

I would also like to commend Chairman LEACH of the House Banking Committee for his tireless leadership on this issue, and Representative RICK LAZIO who chairs the Housing Subcommittee in the House.

Finally, I would like to thank Representative JIM HANSEN of Utah. Representative HANSEN first discovered the problem confronting homeowners when he tried to cancel the PMI on his condominium. It was Representative HANSEN who brought this abuse to our attention and first introduced PMI legislation in the House. I think we all owe Representative HANSEN a debt of gratitude for his work on this issue.

One more point that needs to be addressed is what is meant by the term "single-family dwelling." This is a defined term in the bill, and is incorporated in defined terms "residential mortgage" "residential mortgage transaction." It is the intent of the Congress that this term, as used in this legislation, apply to condominiums and cooperatives as well as more traditional single-family detached homes. Many coops and condos are single family dwelling units within multiple dwelling unit structures; however, they are still single family dwelling units as described in the definition of "single family dwelling" in this bill (as opposed to multi-family dwellings that include rental units). In fact this issue came to the Congress' attention when Representative HANSEN tried to cancel the PMI on his condominium. The authors of this legislation realize that within real estate industry the term "single-family dwelling" is frequently used to refer to detached single family homes alone, and not to the full spectrum of single family housing units (including Condos and coops). Nevertheless, this industry usage was not what we were attempting to codify in this bill—in this legislation "single family dwelling" includes all single family dwelling units, including condominiums and cooperatives, and owners of all single family residences, and are intended to be covered under this act.●

CLIMATE CHANGE

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes today to talk about the mounting evidence of climate change. No one is saying that there will be an end to the four seasons or that the oceans are about to start boiling. But as we consider the new data, it is becoming increasingly clear that we are being warned about the enormous power of humanity to affect our environment. We can either respect our surroundings and work in concert with nature, or we can pollute at our peril.

Here are some of the facts from data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:

June 1998 was the warmest June on record. Temperatures averaged more than 1 degree Fahrenheit above the 1880-1997 long-term mean. Tempera-

tures over land were even more astonishing—averaging nearly one and three quarters of a degree above the long term mean, exceeding the old record by several tenths of a degree Fahrenheit.

June continued an unprecedented string of record breaking temperatures. Each month this year has set new all-time record global near-surface temperatures.

The period January-June 1998 was the warmest on record.

Even though there was a cooling of the Central Pacific Ocean temperatures due to the end of El Nino, global ocean temperatures during June were still at record high levels.

Given the high degree of persistence of ocean temperature anomalies, scientists tell us it is quite possible that during July we will experience the warmest monthly temperatures ever observed on the planet for the past 600 years.

What has this trend meant for the United States? Essentially, throughout our country we have been experiencing patterns of weather extremes.

The South experienced record dry conditions, with the driest April through June period on record for New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. The drought was most severe in Texas and Florida, where it adversely impacted crops, ranges and pastures, and contributed to the burning of nearly one-half million acres of Florida land.

The drought and heat wave has resulted in a number of new records. For example, Amarillo Texas had 13 days in June where temperatures were over 100 F. With a stable climate, the probability of this recurring is once in 200 years, but with continued increases in greenhouse gases, the probability would change to a 1 in 6 year event.

On the other hand, there have been unusually wet conditions in the northeast and parts of the midwest during June. For example, rainfalls of 5 to 22 inches were observed across most of the central and northeastern states with totals exceeding 200 percent of normal across the Ohio Valley, New England the upper Mississippi Valley. Parts of the Midwest have experienced above normal rainfall since April, and the rains frequently fell from strong to severe thunderstorms, leading to abnormally frequent episodes of tornadoes, hail, managing winds and flash floods. The National Severe Storm Prediction Center reports that 372 tornadoes were recorded during June in the country, which is nearly 200 more than average. NOAA's National Hydrologic Information Center reports 63 flood-related fatalities for 1998 so far.

Numerous rainfall records have been broken. For example, more than 17 inches of rain fell during June at Blue Hill Observatory in Massachusetts, breaking all records.

For the April-June period as a whole, rainfall totals were the highest in the historical record dating back to 1895 in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, the third highest in Tennessee, and the

fourth highest in Iowa. Rivers in 17 states were near or above flood state as of July 6.

Mr. President, I believe this new data is additional evidence that we must act to invest in an insurance policy to reduce the threat of global warming.

President Clinton has proposed to Congress a balanced program to arrest greenhouse gases over 5 years through tax credits for energy-efficient purchases and renewable energy investments, and through new research and development programs targeted towards building, industry, transportation and electricity. It is a well-conceived plan, and I'm disappointed that the Senate bill on EPA appropriations reduces the President's request for EPA's portion of this initiative by \$91 million.

Unfortunately, the efforts of many here in Congress seem to be aimed at preventing the government from taking any action on climate change—even for programs that would be good for our environment and public health regardless of whether you believe that climate change will happen. The report accompanying the House EPA appropriations bill would even prohibit EPA and the Council on Environmental Quality from "conducting educational outreach or informational seminars on policies underlying the Kyoto Protocol" until or unless it is ratified.

Mr. President, let me take a final moment on the floor today to take some pride in the path that Connecticut's largest employer, United Technologies, is taking in this area. Some of you may have seen the full page ad in July 16's Roll Call by UT entitled, Responding to the Challenge of Climate Change. "Our generation's challenge," declares the ad "is addressing global climate change while sustaining a growing economy—a challenge that demands a serious response from government, as well as industry and the public." United Technologies has taken a major step forward to reduce emissions. By 2007, the company commits to cutting its energy and water consumption per dollar sales by 25 percent below 1997 levels, with approximately the same reduction in its emissions that cause climate change. I congratulate United Technologies and its president George David for this great leap forward and urge us all to accept the challenge the company has put forth. ●

UNUM ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE STATEMENT

● Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the UNUM Corporation on its 150th Anniversary.

UNUM is based in Portland, Maine, has offices across America and around the globe, and enjoys a reputation for excellence throughout the world.

July 17, 1998 marks the 150th Anniversary of the UNUM Corporation, a company incorporated in Maine in 1848 as Union Mutual Life Insurance Company.