about this terrible national experience leaves me comfortable. But an unequivocal, bipartisan statement of censure by Congress would, at least, fulfill our responsibility to our children and our posterity to speak to the common values the President has violated, and make clear what our expectations are for future Presidents. Such a censure would bring better closure to this demeaning and divisive episode, and help us begin to heal the injuries the President's misconduct and the impeachment process's partisanship have done to the American body politic, and to the soul of the nation.●

MOTION TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS OF WITNESSES IN COURT OF IMPEACHMENT OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, there is a lot about this impeachment process that is new and unfamiliar to all of us. That is all the more reason why we should allow ourselves to be guided by the Constitution and historical precedents in deciding how we proceed. The Constitution's requirement that the Senate ''shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments.'' certainly suggests that the Senate will ordinarily do more than simply look at the record made by the House in deciding whether to send us Articles of impeachment, and that has generally been the Senate's practice.

Moreover, the Senate sitting as a court of impeachment is charged with seeking the truth in this trial. If any Senators reasonably believe that hearing witnesses would assist in finding the truth, then I believe both the President and the House should have the opportunity to call witnesses. Based on the record before us and the arguments we have heard, it is clear that at least on some of the House's charges, there are factual issues in dispute that the witnesses whom this motion proposes to subpoena for depositions could help us resolve.

It is for this reason, Mr. President, that I support the motion to allow both sides to depose these three witnesses. I do not see why this limited discovery should in any way cause this matter to be drawn out for any extended period of time. Rather, I believe it can be conducted very expeditiously without in any way jeopardizing the Senate's ability to conduct other important legislative business.●

RCRA REFORM LEGISLATION

● Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for years the Administration has expressed a need for targeted legislation which will provide necessary, regulatory flexibility for successful clean up goals of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has unsuccessfully tried several times to address those needs through regulatory reform. While those efforts have attempted to speed cleanup and make more rational requirements, these attempts have repeatedly been met with legal challenges. These challenges severely limit the Agency's ability to effectively address this concern. Furthermore, a General Accounting Office (GAO) study concluded that EPA cannot achieve comprehensive reform through the regulatory process. GAO also believes that such reform can best be achieved by revising the underlying law.

Indeed, my colleagues and I have been working with the Administration and stakeholders for several years to try to give EPA the flexibility it needs. We recognize that Americans are fed up with ineffective environmental programs that do little for cleanup. Americans want their hard-earned dollars used wisely and effectively.

RCRA's goals are very important. RCRA involves cleanup of properties contaminated with hazardous waste, at more than the 5000 sites. Therefore, the barriers to cleanup are a great concern. The GAO report echoes these concerns, noting that EPA believes that current RCRA requirements can lead parties to select cleanup remedies that are either too stringent or not stringent enough—given the risks posed by the wastes. Ultimately these requirements can discourage the cleanup of sites.

The current RCRA cleanup program potentially affects all state cleanups, including the cleanup of ''brownfield sites.'' Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. As Brownfield redevelopment activities have increased, it has come to our attention that the hazardous waste management and permitting requirements under RCRA either preclude the redevelopment of these properties all together or significantly add to the cost and time of their redevelopment.

Late last year, EPA attempted once more to address the need for regulatory flexibility to speed effective RCRA cleanups. This new rule, called the Hazardous Waste Identification Rule, addresses several of the disincentives to clean up. We applaud the Agency for its efforts. Nonetheless, EPA notes with certainty that additional reform is needed.

The Administration is sending a clear message. RCRA reforms are desired. EPA will do what it can, and should be commended for their most recent effort. However, legislative reforms are needed this year.

I commend Senators CHAFEE, SMITH, LAUTENBERG, BAUCUS, and BREAUX for their past efforts to address this problem. I have given them my full support in their plans to definitively fix the problem and given certainty to recent agency actions. Thank you for your leadership in recognizing the need for action. This effort addresses a real need, focusing on expediting clean ups. This need can be readily met if we continue to work in a bipartisan manner.●

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, there are over 6000 contaminated sites across the country waiting to be cleaned up under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). These sites include active industrial facilities, unused urban lots well suited for redevelopment, and many other sites that have contaminated soil or groundwater. No one disputes that these sites should be cleaned up. But RCRA itself, and certain regulations implementing RCRA, are making it difficult—and unnecessarily costly—to get these sites cleaned up. As a result, cleanups at many sites are delayed for years and, in a number of cases, not performed at all. The waste remains in place, untreated and untouched.

This is an issue where legislative action can both improve the environment and save money. The Government Accounting Office (GAO) issued a report in late 1997 that identified three key requirements under RCRA that pose barriers to cleanups. The GAO concluded EPA's land disposal restrictions, minimum technological requirements for disposal facilities, and permitting requirements, when applied to remediation waste, can significantly increase the cost of a cleanup action and even act as an incentive for parties to abandon cleanups altogether. Tailoring these requirements to address the specific characteristics of remediation waste would eliminate this incentive, facilitating the actual cleanup of thousands of sites, and, according to GAO's estimate, save up $2 billion a year without negatively impacting human health or the environment.

This is an environmental problem that we can and should address. And it is one that we can resolve in a bipartisan manner.

During the 105th Congress, the Majority Leader, Senator BOB SMITH, and I worked with our colleagues on the Environment and Public Works Committee, the Administration, and interested parties to reform RCRA to remove the major regulatory obstacles that currently impede the timely remediation of many contaminated sites. There was a broad consensus that changes needed to be made to make RCRA work better to clean up sites in an environmentally protective manner more quickly and more cost effectively. Unfortunately, we ran out of time before we were able to reach agreement on specific legislation.

The Environmental Protection Agency has issued regulations, including the recently finalized ''Hazardous Waste Identification Rule for Contaminated Media,'' to address some of the regulatory burdens that we sought to eliminate through legislation. I applaud the Agency for its efforts. I believe, however, that there is still a need for legislation in this area to complete the reform the EPA has started. Therefore, I intend to make RCRA remediation waste legislation a priority for the Environment and Public Works Committee this year. Building on the progress