

TABLE 3—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS, AS OF NOVEMBER 14, 2016—Continued

(In millions of dollars)

	2016–2021	2016–2026
Nevada Native Nations Land Act (P.L. 114–232)	*	*
Survivors' Bill of Rights of 2016 (P.L. 114–236)	*	*
United States Appreciation for Olympians and Paralympians Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–239)	2	3
Treatment of Certain Payments in Eugenics Compensation Act (P.L. 114–241)	3	4
Alice Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act (P.L. 114–244)	*	*
Federal Communications Commission Consolidated Reporting Act of 2015 (S. 253)	*	*
Program Management Improvement Accountability Act (S. 1550)	*	*
Current Balance	74	–35
Memorandum:		
	2016–2021	2016–2026
Changes to Revenues	408	540
Changes to Outlays	482	505

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Notes: n.e. = not able to estimate; P.L. = Public Law; FOIA = Freedom of Information Act; FAA = Federal Aviation Administration. * = between –\$500,000 and \$500,000.

^a Pursuant to the statement printed in the Congressional Record on April 18, 2016, the Senate Pay-As-You-Go Scorecard was reset to zero.^b The amounts shown represent the estimated effect of the public laws on the deficit. Negative numbers indicate an increase in the deficit; positive numbers indicate a decrease in the deficit.^c Excludes off-budget amounts.^d Excludes amounts designated as emergency requirements.^e CBO estimates that P.L. 114–148 will cause a decrease in spending of \$7 million in 2018 and an increase in spending of \$7 million in 2020, resulting in a net effect on the deficit of zero over the six-year and eleven-year periods.^f CBO estimates that P.L. 114–187 will cause an increase in spending over the six-year and eleven-year periods but would also increase revenues by the same amount over the same periods resulting in a net effect on the deficit of zero over the six-year and eleven-year periods.

ENFORCEMENT REPORT OF LEGISLATION POST-BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2015 ENFORCEMENT FILING

Vote	Date	Measure	Violation	Motion to Waive ^f	Result
53	April 19, 2016	S. Amdt. 3787 (Sen. Paul, R-KY) to S. Amdt. 2953 to S. 2012 (Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015).	311(a)(2)(B)—Revenues reduced below levels assumed in the budget resolution ^a .	Sen. Paul (R-KY)	33–64, Not Waived
76	May 19, 2016	S. Amdt. 3900 (Sen. Blunt, R-MO) to S. Amdt. 3896 to H.R. 2577 (Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act of 2017).	314(e)—Inclusion of emergency designations pursuant to Sec. 251 of BBEDCA ^b .	Sen. Collins (R-ME)	70–28, Waived
79	May 19, 2016	S. Amdt. 4039 (Sen. McCain, R-AZ) to S. Amdt. 3896 to H.R. 2577 (Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act of 2017).	314(e)—Inclusion of emergency designations pursuant to Sec. 251 of BBEDCA ^b .	Sen. McCain (R-AZ)	84–14, Waived
115	June 29, 2016	House Amendment to S. 2328, the vehicle for the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA).	425(a)(2)—Unfunded intergovernmental mandate in excess of limit ^d .	Sen. Hatch (R-UT)	85–13, Waived
139	September 14, 2016	S. Amdt. 4979 (Sen. Inhofe, R-OK) to S. 2848, Water Resources Development Act of 2016.	201(a) of S. Con. Res. 21—Increase in deficits in violation of the Senate's Pay-As-You-Go Rule ^e .	Sen. Inhofe (R-OK)	85–12, Waived

