

to fund their criminal enterprises. No enterprise is safe from counterfeiters.

We are a nation of innovators. We lead the world when it comes to intellectual property and high technology. Our companies trademarks indicate quality around the world. Domestic and international counterfeiters are ripping off these companies, picking their pockets, and defrauding the consuming public.

Vermont, with one of the lowest violent crime rates in the Nation, is home to businesses that benefit from a strong work ethic and dedication to quality. That is part of the reason that Vermont products are trusted and respected across the nation and around the world.

Vermont maple syrup producers comply with stringent standards so that syrup lovers around the world are not disappointed. They have to be constantly vigilant against counterfeiters who use the Vermont label to get a free ride on the reputation for excellence syrup from my State enjoys.

Burton Snowboards of Burlington faces the same problem. This company is the world leader in making snowboard equipment, but loses an estimated \$1 million annually to copycat boots made in Korea.

The IBM facility in Essex Junction makes 16 and 64 megabyte memory chips, known as DRAM [dynamic random access memory chips]. These memory chips, which can be used in medical equipment and computers, are likewise the subject of counterfeiting.

This bill takes important steps to address the problem of counterfeiting in several ways. It seeks to expand our existing racketeering law to cover crimes involving counterfeiting and copyright infringement and to give our law enforcement officers additional, needed authority to seize counterfeit merchandise and impose fines on counterfeiters. As a former prosecutor, I know that penalties and punishment can deter crime and this bill moves in the right direction.

We must make our laws more effective in combatting counterfeiting crimes here at home and also confront the international nature of the problem. Copycat goods with the labels of legitimate, American companies are manufactured, distributed and sold in foreign cities around the globe. We should insist that our trading partners take action against all kinds of intellectual property violations: Whether counterfeiting or copyright piracy, it amounts to theft and fraud on the consuming public. We cannot tolerate our trading partners and international allies acting as safe havens for pirates.

Trademark counterfeiting is not a joke. It costs in jobs, tax revenue, markets, and credibility. Many products being counterfeited can lead to health and safety hazards and even cost lives.

I look forward to our proceeding with prompt hearing on this important measure and to its early consideration and passage.

THE AMERICAN FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 1995

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the American Family Tax Relief Act of 1995.

The American Family Tax Relief Act would provide tax cuts where they are needed most—to families with dependent children. These families have seen their Federal tax burden skyrocket over the years—from 3% of their income in 1948 to well over 20 percent today.

The current tax law is designed to counter a rising tax burden on families with automatic increases in the personal exemption to account for inflation. These inflation adjustments have not been enough, though, to counter the growing tax burden on families.

The American Family Tax Relief Act addresses this concern by providing a \$500 tax credit for each dependent child up to age 18. The act will provide substantial and valuable benefits to thousands of families with children in each State. There are an average of 117,000 children in each congressional district whose families would be eligible for a \$500 family tax credit under this bill. That is an average tax benefit of \$59 million for each congressional district.

Of course, the benefits to each State are substantially larger. In Kansas alone, there are over 650,000 eligible children whose families would receive more than \$325 million in family tax credits each year under this bill.

Enacting pro-family tax relief, together with balancing the Federal budget, are critical to the well-being of the family and the country. One of the most important things we can do for our children is to stop mortgaging their future—and balancing the budget will do just that. We will cease deficit spending and shrink the size of the government, so the tax burden on Americans can be reduced.

When we pass budget reconciliation legislation this year, we will substantially reduce the tax burden on families. We will provide tax credits for families with children, tax credits to defray the costs to adopt a child, and other pro-family measures to increase the amount of after-tax dollars in the pockets of American families.

The introduction of the American Family Tax Relief Act of 1995 is an important step forward toward reducing the tax burden on American families. I urge my colleagues to join in cosponsoring this bill to show their support for children and family. And I thank the groups that are promoting this effort, including Concerned Women For America, Christian Coalition, Eagle Forum, Family Research Council, and Traditional Values Coalition.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM RELATED TO EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS AND MITIGATION

Mrs. BOXER. As every Member of this body knows, earthquakes represent a severe threat and devastating reality to my State of California. California is by no means alone in facing this danger. The U.S. Geological Survey has identified 41 States and U.S. territories in the moderate, high or very high categories of seismic risk. While earthquakes can not be prevented, there are important steps that we can take to minimize the damage caused by these disasters and to improve our ability to respond to them. Through the multi-agency National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program [NEHRP], several Federal agencies are involved in precisely such efforts.

The Interior appropriations bill provides the funding for one of the agencies engaged in this work, the U.S. Geological Survey [USGS]. Unfortunately, as passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee, the bill sends a conflicting message with regard to one vitally important aspect of the USGS contribution to earthquake hazard reduction—university earthquake research. In fiscal year 1995, USGS provided \$8 million in funding for external grants related to earthquake hazards and mitigation. The university program provides the knowledge base on which the broader NEHRP program rests. It plays a critical role in amplifying USGS resources and manpower by leveraging additional funds from States, universities and foundations. It also provides USGS with access to the leading researchers and state-of-the-art facilities and equipment in which to conduct earthquake research.

Unfortunately, as I have already noted, the report accompanying the Senate version of this legislation takes two conflicting directions with regard to university funded research. While the committee notes the unique role that university research plays in the NEHRP program, it also specifically cuts \$4,000,000 from the funding available for this purpose—a 50-percent reduction. I should note that this is an improvement from the House bill, which eliminated such university research altogether.

Mr. President, I would like to ask my distinguished colleague, Senator GORTON, who is chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, whether he would be willing to answer a question regarding the report language on this issue?

Mr. GORTON. I would be pleased to respond to the Senator's question.

Mrs. BOXER. The Committee which you chair has clearly recognized the tremendously valuable contribution that university earthquake research makes to the NEHRP program. I would therefore ask my colleague from Washington whether it would not be more