

Act is an important, free-market conservation tool that does not regulate how people develop their land, but transfers the full cost of developing in risky, environmentally sensitive areas from taxpayers to the individual choosing to develop. The Coastal Barrier Resources System also provides much-needed habitat for our Nation's treasured wildlife, including federally threatened Red Knot birds in Delaware.

H.R. 5787 adds approximately 18,000 acres along the Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida coasts to the Coastal Barrier Resources System, protecting these barrier islands, beaches, wetlands, and aquatic habitat from federally funded development.

H.R. 5787 also corrects an error that placed part of Bethany Beach, in my great State of Delaware, within the Coastal Barrier Resources System. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service discovered this error during a Coastal Barrier Resources System digital mapping pilot project, which Congress directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to undertake in 2000.

Digital mapping has enabled the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to greatly improve mapping accuracy as the Service updates outdated maps and makes determinations about whether properties fall inside or outside the Coastal Barrier Resources System. However, as our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives drafted H.R. 5787, concerns arose regarding the security and permanency of digital maps.

To address these concerns, the U.S. House of Representatives included section 3 in H.R. 5787. However, this legislation is not intended to prevent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from using various digital tools, digital data, and digital maps to help implement the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.

I would ask if my distinguished colleague, the Senator from Wyoming, chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, could confirm my understanding about the use of digital maps under H.R. 5787?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the Senator from Delaware is correct about this use of digital maps. Under H.R. 5787, Congress does not intend to prevent the use of these tools or data to assist in the implementation of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. Congress intends to ensure the integrity of the system maps and the rule of law. Congress intends that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service be permitted to continue to make determinations as to whether a location is inside or outside of the Coastal Barrier Resources System with the assistance of Geographic Information Systems and any digital boundary data that were used to create the Coastal Barrier Resources System maps.

In cases where properties or project sites are located close to a system boundary, due to the scale of the official maps or age of the underlying base

maps, the assistance of various digital tools and data may be needed in order to ensure that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service makes accurate determinations. Congress intends that those determinations are based on a printed, hard copy version of an applicable digital map.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague for his confirmation of my understanding. In conclusion, I also want to thank my colleague for working with me and all of our colleagues to enact this bipartisan legislation into law. During a time of frequent partisan gridlock, I am proud of the work of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for shepherding agreement on many important issues, including this one.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO ORRIN HATCH

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague Senator ORRIN HATCH and his more than 40 years of public service. Only five U.S. Senators have served longer than Senator HATCH, and he is one of the few who have served as President Pro Tempore of the Senate, an honor given to the longest serving Member of the majority party. Some may not know this, but ORRIN HATCH was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. He attended the University of Pittsburgh Law School and practiced law in the city before moving to Utah years before his election to the Senate.

Senator HATCH has too many legislative accomplishments to list, but I will focus on one that is so important to our family, the Children's Health Insurance Program. Nelson Mandela once said, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." The Children's Health Insurance program, known by the acronym CHIP, is a prime example of when our Nation took an important step forward to care for our children. Senator HATCH worked with our former colleague Senator Ted Kennedy and others to ensure that children from low-income families who were not eligible for Medicaid had access to healthcare. CHIP holds a special place in my heart as well because my father, Governor Robert P. Casey, signed into law one of the first children's health insurance programs in the Nation in 1992. Pennsylvania's CHIP served as the model for the national program that today provides healthcare to nearly 10 million children.

We will miss Senator HATCH here, but he leaves the Senate knowing that his work has positively impacted the lives of millions of Americans. We wish Senator ORRIN HATCH well as he returns to Utah.

TRIBUTE TO BILL NELSON

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague,

Senator BILL NELSON, who will leave the Senate after 18 years of service in the Senate and over 40 years as a public official in the State of Florida.

Abigail Adams once asked, "If we do not lay out ourselves in the service of mankind whom should we serve?" Throughout his career, Senator NELSON worked to make life better for the people of Florida and the United States.

Florida and Pennsylvania share a distinction in having among the largest percentage of seniors in their States and therefore millions of Medicare beneficiaries. Through his work on the Finance Committee, Senator NELSON pushed to guarantee that Medicare provided quality care to our seniors and people with disabilities. Senator NELSON worked every day to ensure that our government kept the original promise President Johnson made in 1965 to guarantee quality, affordable healthcare for beneficiaries.

Florida has a coastline of 1,350 miles, and BILL NELSON understood that the beaches and the oceans needed to be protected from offshore drilling and pollution. Current and future generations of Floridians and others who visit the State will enjoy the benefits of Senator NELSON's work in fighting to maintain and enhance those protections.

Senator NELSON has also been a leader in the areas of science and space. As a former astronaut who journeyed into space in 1986 on the space shuttle *Columbia*, Senator NELSON understood the importance of exploration and discovery and never stopped imagining what is possible.

We will miss Senator NELSON in this Chamber, and we thank him for his decades of service on behalf of the people of Florida and our Nation. We have no doubt that he will continue to find ways to make a difference and serve our country in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF FLAKE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator JEFF FLAKE. First in the House of Representatives and later in the U.S. Senate, JEFF FLAKE has served the people of Arizona and the Nation for over 15 years.

Senator FLAKE has a strong record of supporting democracy at home and abroad, finding areas of compromise on difficult issues like immigration reform and making sure our Nation keeps its promise to veterans. Senator FLAKE has been a leader on immigration reform efforts, and he has worked tirelessly to find a path forward to address the needs of our immigration system. In 2013, Senator FLAKE was one of the lead authors of bipartisan immigration reform legislation that would have modernized our immigration system, secured our borders, and provided a tough but fair path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in our country. Through his position in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Senator FLAKE has advocated for policies

that promote democracy, economic growth, and quality of life improvements for people around the world. Here at home, Senator FLAKE has helped veterans in Arizona receive assistance and recognition from the Federal Government.