^a At the time of consideration, a point estimate was unavailable for the Paul amendment. However, it was estimated that it would decrease revenues below the levels assumed in the budget resolution.^b This amendment designated \$1.1 billion in outlays as being for emergency purposes. This funding, which was not offset, would be used to combat the Zika virus.^c This amendment designated \$7.7 billion in outlays as being for emergency purposes. This funding, which was not offset, would be used to extend the Veterans Choice Program.^d In its estimate for PROMESA, the Congressional Budget Office found that the bill would impose a number of mandates on the territorial government of Puerto Rico and its instrumentalities. The costs of these mandates on public entities would exceed the annual threshold in UMRA for intergovernmental mandates (\$77 million in 2016, adjusted annually for inflation).^e This amendment, as amended, triggered multiple points of order for increases in direct spending over all enforceable time periods. In particular, the amendment increased deficits by \$299 million over the 2016–2026 period.^f Unless otherwise noted, the motion to waive was offered pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16–53, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the United Kingdom for defense

articles and services estimated to cost \$1.00 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J. W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16–53

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: United Kingdom
(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$780 million.
Other \$220 million.
Total \$1.00 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Twenty-six (26) Certifiable Predator B Remotely Piloted Aircraft (16 with option for additional 10).

Twelve (12) Advanced Ground Control Stations (GCSs) (8 with option for additional 4).

Four (4) New Launch and Recovery Element GCSs.

Four (4) Upgrades to existing Blk 15 Launch and Recovery Element GCSs (2 with option for additional 2).

Twenty-five (25) Multi-spectral Targeting Systems (12 + 2 spares, with option for additional 10+1 spare).

Twenty-five (25) AN/APY-8 Lynx IIe Block 20A Synthetic Aperture Radar and Ground Moving Target Indicators (SAR/GMTI) (12 + 2 spares, with option for additional 10 + 1 spare).

Eighty-six (86) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Guidance Units (EGIs) (3 per aircraft) (48 + 5 spares, with option for additional 30 + 3 spares).

Non-MDE include: Non-MDE items include: communications equipment, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment, weapons installation kits, and TPE331–10YGD engines. In addition, the package provides a unique and common spares package, support equipment, U.S. Air Force technical orders, country specific technical orders, Contractor Logistics Support for two (optional three) years, contractor provided aircraft components, spares, and accessories, training, and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (X6–D–SAC).

(v) 5 Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Armed to be Paid: None.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 16, 2016.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Kingdom—Certifiable Predator B Remotely Piloted Aircraft

The United Kingdom (UK) requested a possible sale of up to twenty-six (26) Certifiable Predator B Remotely Piloted Aircraft (16 with option for additional 10); twelve (12) Advanced Ground Control Stations (GCSs) (8 with option for additional 4); four (4) New Launch and Recovery Element GCSs; four (4) Upgrades to existing Blk 15 Launch and Recovery Element GCSs (2 with option for additional 2); twenty-five (25) Multi-spectral Targeting Systems (12 + 2 spares, with option for additional 10 + 1 spare); twenty-five (25) AN/

APY-8 Lynx Iie Block 20A Synthetic Aperture Radar and Ground Moving Target Indicators (SAR/GMTI) (12 + 2 spares, with option for additional 10 + 1 spare); Eighty-six (86) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Guidance Units (EGIs) (3 per aircraft) (48 + 5 spares, with option for additional 30 + 3 spares). This sale also includes communications equipment, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment; weapons installation kits; TPE331-10YGD engines; unique and common spares package; support equipment; U.S. Air Force technical orders; country specific technical orders; Contractor Logistics Support for two (optional three) years; contractor provided aircraft components, spares, and accessories; personnel training; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$1.0 billion.

The UK is a close ally and an important partner on critical foreign policy and defense issues. The proposed sale will enhance U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by enhancing the UK's capabilities to provide national defense and contribute to NATO and coalition operations.

