

warehouse for over 50 years. According to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, assessment work is needed to verify whether the property is contaminated with PCB's, chemical solvents, asbestos, and other contaminants.

Mr. President, who will conduct this work? The former owners are bankrupt. The State government doesn't have the resources to investigate every abandoned industrial site in Michigan. And potential purchasers are scared away by tax and environmental laws that combine few benefits with unlimited liability.

The city of Flint faces the same dilemma, where the former site of Thrall Oil Co. now sits vacant. Economic development officials believe this property should attract future manufacturing development, but, because the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has labelled it "contaminated," developers cannot be found.

This problem is not limited to Michigan. Across the country, there are over 30,000 sites similar to Heatherwood Farms—abandoned former industrial sites which may or may not be contaminated. A survey of Toledo, OH businesses found that environmental concerns were affecting 62 percent of the area's commercial and industrial real estate transactions. The result is lost jobs and opportunities for the residents of these communities and lower economic growth in the country as a whole.

Which brings me to my tax provision. For the past two Congresses, I have advocated changing the Tax Code to permit new owners of so-called brownfields to deduct the cost of cleaning up these sites from their income. This reform is a vast improvement over the current code, which requires companies to capitalize these costs over many years. It is a small provision which I believe will have far-reaching economic effects in attracting new owners to these abandoned properties.

It will also have positive environmental effects that we can all support. First, it will accelerate the remediation of contaminated properties. As I said previously, the State, local, and Federal governments do not have the resources to identify and clean these properties. To make progress, we must enlist the assistance and resources of the private sector. This brownfields tax provision does just that.

Second, it will protect so-called greenfields from development. When developers turn away from Heatherwood Farms and other brownfields, they turn instead to properties that have no history of industrial or commercial use. That is certainly not in the interest of communities like Lansing or Flint, and it is not conducive toward maintaining our undeveloped countryside.

Mr. President, earlier this year I joined Senators LIEBERMAN, MOSELEY-BRAUN, D'AMATO, JEFFORDS, and others

in introducing legislation which would target this tax incentive at distressed communities across the country. This legislation has the support of the administration and the United State Conference of Mayors. I encourage Senator ROTH to include this provision in his tax bill when he presents it to the Finance Committee this week, and I look forward to working with all Senators in promoting economic growth and job creation in our distressed communities nationwide. ●

CHARMAINE CACCIOPPI

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise to make a few remarks concerning Charmaine Caccioppi who is retiring from the U.S. Senate after 20 years of service. Charmaine worked for former Senator J. Bennett Johnston during this time and has been a great asset to my office during my transition into the Senate. Her dedication and service to the citizens of Louisiana should be recognized. I wish her the best in all her future endeavors and I want her to know that she will truly be missed. ●

TRIBUTE TO DONNA JEAN CRONIN AND ROBERT J. DEVANTERY FOR RECEIVING THE 1996 PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Donna Jean Cronin, a teacher at Exeter Area Jr. High School in Exeter NH, and Robert J. Devanter, a teacher at Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, NH, on receiving the 1996 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Donna and Robert will spend the week of June 24-28 in Washington, DC, for a series of events to commemorate their distinguished selection.

As a former high school teacher myself, I commend their outstanding accomplishment and well-deserved honor.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, administered by the National Science Foundation [NSF], is designed to recognize and reward outstanding teachers who serve as models for their colleagues in the important areas of increased visibility and rewards while encouraging high quality teachers to enter and remain in the teaching field. This national award recognizes their distinguished leadership and encourages high quality teachers to enter and remain in the teaching field.

Mr. President, New Hampshire has always been fortunate to have many talented teachers, but Donna and Robert are certainly role models among the teachers of the Granite State. I am proud of their dedication to the education of New Hampshire children and congratulate them on this magnificent achievement. It is an honor to represent them in the U.S. Senate. ●

RECOGNITION OF LLOYD WEAVER'S ASSISTANCE DURING THE FLOODS OF 1997

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the important work of Lloyd Weaver in ongoing flood recovery efforts in the Dakotas.

Early this year, residents of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota experienced relentless snowstorms and bitterly cold temperatures. Snowdrifts as high as buildings, roads with only one lane cleared, homes without heat for days, hundreds of thousands of dead livestock, and schools closed for a week at a time were commonplace. As if surviving the severe winter cold was not challenge enough, residents of the upper Midwest could hardly imagine the extent of damage Mother Nature had yet to inflict with a 500-year flood. Record levels on the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska forced over 5,000 residents of Watertown, SD to evacuate their homes and left over one-third of the city without sewer and water for 3 weeks. The city of Bruce, SD was completely under water when record low temperatures turned swollen streams into sheets of ice.

The 50,000 residents of Grand Forks, ND and 10,000 residents of East Grand Forks, MN, were forced to leave their homes and businesses as the Red River overwhelmed their cities in April. The devastation was astounding; an entire city underwater and a fire that gutted a majority of Grand Forks' downtown. Residents of both cities recently were allowed to return to what is left of their homes, and the long and difficult process of rebuilding shattered lives is just beginning.

Lloyd Weaver lived through the 1972 flash flood that killed hundreds of people in Rapid City, SD. He knows what his North Dakota neighbors are currently experiencing. That's why Lloyd's Carpet and Cleaning Service in Rapid City chartered a plane and donated 25 large canisters of chemicals to deodorize homes in Grand Forks. Lloyd Weaver also met with relief officials and instructed them on the proper use of the chemical to help get homeowners and business people back on their feet.

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's floods, I have been heartened to witness firsthand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from rising flood waters. The selfless actions of people like Lloyd Weaver illustrate the resolve within South Dakotans to help our neighbors in times of trouble.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair Grand Forks and other impacted communities. Lloyd Weaver illustrates how one individual can bring some relief to the victims of this natural disaster, and I ask you to join me in thanking him for his selfless efforts. ●