In recent years, JEFF FLAKE has been a leading voice in speaking up for the institution of the Senate and its role as part of a coequal branch of government with the executive branch. He has sought to hold Presidents of both parties accountable as a Member of the Senate.

We will miss Senator FLAKE in the Senate next year, but I have no doubt that he will continue to find ways to serve his State and our Nation in the years ahead. We wish him well in that endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO BOB CORKER

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague Senator BOB CORKER, who will be retiring from the Senate this year. Senator CORKER and I were both elected in 2006. He was the only Republican in a class of 10 new Senators.

Through his years of service on the Foreign Relations Committee, most recently as its chairman, BOB CORKER worked to build a better world. For example, Senator CORKER worked with me and several of his Republican colleagues on global food security. Senator CORKER worked with Senator ISAKSON and me to pass the Global Food Security Act in 2016. This bill, first introduced by Senator Lugar of Indiana in 2008, allowed us to take a more strategic approach to foreign assistance and how we help to combat poverty and hunger around the world. Senator CORKER's work played an important role in creating a better future for millions around the world.

As he retires from the Senate, we thank BOB CORKER for his years of service and his commitment to the idea that America should be a force for good in the world.

TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE MCCASKILL

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague, CLAIRE MCCASKILL. CLAIRE and I came to the Senate together in January 2007, and she has served the people of Missouri and the United States with distinction for the past 12 years.

Former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once remarked, "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." When I consider CLAIRE's service and her work on both the Special Committee on Aging and the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, I am reminded of Justice Brandeis's words. Senator MCCASKILL was tireless in her efforts to shed light on policies and practices that hurt seniors, veterans, and the vulnerable in our Nation.

For example, Senator MCCASKILL has been a strong advocate of empowering

veterans, giving them a voice, and holding the VA accountable through the Veterans' Customer Satisfaction Program she designed. This program allows veterans to provide anonymous feedback on their healthcare treatment at VA facilities across the country.

Senator MCCASKILL has also been a champion for seniors. She used her position on the Special Committee on Aging to investigate fraudulent Medicare bills and an IRS-impersonation scheme to ensure seniors have access to quality healthcare and a financially stable retirement. I had the honor of succeeding her as ranking member of the Aging Committee and have worked to continue her focus on protecting seniors from scam artists.

Finally, Senator MCCASKILL's work on the Victims Protection Act of 2014 is a shining example of her commitment to protecting the wellbeing of our servicemembers who have endured the horror of sexual assault in the military. When many in power choose to stand down, CLAIRE stands up for survivors.

The Senate, and especially the class of 2006, will miss Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL in this Chamber, but I have no doubt that she will find a way to use her extraordinary skills to help those who are powerless.

Thank you, CLAIRE, for your years of public service.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN HELLER

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about my colleague, Senator DEAN HELLER, who will leave the Senate at the end of this year after more than a decade of combined service in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

During this time, DEAN HELLER has worked to guarantee that our veterans have what they need when they return home. As a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, Senator HELLER worked to increase access to care for veterans and fought to guarantee that the Veterans Administration provides high-quality services across Nevada's widespread rural communities. I worked with Senator HELLER to reduce the VA disability claims backlog and improve accountability at the Veterans Administration.

We thank Senator HELLER for his service in the Senate and know he will continue to find ways to serve the people of Nevada.

TRIBUTE TO JOE DONNELLY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator JOE DONNELLY, who will leave the Senate at the end of this year. During his time in the U.S. Senate, Senator DONNELLY has worked tirelessly for our seniors, our servicemembers and middle-class families in Indiana and across our country.

I have had the pleasure of serving beside Senator DONNELLY on the Special

Committee on Aging, where I have witnessed his dedication to protecting the rights of older Americans. Senator DONNELLY has worked to protect Medicare, to guarantee senior citizens' healthcare options are not restricted.

Senator DONNELLY and I also served together on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry where he introduced the Federal Water Quality Protection Act to protect the interest of our farmers by requiring the EPA to consult with them to ensure every American has access to clean water.

Senator DONNELLY's dedication to our servicemen and women was second to none. The first bill he introduced as a U.S. Senator, the Sexton Act, has improved mental health services by requiring all Active servicemembers receive a yearly mental health screening.

I will miss working with JOE DONNELLY in the next Congress, but I am certain he will continue to find a way to serve the people of Indiana and our Nation in the years ahead. We wish him well in those endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO HEIDI HEITKAMP

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator HEIDI HEITKAMP, who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this year. During her time in the U.S. Senate, HEIDI never failed to remind us that we are blessed to serve here, to help others, and move our Nation forward.

As a member of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Senator HEITKAMP worked tirelessly on the farm bill, making sure it included provisions such as crop insurance to assure continuity of the quality American agricultural products.

Through her service on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, Senator HEITKAMP worked across the aisle, delivering bipartisan housing finance legislation that protects Americans from financial crises and preserves 30-year fixed mortgage rates.

Through her work on the Indian Affairs Committee, Senator HEITKAMP has been a champion for Native American and women's rights. She created a commission on Native children to address many of the challenges faced by Native American communities, including access to healthcare and education. In order to combat human trafficking and violence against women, Senator HEITKAMP introduced Savanna's Act to create a platform for data collection and sharing for best-practice response protocols.

Through her work on the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, Senator HEITKAMP promoted investing in small business to boost the American economy. One example is the SEED Act, which she introduced to increase early stage investment to foster the growth of small businesses and startups.