This sale will improve the UK's ability to meet current and future threats by providing improved Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) coverage that enhances homeland security, promotes increased battlefield situational awareness, augments combat search and rescue, and provides ground troop support. The Certifiable Predator B will also be used to support the UK's armed forces and coalition forces engaged in current and future peacekeeping, peace-enforcing, counter-insurgent, and counterterrorism operations. The UK already operates armed remotely piloted aircraft, the MQ-9 Reaper, and will have no difficulty transitioning to the Certifiable Predator B.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. in San Diego, California. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the UK.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-53

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Certifiable Predator B (CPB) Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) is a weapons-capable aircraft designed for medium to high altitude-long endurance Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Target Acquisition, and Strike missions. Protector (formerly known as Scavenger) represents the CPB as modified to a UK-specific configuration which includes the design, development and integration of a UK-specific weapons installation kit for employment of UK-produced weapons (Paveway IV and Brimstone II). Building upon the legacy of Predator B's proven success, CPB/Protector provides up to 40 hours endurance, speeds up to 220 knots true air speed (KTAS) and a maximum altitude of 45,000 feet. The system is designed to be controlled by two operators within an Advanced Ground Control Station (AGCS). The AGCS is designed to emulate a reconnaissance aircraft cockpit, giving users extensive means to operate both the aircraft and sensors. CPB/Protector is able to operate

using a direct Line-of-Sight (LOS) datalink or can be operated Beyond Line-of-Sight (BLOS) using satellite communications (SATCOM). The design enables unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) control to be handed off between multiple AGCSs thus allowing remote-split operations and centralized mission control with other assets. The CPB/Protector system can be deployed from a single site that supports launch, recovery, mission control, and maintenance. The system also supports remote-split operations where launch, recovery, and maintenance occur at a Forward Operating Base and mission control is conducted from another geographically separated location, or Main Operating Base (MOB).

2. The United Kingdom CPB/Protector system includes the following components.

a. A secure Advanced CGCS with workstations that allow operators to control and monitor the aircraft, as well as record and exploit downlinked payload data.

b. The unclassified General Atomics AN/APY-8 Block 20 Lynx Iie Synthetic Aperture Radar and Ground Moving Target Indicator (SAR/GMTI) system provides an all-weather surveillance, tracking and targeting capability. The AN/APY-8 Block 20 operates in the Ku band, using an offset-fed dish antenna mounted on a three-axis stabilized gimbal. It has a large field of regard, produces a strip map and can image up to a 10km wide swath. Swaths from multiple passes can be combined for wide-area surveillance.

c. The Raytheon Multi-spectral Targeting System with Laser Target Designator (LTD) and multi-use Electro-Optical (EO)/Infra-Red (IR) sensor provides long-range surveillance, high-altitude target acquisition, tracking, and range-finding with capabilities up to and including high definition color TV, high definition short-wave IR, medium-wave IR, and long wave IR sensors.

d. The weapons installation kit enables the integration of UK-produced munitions (Paveway IV and Brimstone II) onto the Protector platform. The integration of these munitions requires specialized non-recurring engineering work which will be performed by the platform OEM in the United States.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware or software in this proposed sale, any information gleaned from exploitation of hardware, publications and software could be used to develop countermeasures (electronic, infrared, or other types) as well as offensive and defensive counter-tactics and allow an adversary to exploit those vulnerabilities during combat.

4. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the US Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the United Kingdom.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-43, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Republic of Korea for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$141 million. After this letter is delivered to your

office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J. W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-43

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Republic of Korea

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$41 million.
Other \$100 million.
Total \$141 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of the Republic of Korea has requested the sale and installation of AN/AAQ-24(V) Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) systems on up to four (4) A-330 Multi-Role Tanker and Transport (MRTT) aircraft. Each LAIRCM system consists of three (3) Guardian Laser Terminal Assemblies (GLTA), six (6) Ultra-Violet Missile Warning System (UVMWS) Sensors AN/AAR-54, one (1) LAIRCM System Processor Replacements (LSPR), one (1) Control Indicator Unit Replacement (CIUR), one (1) Smart Card Assembly (SCA), one (1) High Capacity Card (HCC), and a User Data Memory (UDM) card.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Twenty-six (26) GLTA AN/AAQ-24(V) (12 + 14 spares).

Twelve (12) LSPR AN/AAQ-24(V) (4 + 8 spares).

Fifty-four (54) UVMWS Sensors AN/AAR-54 (24 + 30 spares).

