

Goddard Space Flight Center and Wallops Flight Facility. The House bill cuts 2,000 jobs at Goddard and Wallops. The Senate bill we pass today will save 2,000 jobs at Goddard and Wallops. I fought hard to restore funding for NASA, and I am truly pleased that this bill will save those jobs. NASA is fully funded in this bill, at \$13.5 billion, the same as the President's request. Funding for the space shuttle, space station, and critical science programs are funded at the President's request.

National Service is funded at \$423 million, a slight reduction from last year. I continue to hope that this funding can be increased as we move toward conference. National Service has enrolled over 100,000 members and participants across the country in a wide array of community service programs, including: AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps.

With regard to the EPA, the Subcommittee has provided \$7.3 billion in total funding. The Subcommittee increased funding for EPA's core environmental programs: \$825 million for the drinking water state revolving fund, and \$1.3 billion for the clean water revolving fund, including \$5 million for sewer upgrades in Cambridge and Salisbury, Maryland.

Taking care of local communities infrastructure needs has always been a priority for me and this committee. We also provided \$250,000 for a Kempton Mine remediation project. Superfund is funded at \$1.4 billion, down slightly from last year.

I'm especially pleased that we were able to support the President's full request for the Chesapeake Bay Program Office—over \$18 million—for FY 2000. The Chesapeake Bay Program Office is a leader in efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem for future generations. We also increased funding for the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Program that helps our small communities and prevents runoff and pollution.

FEMA has \$1 billion in the disaster relief fund. The bill we pass today adds \$300 million to the disaster relief fund. This will help people in the Eastern United States who are still dealing with the horrible aftermath of Hurricane Floyd. That is why I'm glad that this bill was passed, and that FEMA will continue to be able to help those who are affected by natural disasters. We will await any further Administration request for disaster assistance in light of Hurricane Floyd.

The National Science Foundation is funded at \$3.9 billion, which is \$250 million more than fiscal year 1999. This funding level will allow us to make critical investments in science and technology into the next century. The funding increase for NSF is an important step for maintaining our science and technology base.

Mr. President, I recognize that there may have been certain provisions in this bill that members may have disagreed with or opposed. I acknowledge

their concerns. But I am very pleased that we worked together to pass this bill today, and I hope we can resolve any outstanding differences as this process continues. I believe the VA/ HUD bill is good for Maryland, good for America, and good for the American people who rely on the programs it funds.

I thank Senator BOND and my colleagues once again for their support for this bill.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I see the distinguished Senator from West Virginia. Does he seek the floor?

Mr. BYRD. Yes.

Mr. STEVENS. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, no Senator in this body exceeds the Senator from West Virginia in his appreciation of the work that the Senator from Alaska does as chairman of the Appropriations Committee. He is an outstanding chairman. I am proud to serve with him. He always works with me in these matters concerning allocations, and I cannot find the words to adequately praise him. He is doing an excellent job. No Senator in this body, including the Senator speaking, could ever be a better chairman of that committee than Senator STEVENS.

I served with a lot of chairmen of that committee over the years, but it is a two-way street. It is a team effort. This Senator contends it will always be that, whether I am ranking member or whether I am the chairman. I try to give my full cooperation to Senator STEVENS. We have never had a difference on the committee, not when I was chairman—he was not the ranking member at that time, but he has done an excellent job. He has seen the need to increase the amount of moneys for veterans' health care, and upon several occasions I have talked with him about the need to increase the amount. I took the lead, inside the committee, in increasing that amount by \$1.1 billion. He fully supported me. It is the chairman, in the main, who decides how much money will be allocated to the various subcommittees. But I believe it is my job as ranking member to work with him. If I have any differences, I let him know, but I have never had any differences with Senator STEVENS.

So I wanted to add my compliments concerning the distinguished Senator. I also want to compliment Senator BOND, again, the chairman of the VA subcommittee, for the excellent work he has done on that subcommittee. I compliment the ranking member, Senator MIKULSKI, for the work she does. When she was chairman of that subcommittee, she was one of the best subcommittee chairmen—I don't say chairperson—she was one of the best chairmen that we had of any subcommittee.

I did not want this day to pass without this lowly ranking member having an opportunity to say some good words about the people who are entitled to

commendation. It doesn't make any difference to me whether they are Republicans or Democrats. If they are entitled to commendation, I give it to them.

So I applaud you, Mr. Chairman, not only for doing a good job but for being the fair and considerate Senator that you are, and also a fair and considerate chairman as well. Again, I have to say some good words about Senator BOND, Senator MIKULSKI. They could not be better. They could not be more fair. They could not be more considerate.

They are hamstrung, as you are, Mr. Chairman, by the fact that we do not have enough money. I am for raising the caps. I am for telling the American people the truth. We need more money. Let's raise those caps. I am not a bit backwards about saying I support raising the caps. We have to meet the people's needs. I hope we will get around to that. I think we are going to have to do that before it is over.

I thank Senators for their patience for listening, but I wanted to get in my two cents' worth of commendations also.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I thank the Senator very much.

Mr. BYRD. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. I am sure Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BOND appreciate those kind words from the Senator from West Virginia as much as I do. I do thank the Senator for his cooperation and willingness to work with me as chairman of this committee. It is a distinct honor to follow him as chairman.

We should mention, on our side, the help of Paul Carliner, Jeannine Schroeder, and Sean Smith, who worked with Senator MIKULSKI. This has been a very fine working team. Senator BOND, Senator MIKULSKI, and the team of both the majority and minority have worked very hard to meet the needs of the agencies and the American people under this bill, under some very difficult circumstances in regard to ceilings and limits under which they had to live. I, again, emphasize the Budget Committee has filed a statement saying this bill is within the budget.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1402

Mr. STEVENS. I now ask unanimous consent H.R. 1402 be placed on the calendar. That is the class 1 milk structure bill.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein up to 10 minutes each.

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