

American cities that have been found to be in violation of Federal lead rules. So there are 5,300 cities right now that we know don't meet the standards for safety. In USA TODAY they reported that excessive lead has been detected in nearly 2,000 public water systems across all 50 States. This is an important bill, and it addresses something that not only I have been focused on and my colleague Senator PETERS has been focused on but I know other colleagues are focusing on in communities in their States.

Frankly, there is no safe level of lead exposure and even a small amount can harm people over their lifetime. One study from Rhode Island found a correlation between even the lowest levels of lead exposure and declines in reading scores. There are certainly many other studies.

When we look at what is happening in this bill, the first thing I am very pleased to say is that we have a provision that helps our communities that have literally been shut down, not only families with bottled water, but can you imagine being a downtown restaurant and we have economic development going on downtown and all of a sudden people don't want to come because they are worried the restaurant is using contaminated water. In fact, it is totally safe to come to downtown Flint, and they are making great efforts on economic development and revitalization. I was pleased to host the SBA Administrator a number of months ago, talking with small business entrepreneurs who are excited about being in Flint.

When we look at the broad ripple effect when a water system isn't safe, it is most importantly about families and children, but it also affects small businesses and it affects the entire economy. So in this bill, we are very pleased we have a provision fully paid for by phasing out another program that will help address this.

We also address lead contamination in communities across the country. There is a very important loan program that was put in place by the chairman and ranking member in the last WRDA bill but not activated, not funded, that we fund that will activate loans—\$800 million, possibly more, in loans available for communities all across the country. The structure was set up in the last WRDA bill and now in this one we are actually funding it. So communities can activate very important loans to upgrade their water infrastructure.

We also know that when we are looking at issues around lead contamination, we see across the country drinking water issues in 22 percent of the homes in Jackson, MS, were found to exceed the Federal action lead levels. I remember the Mayor of Jackson saying to pregnant moms and children: Don't drink the water.

It is not just water. There are 37 million housing units in the United States that contain lead-based paint. Even

though we have come a long way, we have addressed lead-based paint, but we still have problems there in older homes that are still affecting children.

Soil is another issue, and certainly those of us who work with our farmers understand that as a critical resource in growing our food in East Chicago, IN, some show lead levels up to 227 times above the Federal lead limits and 135 times above the arsenic limit. It is pretty tough to be growing things when you have that kind of contamination in the soil.

The top 6 inches of soil had up to 30 times more lead than the level considered safe for children. Atlantic City, Philadelphia, Allentown, Pennsylvania, where over 500,000 children have enough lead in their blood to merit a visit to the doctor.

In this bill, we provide resources as well to address issues related to public health and lead in children. We know that for the 286 million Americans who get their tapwater from community water systems, this bill is an incredibly important investment in many different ways. It is necessary for public health and safety, it is necessary for economic development, and communities across America will benefit from this.

I also thank the committee for once again focusing on something else we in Michigan care about—the Great Lakes. We are surrounded. We have the peninsula surrounded by water and great beauty. Another wonderful summer we just had, where boating, fishing, and tourism is a very important part of our economy as well as a way of life. In this bill, for the first time, we established the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, formally in law, and it will authorize \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative over the next 5 years. This is important for all of us in the Great Lakes State. It is also important because 27 percent of the world's freshwater comes from the Great Lakes. So it is a very important economic resource for all of us.

This bill also authorizes new programs to help with drought by promoting innovative water technology and research, for desalinization and water reuse and recycling.

It authorizes very important Army Corps projects. There are 25 critical Army Corps projects in 17 different States that are authorized in this legislation. These are authorizations for infrastructure projects that protect and address concerns in communities in South Carolina, Florida, New Jersey, and Louisiana, where we know about the hurricane and storm damage, and flood control projects in Texas, Missouri, Kansas, and California. There are environmental restoration projects in Oregon and in Washington State.