Non-MDE include: CIURs, SCAs, HCCs, UDM cards, initial spares and repair parts, consumables, support equipment, technical data, engineering change proposals, minor modifications, publications, Field Service Representatives (FSRs), repair and return, depot maintenance, training and training equipment, contractor technical and logistics personnel services, U.S. Government and contractor representative support, Group A and B installation support, flight test and certification, selective availability anti-spoofing module (SAASM) Global Positioning System, and other related elements of logistics support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force.

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission. Fee, etc., Paid. Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 16, 2016.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Republic of Korea—Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) System

The Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) has requested the sale and installation of AN/AAQ-24(V) Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) systems for up to four (4) A-330 Multi-Role Tanker and Transport (MRTT) aircraft. Each LAIRCM system consists of the following major defense equipment (MDE): three (3) Guardian Laser Terminal Assemblies (GLTA), six (6) Ultra-Violet Missile Warning System (UVMWS) Sensors AN/AAR-54, one (1) LAIRCM System Processor Replacement (LSPR), one (1) Control Indicator Unit Replacement (CIUR), one (1) Smart Card Assembly (SCA), one (1) High Capacity Card (HCC), and User Data Memory (UDM) card. The sale includes spares bringing the MDE

total to twenty-six (26) GLTAs, twelve (12) LSPRs, and fifty-four (54) UVMWS Sensors AN/AAR-54.

The sale also includes the following non-MDE items: CIURs, SCAs, HHCs, UDM Cards, initial spares and repair parts, consumables, support equipment, technical data, engineering change proposals, minor modifications, publications, Field Service Representatives' (FSRs), repair and return, depot maintenance, training and training equipment, contractor technical and logistics personnel services, U.S. Government and contractor representative support, Group A and B installation support, flight test and certification, selective availability anti-spoofing module (SAASM) Global Positioning System, and other related elements of logistics support. The estimated cost is \$141 million.

The ROK is procuring the LAIRCM system to defend and protect its future aerial refueling and troop transport capabilities. This helps the ROK Air Force become more capable of sustaining and projecting air power across large distances and transporting its forces and fighter aircraft for both operational and training missions with less reliance on foreign partners, such as the United States. The ROK will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

This proposed sale contributes to the foreign policy and national security of the United States. The ROK is one of the major political and economic powers in East Asia and the Western Pacific and a key partner of the United States in ensuring peace and stability in that region. It is vital to U.S. national interests to assist our Korean ally in developing and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability. This sale increases the ROK's capability to participate in Pacific regional security operations and improves its national security posture as a key U.S. ally.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support does not affect the basic military balance in the region.

This sale includes provisions for one (1) FSR to live in Korea for up to two years. Implementation of this proposed sale requires multiple temporary trips to Korea involving U.S. Government or contractor representatives over a period of up to six (6) years for program execution, delivery, technical support, and training.

The principal contractor is Northrop Grumman Corporation, Rolling Meadows, IL. At this time, there are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

There is no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-43

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AN/AAQ-24(V) Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) is a self-contained, directed energy countermeasures system designed to protect aircraft from infrared-guided surface-to-air missiles. The system features digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. The system operates in all conditions, detecting incoming missiles and jamming infrared-seeker equipped missiles with aimed bursts of laser energy. The LAIRCM system consists of multiple Ultra-Violet Missile Warning System (UVMWS) Sensors AN/AAR-54, Guardian Laser Turret Assembly (GLTA), LAIRCM System Processor Replacement (LSPR), Control Indicator Unit Replacement (CIUR), and a classified High Capacity Card (HCC), and User Data Memory (UDM) card. The HCC is loaded into the CIUR prior to

flight. When the classified HCC is not in use, it is removed from the CIUR and placed in onboard secure storage. LAIRCM Line Replaceable Unit (LRU) hardware is classified SECRET when the HCC is inserted into the CIUR. LAIRCM system software, including Operational Flight Program is classified SECRET. Technical data and documentation to be provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

a. The set of UVMWS Sensor units (AN/AAR-54) are mounted on the aircraft exterior to provide omni-directional protection. The UVMWS detects the rocket plume of missiles and sends appropriate data signals to the LSPR for processing. The LSPR analyzes the data from each UVMWS Sensor and automatically deploys the appropriate countermeasure via the GLTA. The CIUR displays the incoming threat.

