

Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Mahaska County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Southeast Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Mahaska County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Mahaska County, I have fought for \$476,000 for nursing and sciences teaching laboratories at William Penn University, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics; it is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Oskaloosa to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Mahaska County has earned \$160,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Mahaska County has received \$598,650

in Harkin grants. Thank you to the leadership of Superintendent Russell Reiter for his ongoing support in the Oskaloosa Community School District. Similarly, schools in Mahaska County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$89,500.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Mahaska County has received more than \$42 million in loans and grants from a variety of programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Mahaska County's fire departments have received over \$251,099 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Mahaska County has recognized this important issue by securing \$61,901 for community wellness activities.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Mahaska County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, co-operation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Mahaska County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after

I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

DECATUR COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful Farm Bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Decatur County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Decatur County worth over \$2.7 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$8.9 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be our shared commitment to school construction, renovation, and fire safety through the Harkin grant program. Working together with State and local communities, this funding has ensured Iowa students are learning in schools that are safe and modern. I look forward to learning about the renovations made possible in Decatur County.

Among the highlights:

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repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Decatur County has received \$1,604,352 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Decatur County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$34,578.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Decatur County has received more than \$1.4 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Decatur County's fire departments have received over \$738,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Decatur County has recognized this important issue by securing over \$49,000 in wellness grants and more than \$1 million for the Community Health Center in Leon.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by

the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Decatur County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

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SCORE ANNIVERSARY

● **Mr. RISCH.** Mr. President, I would like to recognize the 50th anniversary of the SCORE Association. SCORE is a nonprofit organization supported by the U.S. Small Business Administration—SBA—dedicated to assisting small businesses through education and mentorship. Over the past 50 years, SCORE has been educating entrepreneurs and helping small businesses start, grow, and succeed nationwide.

As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I understand the spirit of entrepreneurs to explore beyond their limits in order to achieve the dream of owning a successful small business. Since SCORE opened its doors in 1964, it has provided outstanding mentoring to entrepreneurs across the United States, with 364 local chapters and the help of approximately 11,000+ volunteers nationwide.

In addition, SCORE's Treasure Valley chapter in Idaho celebrates its 43rd Anniversary this year. Since 1971, Treasure Valley SCORE has been helping entrepreneurs and small business owners in Boise, Nampa, Eagle, Caldwell, and the surrounding areas. With the help of approximately 45 valuable volunteers, Treasure Valley

SCORE assists local Idaho small businesses through free mentoring and monthly workshops which have produced a great deal of small business success stories from my home State.

Today, I applaud SCORE on their outstanding service to help local startups sustain struggling businesses, and expand growth for existing businesses. It is always great to see an organization so dedicated to helping entrepreneurs, particularly those located in rural areas, thrive in increasingly competitive global marketplaces.

Congratulations to SCORE for celebrating its 50th anniversary and to the Treasure Valley SCORE chapter for celebrating its 43rd anniversary. SCORE's work in supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs, the backbone of our great Nation's economy, is deeply valued by Congress and the entire nation. I wish SCORE, and especially the volunteers in the Treasure Valley chapter, years of success in the future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 23, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM) had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 862. An act to authorize the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest containing private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bill was signed on May 23, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REED).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 27, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of