There are additional dam improvement programs, new programs that allow FEMA to help rehabilitate high-hazard potential dams. America's 84,000 dams are rapidly aging, and 14,000 of them are considered high risk, high

hazard. We have about 88 of those dams in Michigan that are considered high hazard.

So this is a bill that touches every single State. I know Members across the aisle have worked on this together. Clearly, it is something that is very important to Michigan, very important to families in Michigan. The piece that allows us to support the 100,000 people in Michigan is incredibly important for us, but we also understand that in the process of legislating, we have been able to support efforts and needs around the country and come together to do something that is important for communities in all of our States.

I think that is what legislating is all about, as the Presiding Officer knows. You and I have worked together on many different projects that try to address concerns across the country.

Again, I thank the chairman and ranking member for doing an outstanding job, for supporting our efforts but also supporting efforts of other Members. Hopefully, as we work our way through this process, we can come together on commonsense amendments that relate to this bill so we can have a very big vote on final passage and send it to the House, and hopefully our colleagues in the House will recognize how important this is to their districts and their States as well, and we will be able to get this to the President as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

HONORING CORPORAL MONTRELL JACKSON, DEPUTY BRAD GARAFOLA, AND OFFICER MATTHEW GERALD

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor three brave men: Corporal Montrell Jackson, Deputy Brad Garafola, and Officer Matthew Gerald.

It has been a tough summer in Louisiana. Not only did we have the floods of which I spoke yesterday, but we had the Alton Sterling shooting, the civil unrest afterwards, and then these three officers killed and several others shot. I will speak today to these officers.

On July 17, the three men I just mentioned gave their lives while protecting our community when ambushed while reporting to a 9-1-1 call. Deputy Nick Tullier, Deputy Bruce Simmons, and Officer Chad Montgomery were injured during this attack. Thankfully, Deputy Simmons and Officer Montgomery have returned home to their families, but Deputy Tullier remains in the hospital. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Speaking of those who died, Corporal Jackson was a 10-year veteran of the Baton Rouge Police Department, a loving husband to his wife Trenisha, and a father to his 4-month-old child, Mason. Following the shooting of Mr. Alton Sterling, Montrell wrote on his Facebook page:

I personally want to send prayers out to everyone affected by this tragedy. These are

trying times. Please don't let hate infect your heart. This city must and will get better.

Deputy Garafola served the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office for over 24 years. He was a beloved son, husband to his wife Tonja, and father to their four children: Garrett, Braley, Brad, and Samantha. He was remembered for always selflessly trying to help others. At the time of his death, he again acted selflessly, giving his life when he saw another officer down, running to that officer who was injured during the attack and by doing so exposing himself to fatal gunfire.

Officer Matthew Gerald joined the Baton Rouge Police Department just last year. Before this, he had bravely served our country in both the Army and Marine Corps. Between 2002 and 2009, Matt completed three tours of duty in Iraq as a crew chief on a helicopter crew and received numerous awards and medals. Prior to his service in the Army, he had enlisted in the Marine Corps in New Orleans and served 4 years from 1994 to 1998. Matt was a loving son, husband to his wife Dechia, and father to Dawelyn and Fynleigh. His wife recently announced she is pregnant with their third child.

Each of those men shared common core values that guided them: service, stewardship, and sacrifice. They put the needs and well-being of others before their own. Scripture says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." In protecting their community, these men paid the ultimate sacrifice. I honor their lives and thank their families for their selfless service to the city of Baton Rouge, to the State of Louisiana, and to the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

WRDA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as the Presiding Officer knows, we are working on a bill we call WRDA, W-R-D-A, which is the Water Resources Development Act. This is important to the entire country because what it focuses on is obviously clean drinking water but also the kinds of infrastructure that protect public safety and make commerce and transportation possible.

I commend the leadership of Chairman INHOFE, the Senator from Oklahoma, and Ranking Member BOXER, the Senator from California, for the work they have done getting us this far.