b. The AN/AAR-54 UVMWS Sensor warns of threat missile approach by detecting radiation associated with the rocket motor. The AN/AAR-54 is a small, lightweight, passive, electro-optic, threat warning device used to detect surface-to-air missiles fired at helicopters and low-flying fixed-wing aircraft and automatically provide countermeasures, as well as audio and visual warning messages to the aircrew. The basic system consists of multiple UVMWS Sensor units, three (3) GLTAs, a LSPR, and a CIUR. The set of UVMWS units (each A-330 MRTT has six (6)) are mounted on the aircraft exterior to provide omni-directional protection. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Software is SECRET. Technical data and documentation to be provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

2. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy justification. Moreover, the benefits to be derived from this sale, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology were revealed to unauthorized persons.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of the Republic of Korea.

RECOGNIZING DOUG PETERSON

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Doug Peterson today as he retires as President of the Minnesota Farmers Union. I join the thousands of farmers, ranchers, small businesses, and residents of rural Minnesota in thanking Doug for his leadership over the years and for being such a tireless advocate for Minnesota farmers.

Doug has made agriculture, advocacy, and public service his life's work. Prior to his election as State president of the Minnesota Farmers Union in 2002, Doug served in the Minnesota House of Representatives for 12 years, representing a district comprised of Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, and Swift Counties in western Minnesota.

Minnesota has taken an incredibly proactive and innovative approach to energy use and sustainability. In fact, we are considered a national leader for

boosting bioenergy. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once called States the "laboratories of democracy," and when it comes to Minnesota being a laboratory for renewable fuels, we have Doug Peterson to thank.

While he was in the Minnesota House of Representatives, he authored the legislation that established a State-wide ethanol fuels requirement. Because of Doug's work at the State level in steering us toward energy independence, we have seen Federal renewable energy policy being modeled after the groundwork he laid in Minnesota.

In addition to writing landmark legislation and advocating on behalf of greater Minnesota, what some people may not know about Doug is that he is also an accomplished artist and former art teacher. My office in Washington even has one of Doug's paintings on loan and prominently featured. The painting is a depiction of several freshly caught fish, tessellated in shades of orange, purple, and blue. Doug called the artwork "Dead Fish," and I always joke with his members that the painting is much more attractive than the name suggests.

During my time in the Senate, I have had the great opportunity to work on two farm bills with Doug leading the Minnesota Farmers Union: the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 and the Agricultural Act of 2014. I have seen the dedication he brings to leading the discussion about how to keep agricultural producers competitive, and I will miss his guidance and friendship.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, today, on behalf of all Minnesotans, I rise to thank my good friend—and a real jewel in the crown of Minnesota agriculture—Doug Peterson, as he retires as president of the Minnesota Farmers Union after 14 years of leading that important organization.

To say family farming is important to Minnesota is an understatement. One in five jobs in our State is connected to agriculture, and as Doug often told me, when Minnesota farmers and ranchers succeed, prosperity follows.

In all, Doug spent four decades as an influential voice on farm policy, as a family farmer, a State legislator, and, since 2002, as head of the Minnesota Farmers Union. It is fair to say that a great many national, State, and local leaders have looked to Doug not only for advice and counsel, but also to publicly lead the fight on behalf of our family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. And I have to tell you, after going through the last farm bill debate, he is one hell of a fighter, and our State and our farmers have reaped the benefits of his work many times over.

For me, as a Senator, Doug was an important mentor. He helped teach me what it takes to put crops in the ground and to get that same crop to market. He also invited me to visit farms across the State to see firsthand