

those interests whose commitments to environmental protection often take a backseat to other economic considerations.

It's not a fair fight, when the congressional co-sponsors of amendments to the Safe Water Drinking Act get 60 times more money from businesses supporting the bill than from pro-environmental groups. And it's even less fair, when the co-sponsors of the private property owners bill of rights get 300 times more money from the bill's industry supporters than from pro-environmental groups. For this reason, in addition to all the others I've discussed, the foundation has a keen interest in cleaning up the campaign finance system. If the playing field were more level, I know that our conservation grantees and those working in other areas, like gun violence, could more than hold their own against the forces that oppose them. But as things now stand, every fight involving the good guys is uphill these days, and that's not right.

In conclusion, let me say this. The continuing debate on campaign finance reform is more than a squabble over how to revise the rules of the road. The debate is really about fundamentals and first principles; it is at bottom a struggle for the soul of the American political system. And that is a struggle which people who yearn for a more open, participatory and accountable politics—people like you and me—dare not take lightly, walk away from or lose. •

LIVESTOCK GRAZING ACT

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I recently wrote a letter to the principal author of the Livestock Grazing Act outlining my concerns over this bill. I ask that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

U.S. SENATE,
WASHINGTON, DC,
July 13, 1995.

Hon. PETE V. DOMENICI,
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR PETE: The purpose of this letter is to let you know that I have added my name as a cosponsor of S. 852, the "Livestock Grazing Act." Livestock operators are a vital part of Montana's economic base. It is my belief that S. 852, as originally drafted, offers the security that ranchers need to remain viable during these uncertain economic times.

The men and women who make their living off the land form the backbone of Montana. Without the rancher, many small communities would simply cease to exist. Absent ranching, the wide open spaces that provide elk winter range, wildlife corridors and critical wildlife habitat would be jeopardized by subdivision and development. In short, ranching is fundamental to preserving much of what makes Montana, "the last, best place."

As you move to Energy Committee markup of S. 852, I ask that you satisfy three specific concerns that are critical to my support of this legislation. These concerns are as follows:

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

While the federal public lands are essential to many livestock operators, they are also deeply valued by the general public. Clean streams and healthy wildlife populations are just as important to Montana's sportsmen as predictability and security in the federal grazing rules are to the rancher. S. 852 must ensure that the public is granted full participation in the decision-making process affecting the use and management of these lands. If it does not, I will work to see that com-

prehensive public participation is assured before this legislation reaches a final vote on the Senate floor.

We must not lose sight of the fact that these are public lands; they belong to all of us. Ranchers, hunters, fishermen, bird-watchers, motorized recreationists and every other segment of the user public must be granted an equal seat at the table. Montana has already worked with the BLM to identify and select individuals interested in working together to improve our public range lands. Just last week, the BLM and the Governor of Montana jointly appointed 45 individuals to three advisory councils to begin this important work. S. 852 cannot deprive these Montanans of their fundamental democratic right of participation.

2. MORE ON-THE-GROUND WORK, LESS PAPERWORK

With over 30 percent of our land base in federal ownership, many Montanans interact on a daily basis with federal land managers. Perhaps our biggest criticism with all federal land management agencies is the ever-increasing allocation of limited resources to paperwork and bureaucracy rather than actual work in the field. The men and women who work for these agencies share this sentiment, and are frustrated by it.

Having spent a rainy day working with ranchers, conservationists and government personnel to rehabilitate a stream in the Blackfoot Valley, I have seen firsthand how much good can be done with a little start-up money and a few strong backs. As the budgets of our land management agencies continue to shrink, their resources must be directed to the field, rather than to increased bureaucracy and paperwork. S. 852 must de-emphasize paperwork and get the money to the allotment level where we can see tangible benefits come from our tax dollars.

3. STEWARDSHIP

Over 70 percent of BLM grazing lands in Montana are rated good to excellent, while less than 5 percent is in poor condition. These numbers demonstrate that our public lands grazers are largely good stewards of the land. Still, there is room for improvement. S. 852 must include a mechanism that gives permittees increased responsibility for bringing the public range into good to excellent condition. Such solutions cannot be rigidly imposed by those who are removed from the land and the unique challenges that exist on each allotment. We will see improvement only if these solutions come from the permittee. S. 852 should encourage innovative local stewardship.

In closing, I look forward to working with you on this very important issue to our states. It is my belief that the fundamental thrust of S. 852, coupled with these recommendations, will serve to promote responsible public lands stewardship while providing the necessary security that our ranchers need to remain viable in Montana and throughout the West.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

MAX BAUCUS. •

EDMUNDO GONZALES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the U.S. Senate in its recent confirmation of Mr. Edmundo Gonzales to be Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Labor. I am confident that Mr. Gonzales will continue to be an asset to that department and to the United States.

Mr. Gonzales is originally from El Rito, a small town in northern New

Mexico. He graduated from Arizona State University with an education major, and also received a MBA and Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado. He has worked as an attorney, and as a manager for U.S. West, Inc. In 1993, he came to the Labor Department, where he has worked on management standards and in the Office of the American Workplace.

Throughout his career, Mr. Gonzales has demonstrated a commitment to public service. While working for U.S. West, Inc., in addition to other duties, he served as an Executive on Loan to the Denver Public Schools, working on budgetary and strategic planning matters. He has served as President of the Hispanic Bar Association, and on a number of charitable and cultural boards.

We as a Nation are fortunate to have a person of Mr. Gonzales's caliber serving our Government. I wish him well in his new position.

AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY BY SENATE EMPLOYEES AND REPRESENTATION BY SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 150, submitted earlier today by Senators DOLE and DASCHLE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 150) to authorize testimony by Senate employees and representation by Senate legal counsel.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be considered and agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 150) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble reads as follows:

S. RES. 150

Whereas, the plaintiffs in Barnstead Broadcasting corporation and BAF Enterprises, Inc. v. Offshore Broadcasting Corporation, Civ. No. 94-2167, a civil action pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, are seeking the deposition testimony of Barbara Riehle and John Seggerman, Senate employees who work for Senator John Chafee;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;