In particular, I wanted to mention the application of this legislation to

my home State of Texas. Texas understands that water is a precious resource and one that needs to be managed effectively. There is an old saying in Texas that whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting. It kind of makes you chuckle, but it demonstrates the point that water is essential to life. It is essential to our agricultural community to be able to grow our crops and water our livestock. It is indispensable, but it is easy to overlook all the work it takes to craft good legislation that looks out for the whole country's water supply and also protects our ports, our waterways, and helps guard against flooding. These are just a few of the projects included in this bill.

In April, this legislation overwhelmingly passed out of committee. I am pleased this bill serves as just another example of what we can accomplish when we put politics aside and work together in the best interests of the American people.

I wish to mention that I am also grateful this legislation includes part of a bill that I introduced last spring called the COAST Act. Texas has hundreds of miles of coastline, and the State's location in the Gulf of Mexico makes it particularly vulnerable to hurricanes, storms, and other weather impacts such as flooding, storm surges, and high winds. I don't need to tell the Presiding Officer about that, as Louisiana recently suffered terrible flooding.

In 2008, Texans saw firsthand when Hurricane Ike made landfall. It became the second most costly U.S. hurricane on record.

Of course, because the area is so densely populated and includes one of our Nation's busiest ports and energy hubs, major damage along the Texas coast would likely be felt well beyond our State in much of the rest of the country as well, particularly the economic impacts. Safeguarding the gulf coast from the next major hurricane should be a priority not just to Texas but a national priority, as I say, both to those who live there and those who would suffer the potential economic consequences. That is why this particular provision, the coastal Texas protection provision in the Water Resources Development Act legislation, is so important.

This is very straightforward. All it would do is require the Army Corps of Engineers to take advantage of pre-existing studies and not have to duplicate those studies as a prerequisite to addressing this issue. The Corps wouldn't have to duplicate efforts but could instead build on the good work of leaders in the State that had already been done, so the Texas coast can get the protection it needs sooner rather than later.

Fortunately, the Water Resources Development Act also includes projects that will benefit communities across my State, such as infrastructure improvements to help reduce flooding,

provisions that make our ship channels more efficient and strengthen our ports by making them safer and better equipped to handle growing amounts of trade. I know there is a lot of discussion about trade, particularly in the Presidential election season, but I will tell you that trade is viewed as an unmitigated good in my State. We are the No. 1 exporting State in the Nation, and that is just one reason why our economy is growing faster than the national economy.

We have learned a very simple lesson; that is, when you grow things—when you make things—and you have more people and more markets to sell to around the world, it is good for jobs, and it is good for the economy. I hope that some of our leaders and those who aspire to become the next President of the United States learn from some of the lessons that we have learned from in Texas—that trade is good.

That is not to say that with globalization there aren't some people disadvantaged, and we can address some of those concerns with funds dedicated to retraining efforts. But the fact of the matter is that more technology and more globalization are changing our economy and our labor markets in ways that we will never be able to reverse. So we shouldn't throw the baby out with the bath water and just turn our backs on the benefits of trade, which means we need to have efficient ports that are equipped to handle growing amounts of trade globally.

In conclusion, on the Water Resources Development Act, let me say again that I express my gratitude to Chairman INHOFE and Ranking Member BOXER for this solid, bipartisan legislation. I hope it passes the Senate soon. I trust it will be out of the Senate by the middle of next week.

JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this weekend is the 15th anniversary of the terrible attacks on our country on September 11, 2001. It is impossible to forget the horrible events of that day and the pain, grief, and mourning that our country felt. I think it is one of those seminal events in my life—and I am sure I am not alone—that I will always remember what I was doing and where I was when those planes hit the World Trade Center. It reminds me of when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated when I was much younger. I remember where I was and what I was doing.

I know communities across the country will spend time on this anniversary of 9/11 honoring the lives of the victims, their families, and the friends that they left behind, as well as the first responders and volunteers who put others before themselves in the wake of so much destruction.

One way that Congress can honor the victims of that day and lend support to their families is by sending the Justice