23 Hall of Fame inductees through 2012 have stacked up tremendous accomplishments, but there is, perhaps above all else, a single thread that binds the inductees together: a love and respect for Alaska.

Dr. Bradford Washburn, without ever actually living in-State, was certainly an honorary Alaskan. He traversed the North Country in more than 70 trips and strapped himself into the open door of a low-flying plane for aerial photographic work of the great State of Alaska. The legendary "Huslia Husler," George Attla, was a ten-time Fur Rondy sled dog champion and motivated crowds that included a strong rivalry with Roland "Doc" Lombard. Carlos Boozer, born in Juneau, played for the Crimson Bears at Juneau-Douglas High School, compiling a 95-12 career record and winning back-to-back Class 4A State titles in 1997 and 1998, before moving on to be an NBA All-Star. Reggie Joule, the greatest practitioner of the blanket toss in the long history of the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, captured more than 30 medals in the 2-foot high kick, greased pole walk, arm pull, and other events, earning the title "Mr. Olympics."

The Alaska Sports Hall of Fame depicts an understanding that goes beyond the basic tenets of its own stated mission. It is a way to honor the Alaskan way of life and to depict Alaskan exceptionalism. Mark Schlereth, 2008 Alaska Sports Hall of Fame inductee and 3-time Super Bowl Champion, described the Alaskan bond as special and a true source of pride.

After the sweat, the injuries, the memories, the failures and accomplishments, the true value of sport goes far beyond the statues and medals. Sport brings friends and family together it can make teammates of complete strangers. It provides youth with positive role models, promotes healthy lifestyles, and teaches life skills.

The Alaska Sports Hall of Fame reminds us of the positive attributes of sport, but equally important is highlighting and respecting the Alaskan way of life. Events such as the Iditarod, the Great Alaska Shootout, and the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics showcase the great State of Alaska and who we are as a people.

There is so much to celebrate and commemorate in Alaska. The Alaska Sports Hall of Fame provides an opportunity to demonstrate excellence in athletic endeavors by exceptional Alaskans.●